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## ***LENT – Third Sunday - Year C –23<sup>rd</sup> March 2025***

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Vestment Colour: Purple

### **Introduction**

Today we hear the parable of the fruitless fig tree. The parable tells us of God's patience and willingness to give us another chance.

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". (sung to tune of Frere Jacques)

We are sorry,  
Truly sorry,  
Heal us Lord,  
In Your love,  
Help us to do better,  
Forgive us,  
Forgive us.

**NO Gloria DURING LENT**

All stand to welcome the Gospel singing the **Gospel Acclamation**: (same tune)

Praise to You Lord,  
Praise we give You,  
Christ Our King,  
You have said,  
“If you live by my Word,  
God’s Good News is for You”  
Praise to You,  
Christ our King.

Alternatively say:

**Glory and praise to You, O Christ, you are the Word of God.**

Repent, says the Lord, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.

**Glory and praise to You, O Christ, you are the Word of God.**

## **Gospel**

Select the correct Gospel from the Children’s Lectionary. This will be the Third Sunday of Lent, in the Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children.” (Year C). Alternatively use a Lectionary or Bible.

### **Luke 13:1-9**

“A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke”.

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

- What one thing can you remember from the gospel story? (Allow the children some time to share what they recall)
- We heard about a fig tree. What was the problem with the fig tree? (It did not bear fruit)
- What did the owner of the tree want to do with it? (Cut it down and make way for something else)
- What did the gardener want to do? (He wanted to feed it and care for it)
- What do think this story tells us about God? (We can think about the owner as God the Father. We are the fig tree. The gardener is Jesus. Jesus wants to help and care for us. He pleads for more time from God the Father so that with His help we can become fruitful in our love. The story tells us that God is patient and gives us all another chance)

## 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:

**Lord Jesus,**

Help us all to grow in our love of God and others.

**Lord, in Your mercy.**

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

**Lord Jesus,**

Help all who are suffering or lonely. May they find strength in God’s patient care.

**Lord, in Your mercy.**

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

## Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father,

With Your loving care, may grow ever closer to You. Grant that we will share that harvest of love with those around us.

Amen.

## Activity

If there is time, use resources to complete an activity with the children. Possible resources are listed at the end.

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

## Useful Resources

CAFOD at <https://cafod.org.uk/Children-s-Liturgy>

Children's Liturgy with Emily: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HwnLJNMXemY>

Archdiocese of Dunkeld: <https://www.dunkelldiocese.co.uk/resources-for-children-liturgy/>

Search for page entitled 'Resources for Children's Liturgy'

The Liturgy of the Word with Children by Katie Thompson, publisher Kevin Mayhew