

Fifth Sunday of Easter Year A–7th May2023

Introduction

In today's gospel Jesus tells His disciples that He must leave and go to Heaven to prepare a place for them.

Make the Sign of the Cross – a sign of the love God has for us. (This is optional, as we have already done this at the start of Holy Mass, but for young children it helps to demonstrate and practice how to do this correctly.

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary. An adult lights the candles).

Penitential Act

Ask the children to think about how they have behaved in the past week. Ask them if they have always been kind and helpful to others, obedient to their parents, listened to their teachers etc.

Lead the children in singing the “sorry song”.

We are sorry,
Truly sorry,
Heal us Lord, (sung to tune of Frere Jacques)
In Your love,
Help us to do better,
Help us to be kinder.
Forgive us,
Forgive us.

Gloria (sung)

Choose a children's version of the Gloria from one of our listed Children's Liturgy Resource books, or you may have another CL resource. You will probably want to practice your chosen Gloria and use it every week so that everyone becomes familiar with it.

All stand to welcome the Gospel singing the **Gospel Acclamation:**

(Sing to the tune of "If you're happy and you know it.")

Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord,
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord,

As we listen to the story,
Let us praise Him for His glory.
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord.(1)

Gospel

Select the correct Gospel from the Children's Lectionary. This week it's on pages 55 of "Sunday. Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children." (Year A)

John 14:1-12

"A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. John".

Explain and demonstrate – make three crosses: one on your forehead, one on your lips and one on your heart (in this way we think God's word, speak God's word and keep God's word in our hearts) **as we say together "Glory to You, O Lord."**

Read the Gospel aloud to the children. At the end say:

"The Gospel of the Lord".

All reply: **"Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ".**

Ask everyone to be seated.

Lead a Discussion on the Gospel

Why were the disciples worried and sad in today's Gospel?

Jesus was telling them that He was going away and they did not want Him to leave them.

Why did Jesus say He was going?(Jesus told the disciples that He was going away to prepare a place for them and that He would return to take them with Him).

What else did Jesus tell His disciples- the thing that made Thomas ask Him a question? What did Thomas ask Jesus ?(Jesus told the disciples that they knew the way to where He was going, but Thomas asked how could they know the way when they didn't even know where He was going).

What was the answer that Jesus gave Thomas?

Jesus said "I am the way,I am the truth and I am the life.Anyone who wants to come to the Father must come through me."

Discuss what Jesus meant when He said "I am the way."

If we live like Jesus, showing love and kindness to others, being good, truthful and helpful, sharing and not being selfish, and looking after one and other – that is the way to Heaven- where we will find true happiness with God.

Prayers of the Faithful (optional/ time dependent)

You may wish to prepare some of these yourselves or ask the children for their prayers. Here are some suggestions for today:

Dear Jesus, Help me to live a good life by following Your Way.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

Dear Jesus,

Guide me always on the right path in life. When I am afraid – give me courage.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus, Thank You for showing us Your goodness so that we may know the Way to Heaven.

Now, ask for volunteers for the Offertory Procession. After the procession, children return quietly to sit with their families in church.

References

(1)The Complete Children’s Liturgy Book.Katie Thomson, published by Kevin Mayhew. P349.

