
SEVENTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

26th July 2026

Vestment Colour: Green

The Archdiocese of St Andrew's & Edinburgh has a website that contains further resources, information and plans for Children's Liturgy for use by Children's Liturgy Leaders. A full template is available on the website.

Health & Safety: *Once you are all assembled, take a head count in case of the need to evacuate (if possible, roster of names). Candles are permitted if they are included in your risk assessment.*

Introduction:

Leader: Today, is the seventeenth Sunday in ordinary time. The message from today's Gospel is that God's love for us is the greatest treasure and to be with God in the Kingdom of Heaven we must follow Jesus' example in the way we live.

Make the Sign of the Cross together.

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary.

The Collect:

Leader: O God, protector of those who hope in you, without whom nothing has firm foundation, nothing is holy, bestow in abundance your mercy upon us and grant that, with you as our ruler and guide, we may use the good things that pass in such a way as to hold fast even now to those that ever endure.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: Amen

The Gospel Acclamation: All stand to welcome the Gospel. (*You can encourage the children to sing the Alleluia*).

Alleluia, alleluia.

I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, you have revealed the secrets of the kingdom to little children.

Alleluia.

Alternatively, you can use the following (*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.

Gospel: Select the correct Gospel from the Children's Lectionary (Year A). Alternatively use an approved translation of the Bible (the ESV-CE version or Good News Bible for Children). *Do not paraphrase the Gospel; however, you may need to explain unusual or difficult words and names to the children.*

Matthew 13: 44-52

Leader: "A reading from the Holy Gospel according to St. Matthew".

All: "Glory to You, O Lord."

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

Leader: "The Gospel of the Lord".

All reply: "Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ". Ask everyone to be seated.

Gospel Reflection: *the following are some suggestions to help with a discussion around the Gospel.*

What did you hear in the Gospel today? Acknowledge and encourage them.

Jesus told the people two stories to help explain what the Kingdom of Heaven is like. What did Jesus say? (He said that Heaven is like treasure buried in a field that was found by someone or like the finest of pearls).

Ask how the children would feel and what they would do if they found buried treasure? (Excited, happy, lucky, blessed...)

Ask what the man who found the treasure did and why they think he did this. (The man was so excited and knew that nothing else he had could compare to the treasure, so he sold everything else so he could have the treasure).

Ask what the children have that they treasure (special toy, book, game, maybe a pet). Discuss why this is so special to them. Ask them how they look after their treasure – treat it with great care, etc.

Ask the children what does Jesus want us to do to live a good life to find the true treasure of God's love in Heaven? (Be kind, helpful, generous, truthful, hardworking, share with others...)

Prayers of the Faithful:

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

We now ask Our Lord to hear our prayer

Lord, we pray that we will always treasure your love above all things and that we will live good lives as you wish us to.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer

Lord, we pray that we may truly listen to your word and hear what we should do to follow you.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer

Lord, we pray for our friends and family, that they are open to your grace and that together we can all build your Kingdom here on earth.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer

Closing Prayer:

Hail Mary, full of grace the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death.

All: Amen.