

Third Sunday of Easter Year A– 23rdApril 2023

Introduction

In today's gospel we hear that Jesus has risen from the dead and that He is walking around the land. He meets two of His disciples and talks with them on the road to Emmaus.

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 50-51 of "Sunday. Book of Readings. The Lectionary Adapted for Children." (Year A)

Luke 24:13-35

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

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

Ask the children why they think the disciples did not recognize Jesus?
(They weren't expecting to see Him. They were still in shock after His death....)

What made the disciples begin to believe that the man they were speaking to was Jesus?

When He started talking to them about the scriptures and broke the bread and gave it to them- they learned from Him, shared bread with Him and grew stronger.

This is the template for what happens at Holy Mass. We come to Mass with all of our concerns about what happened during the week. We listen to God's words (The Liturgy of the Word), share in Holy Communion(Liturgy of the Eucharist – which is Jesus truly present in the Blessed Sacrament under the appearance of bread- after the Consecration) and leave stronger and ready to live God's words in what we say, do and think each day.

Why do you think the disciples went back to Jerusalem so quickly?

They wanted to tell others their good news. Just like when we leave Mass- we are stronger- reminded of God's love for us- and want to live the way He asked us to live.

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, Thank you for your love in dying for us so that we may be happy with You in Heaven.

Lord, in Your mercy.

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

Dear Jesus,

Help us to remember to tell You that we love You when we pray to You and especially when You come to us in Holy Communion.

Lord, in Your mercy.

All reply: **“Hear our prayer.”**

Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus thank you for all that you have done for us. Help us to show your love to others by being kind and helpful.

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.