
TWENTIETH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C

17th August 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 we hear that Jesus wants to set the world on fire with His love.

Make the Sign of the Cross together.

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary.

The Collect:

Leader: O God, who have prepared for those who love you good things which no eye can see, fill our hearts, we pray, with the warmth of your love, so that, loving you in all things and above all things, we may attain your promises, which surpass every human desire. 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.

My sheep hear my voice, says the Lord, and I know them, and they follow me.

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 12: 49-53

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.*

- **What did Jesus say he wanted to do to the world?** (To set fire to the earth. Jesus was not going to light a fire that burns things up, but He meant sending the Holy Spirit to give us love, strength and courage. So just like a fire changes things when it burns things, the Holy Spirit changes us).
- **Can you think of another time that the Holy Spirit came down as tongues of fire?** (At Pentecost. The Holy Spirit came down onto the Apostles who then had the strength and courage to out and tell everyone about Jesus).
- **Do you think that Jesus wants us to fall out with our family and friends when he tells us that son will be against father and daughter against mother?** (No. Jesus is telling us that living life the way he asks will not be easy. There will be times that believing in Him our behaviour will not be accepted or understood by 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:

Heavenly Father, as one family under you we pray

- For peace in our world through love, forgiveness and understanding.

Leader: Lord, in your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer

- For all people who are hurt or in prison because of their faith in Jesus. May they receive the Holy Spirit to give them strength and courage.

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

- For those in our family who are sick or lonely. May they find strength and healing in you.

Leader: Lord, in Your mercy.

All: Hear our prayer.

Closing Prayer

Lord, give us the strength and courage to live our lives the way you want us to.

All: Amen.