

Seventh Sunday of Easter Year A 21st May 2023

Introduction

In the Gospel today, during the Last Supper, Jesus prays for His friends the Apostles who share this special meal with Him.

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 61 of "Sunday. Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children." (Year A)

John 17:1-11

"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

What did Jesus do in today's Gospel?

Jesus prayed to His Father in Heaven for His friends the Apostles. Explain to the children that took place the night before Jesus died. They were having a meal together- The Last Supper.

The focus of today's Gospel is on prayer (and the gift of eternal life).

What help did Jesus ask His Father to give the Apostles?

Jesus asked His Father to " keep them safe" and also the they " may be one."

Jesus is our friend, so He also says this prayer for us. We often pray to God to " keep us safe."

Ask the children what they want to ask for God?

To keep them safe and healthy

To keep their family and friends safe and healthy

To look after people who care for the sick, the elderly, the poor.

Then ask the children what they think Jesus means when He prays to His Father that " we may be one"?

Jesus wants us to be united with each other and also with God.

Ask the children how we can show that we are united with each other?

Being united, means showing our love for each other as Jesus has shown us:

Help each other

Be kind and share especially with those who have less than we have.

Be good and listen to our parents and teachers

Pray together as a family. In this month of May especially remember to pray to our mother Mary in Heaven.

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 us to show a your love to others by being kind, thoughtful and caring.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

Closing Prayer

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

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.