

## Sixth Sunday of Easter Year A–14thMay2023

### Introduction

In today's gospel Jesus tells His disciples what to do to show their love for 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”.

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

John 14:15-21

"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 tell His disciples they should do in today's Gospel?

Jesus says that if they really love Him they will keep a His commandments.

What does Jesus mean when He says this?

Discuss what the main two commandments are: Love God and love others.

How do we love God?

Discuss with the children how they show God that they love Him- by talking to Him in prayer, saying thank you for all the good things God has done for them and given them, by asking for help to be good, by saying sorry when we have not been as kind/ helpful or loving as we should be to those around us.

Discuss with the children that if we really love God we will show this in our lives in the way we treat others, by being good to them. Ask the children for examples of how they should treat those around them.

In the Gospel Jesus said that He would pray to His Father to send some special help for the disciples. Who did He say the Father would send to help?

Jesus said that He would ask His Father to send the Holy Spirit to help the disciples- to give them courage to live good lives and do the right thing even when that is difficult. He said this so that they would not feel alone when He died on the cross and rose at the Resurrection and went to 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 me to love You as I should by keeping Your commandments.

**Lord, in Your mercy.**

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

Dear Jesus,

Help us to show 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.

