
SIXTEENTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

19th 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 sixteenth Sunday in ordinary time. In the Gospel today, Jesus tells the people parables about the Kingdom of Heaven.

Make the Sign of the Cross together.

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary.

The Collect:

Leader: Show favour, O Lord, to your servants and mercifully increase the gifts of your grace, that, made fervent in hope, faith and charity, they may be ever watchful in keeping your commands.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, 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: 24-30

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.

What kind of seed was Jesus talking about and what did He say about it? Jesus told a parable about a mustard seed and how this the smallest seed grew into the largest plant – a tree.

What was the other parable about? It was about the lady that baked some bread and to do this she used a tiny amount of yeast mixed with a large amount of flour, so much that the yeast seemed to disappear!

Ask the children what the yeast does to the bread dough? The tiny amount of yeast has a big effect. It makes the dough rise increasing its size by a large amount.

What did Jesus say that both the mustard seed and the yeast are like? Jesus said that they are like the Kingdom of Heaven! This might seem like an odd thing to say, so you will need to help the children understand that through the grace of God, if we are willing to listen and follow Jesus even if we don't think that what we do will make a difference, or that we feel that we can't help very much, God can do a lot through us, and through God's grace all the small acts of kindness that we show each other are building the Kingdom of Heaven here on earth.

- Ask the children to think of something kind or helpful that they can do. It may be for a brother or sister, or a parent, grandparent or friend. Maybe they can do this today or during the week. Remind the children that when they do this, God will be pleased and they will be helping to build the Kingdom of Heaven, in this world by bringing God's love and joy to 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

Dear Lord

we pray that especially in our church community our hearts may be open to the word of God.

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Dear 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.

Dear 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.