
TWENTY SIXTH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR A

27th September 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, we are reminded that God is always ready to forgive us. When we tell God that we are sorry and change our lives and do what is right God forgives us and helps us to make the right choices in life.

Make the Sign of the Cross together.

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary.

The Collect:

Leader: O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven. 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 me voice, says the Lord, and I know them, and they follow me.

Alleluia.

Alternatively, (*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 21: 28-32

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? (Jesus told a story about a man who had two sons. This man asked both sons to go and work in his vineyard for the day).

What did the first son say to his father? What did the first son do? (The first son said that he would not go and work in the vineyard but later had a change of heart and went and did as his father had asked).

What did the second son say to his father? What did he do? (The second son said that he would go and do the work that his father had asked him to do. However, he didn't do this).

Who made the right choice in the story? (That's right, the first son, in the end, made the right choice. He at first said that he would not do what his father asked. He knew this was wrong. Afterwards he was sorry and had a change of heart. He made the right choice and went and did what his father asked).

What about the second son? (He agreed to do what his father asked but then decided not to do as he was told. He chose to disobey his father knowing that this was wrong).

What is the message in this story? (Every day we must make lots of choices in our lives. We don't always make the right choice or do the right thing. Sometimes we are like the first son and other times we are like the second son. Jesus tells the story so that we know that even if we make a bad choice, God is always ready to forgive us when we have a change of heart and say sorry and try and do the right thing).

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

Lord Jesus,

Help us when we are tempted to make a bad choice, to be like the first son in the Gospel, and to have a change of heart and do the right thing.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **"Hear our prayer."**

Lord Jesus,

Show us Your love, grant us Your forgiveness and give us the grace to change when we struggle to make the right choice.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

Closing Prayer:

Dear Heavenly Father, help us to always show Your love to others. May we always be generous, kind and caring especially to those who are in need.

All: Amen.