
Presentation of the Lord

Year C – 2nd February 2025

Vestment Colour: White

PREPARATION

If possible, arrange candles, a crucifix and Gospel/Sunday Missal on a table.

INTRODUCTION

Today we hear about how Mary and Joseph took the baby Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem to present Him to God. This was the Jewish custom to consecrate the firstborn male child to God.

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,
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 Children's Liturgy resource. You will probably want to practice your chosen Gloria and use it every week so that everyone becomes familiar with it.

Alternatively say:

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you; we bless you, we adore you, we glorify you.

We give you thanks for your great glory.

Lord God, heavenly King,

O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ,
only begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God,

Son of the Father,
You take away the sins of the world:
have mercy on us;

You take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer.

You are seated at the right hand of the Father:
have mercy on us.

For You alone are the Holy One,
You alone are the Lord,
You alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of the Father.

Amen

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

Alleluia, Alleluia,
Sing with joy
To all the world
I have seen the Saviour
Light of the world
Sing with joy
Alleluia

Alternatively say:

Alleluia, alleluia
A light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.
Alleluia

Gospel

Select the correct Gospel from the Children's Lectionary Year C.

Luke 2:22-40

"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

- ❖ Where did Mary and Joseph take baby Jesus and why? (They took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem present Him to God. This was the Jewish custom to consecrate the firstborn male child by presenting him to God in the temple).
- ❖ They also made an offering of an animal to sacrifice at the temple. What animal did they offer? (They offered a pair of turtledoves. This was the offering that poor people made).
- ❖ Who else was in the temple and what happened when they saw the baby Jesus?

(There was an old man called Simeon. He was good and holy and he lived his life waiting for the Messiah. God had promised him that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. When he saw Jesus, he took him in his arms and praised and thanked God. He said that Jesus was the Saviour and that He was the “Light of the gentiles”. Simeon realised that Jesus is our “Light and our Saviour”.

There was also a woman called Anna, who also recognised that Jesus was the Messiah. She also began to praise God when she saw baby Jesus and she told everyone who was waiting for the Messiah about Jesus).

- ❖ We often have candles to symbolise the light of Christ. When did we recently have candles in the Children’s liturgy?

Yes. That’s right we had our Advent Wreath with candles, and we lit a new candle each week during advent as we got nearer to the light of Christ’s birth at Christmas. We also have the Easter candle, and the candles are lit on the altar during Holy Mass when Jesus comes to us in Communion. The candles on the sanctuary are also lit at this time. The red sanctuary lamp is lit by a candle, which remains lit, as long as Jesus, truly present in the consecrated hosts, is reposed in the tabernacle. We are given a candle that is lit at our Baptism.

- ❖ How is Jesus our Light? (Jesus leads us to God. He teaches us to be good, kind and loving to others. He listens to us when we pray to Him and He forgives us when we are sorry. As our Saviour, He died for us, and He cares for us every day).
- ❖ How can we be a light for other people so that they will know God?

(Being, good, kind, helpful etc).

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,

You are our Light and our Saviour. Help us to stay close to You always and live good lives following the light of Your example.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

Dear Jesus,

Help us to bring the light of Your love to others we meet, by being kind and helpful.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

ACTIVITY

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

CLOSING PRAYER

Hail Mary, Full of Grace the Lord is with thee....

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