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## **TWENTY THIRD SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME – YEAR C**

**7<sup>th</sup> September 2025**

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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:** In today's Gospel Jesus talks to a large crowd of people telling them that if they want to be His disciples, they must be willing to love Him above everyone even themselves and that they must 'carry their cross.'

Make the Sign of the Cross together.

Light the candles on the table next to the Lectionary.

### **The Collect:**

**Leader:** O God, by whom we are redeemed and receive adoption, look graciously upon your beloved sons and daughters, that those who believe in Christ may receive true freedom and an everlasting inheritance. 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.**

Let your face shine forth on your servant and teach me your decrees.

**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 14: 25-33**

**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 happened in today's Gospel?** (Jesus told people what they must do to be His disciples).
- **What did Jesus say they (and we) must do to be His disciple?** (Love Him above everyone and everything and accept our "cross")
- **Do you think this sounds like it's an easy thing to do?** (No. It's sometimes hard to do the right thing, but if we really love Jesus, we must try to be good)
- **What does Jesus mean by saying we must be willing to accept our cross?** (He means that things will not always be easy, and that sometimes doing the right thing will mean that we may have to make hard choices. We may, for example,

upset our friends if they want us to do something which we know is wrong and we must make the right choice and tell them that it is wrong and that we won't do it and that they should be good instead).

- **What has Jesus promised us if we are good disciples?** (He has promised to help us keep on trying to be good and that ultimately, He will bring us safely to be with Him in Heaven where we will be truly happy forever).

### **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

**Dear Jesus,**

You have asked that we love one another as you loved us. Help us to be strong witnesses to your love daily by our actions and words.

**Leader:** Lord, in your mercy.

**All: Hear our prayer**

**Dear Jesus,**

Help us always to turn to You in prayer for help to do the right thing and to say sorry for the times when we fail to be "good disciples".

**Leader:** Lord, in Your mercy.

**All: Hear our prayer.**

### **Closing Prayer**

Let us pray as Jesus taught us to pray as we say together the "Our Father".

"Our Father, who art in heaven ....

**All:** Amen.