
THIRTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

26th October 2025

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 Jesus tells us about two different people. One is proud and boastful about how good he is. He thinks he is better than other people. Another is quiet and humble and wants to be a better person.

Make the Sign of the Cross together.

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary.

The Collect:

Leader: Almighty ever-living God, increase our faith, hope and charity, and make us love what you command, so that we may merit what you promise. 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.

God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, and entrusting to us the message of reconciliation.

Alleluia.

Gospel: Select the correct Gospel from the Children's Lectionary (Year C). 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.*

Luke 18: 9-14

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

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.*

- **Who were the two people that went into the temple?** (Pharisee and Tax Collector. Ensure that the children understand the meaning of Pharisee and Tax Collector. In Jesus's time the Pharisee was considered to be a law-abiding citizen. The tax collector gathered money from the people).
- **Which person did Jesus say was right with God?** (The tax collector because he was honest with God and admitted he was a sinner. In Jesus's time these people were often dishonest. They would sometimes charge the poor more than they owed and keep money for themselves. God is there to help us, if we are open to accept his help).

- **Which person did Jesus think needed to change to be right with God?** (The Pharisee. He was not humble. He boasted about how good he was and how he honoured God. He thought he was perfect and did not need God's help).
- **How did God want the Pharisee to change?** (He wanted him to continue doing what he did - not steal, be fair, fast and give money to the church. In addition, he wanted him not to brag about it. Also, instead of saying that the tax collector was sinful, Jesus wanted him to help the tax collector be a better person. God was pleased with what the Pharisee was doing but he wanted him to change his "attitude" and not brag about what he did).
- **Let's think about that word "attitude".** (Has anyone ever told you to "Lose the attitude.")? Give examples and ask for examples to explain attitude. For example, if you are doing something that you enjoy like playing a game, reading or watching TV and someone asks you to close the door. You reluctantly get up and slam the door instead of closing it quietly. You do what you are asked but not in a polite way).
- **Do you know of anyone who says things like** 'I am really great at gymnastics and I am fabulous at dancing. I am better than you.' How would that person make you feel? (That bragging and boastful attitude is not pleasing to Jesus).
- **What could that person do to make you feel better?** (They could encourage you and help you to be better at gymnastics and dancing.) Is this person like the Pharisee or tax collector?
- **Have you ever met someone who did something wrong and said, 'I am so sorry.** Will you help me do better in the future?' How does that person make you feel? (This is the attitude that Jesus loves. He wants to admit our mistakes and try to be better people). Is this person like the Pharisee or tax collector?
- If time and resources permit you may want to fill a jar with stones, pebbles, etc. and tell the children that this is like the Pharisee's heart. It is full of his own importance. Is there room for anything else? No. Show a stone, pebble, etc. with the word 'God' written on it. Can this stone, pebble, etc. representing God fit in the Pharisee's heart? No, it is already full.
Empty the jar. Put the 'God' stone, pebble, etc. in first. This is like the tax collector's heart which is still able to accept other stones, pebbles, etc. Remind the children that the Pharisee who is still loved by God, doesn't seem open to accept God's love. If appropriate each child can choose a stone, pebble, etc. to take home to remember to put God first in their hearts and lives.

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 prayers.

1. Dear Jesus

Lord Jesus, we want to act with a good attitude each day at home and at school.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer

2. Dear Jesus,

Lord Jesus, we want to act with a good attitude each day at home and at school.

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

3. Dear Jesus,

We pray for anybody feeling sorry about something they have done. God loves them.

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Closing Prayer

Lord, help us to have a kind attitude, admit when we do wrong and ask you for love and forgiveness. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.