



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

'Make our faith stronger'

Green



Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4 Psalm 95 2 Timothy 1:6-8 Luke 17:5-10

How would you describe what the word 'faith' means? Faith is to have complete trust and belief in some person or thing. Who are the people who you see as having great faith in God? There are many things that we don't know or understand about God, but faith is a gift from God that helps us to pray and to believe what we cannot see.

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, starting with the Gospel. (You may choose to use or focus on one reading only, but remember that the Gospel may not be omitted.) Then look through the preparatory material that follows and familiarise yourself with the Liturgy Outline.

GOSPEL

Luke 17:5-10

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE

The apostles said to the Lord, "Make our faith stronger!"

Jesus replied: "If you had faith no bigger than a tiny mustard seed, you could tell this mulberry tree to pull itself up, roots and all, and to plant itself in the ocean. And it would!"

"If your servant comes in from ploughing or from taking care of the sheep, would you say, 'Welcome! Come in and have something to eat.'? No, you wouldn't say that. You would say, 'Fix me something to eat. Get ready to serve me, so I can have my meal. Then later on you can eat and drink.'

"Servants don't deserve special thanks for doing what they are supposed to do. And that's how it should be with you. When you've done all you should, then say, 'We are merely servants, and we have simply done our duty.' "

FIRST READING

Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET HABAkkUK

This was my prayer to God:

“Our Lord, how long must I beg for your help before you listen? You won’t help when I tell you about all of the violence. Why do you make me watch such terrible injustice? Violence and destruction, crime and cruelty are spreading everywhere.”

Then the Lord told me,

“I will give you my message in the form of a vision. Write it on a big clay tablet and make it easy to read. At the time I have chosen, these things will happen. You can trust what I say about the future. It may take a long time, but keep on waiting, because it will happen. I don’t like a proud people, but everyone who is faithful will please me and live.”

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 1:6-8

A READING FROM THE SECOND LETTER OF PAUL TO TIMOTHY

I ask you to make full use of the gift that God gave you when I placed my hands on you. Use it well. God’s Spirit does not make cowards out of us. The Spirit gives us power, love and self-control.

Don’t be ashamed to speak for our Lord. And don’t be ashamed of me, just because I am in jail for serving him. Use the power that comes from God and join with me in suffering for telling the good news.

PSALM

Psalm 95

Response: **If today you hear God’s voice,
harden not your hearts.**

Sing joyful songs to the Lord! Praise the mighty rock where we are safe.
Come to worship him with thankful hearts and songs of praise. **R**

Bow down and worship the Lord our Creator!
The Lord is our God, and we are his people,
the sheep he takes care of in his own pasture. **R**

Listen to God’s voice today!
Don’t be stubborn and rebel as your ancestors did at Meribah
and at Massah out in the desert.
For forty years they tested God and saw the things he did. **R**

*Scriptures from the Lectionary for Masses with Children (CEV)
© Archdiocese of Chicago LTP. 1994 Used with permission*

Background to the Readings for Leaders

The readings for today call us to faith - a gift from God which is passed on through the community. Contrary to the appearances outlined in the prophet's lament in the first reading, God is in charge of the events of life. God's vision indicates that we must wait patiently until the appointed time for events to unfold. Paul encourages Timothy to be brave in proclaiming the gospel and rekindle the gift given with his ministry, despite the perilous political situation of the day. When the disciples ask Jesus to increase their faith, he counters with a change in perspective. They are interested in quantity and Jesus in quality – his metaphorical use of the tiny mustard seed and the mulberry tree with its very deep and extensive root system, very difficult to uproot, is indicating that a tiny amount of genuine faith is able to realise the impossible. The social convention of the day held that servants were effectively slaves, beholden to the householder for the provision of everything needed by the servant and his family in return for his labour. The household described would have been small, with a wide range of duties performed by the servant. The analogy is for the follower of Christ, who has been called to service and should do so out of a profound sense of gratitude rather than a desire to be rewarded.

Images from the Readings

- *Make our faith stronger*
- *Tiny mustard seed*
- *The duty of servants*
- *Terrible injustice*
- *Use the power that comes from God*

Reflection for Leaders

Think of someone you know who has been committed to their faith or ministry for a long time. What do you think keeps them going? Have they struggled to maintain their enthusiasm? We have been told of faith as a gift from God mediated through our community – handed down in families, sharing about God and Jesus by teachers, families, preaching, those with whom we talk. In what ways has your community fostered the faith given by God? How are you willing to nurture your own seed of faith? How is God calling you to serve? Think about a time when you felt as though you had done your duty. How did this feel? During this week stretch your faith by handing a problem over to God, and doing something that seems beyond you.



Reflecting on the Readings with the children

Before Sunday read over the suggested discussion points given in the Leader's Liturgy Outline. With the 8-12 year olds: First, listen to the children's own responses to the Reading/s and then, if needed, use some of the discussion starters suggested. With the 5-7 year olds: Adapt some of the questions in the 8-12 material and then join with the older group for the 'Liturgical Action'.



Suggested Focus

Green cloth, Lectionary, candle, a tiny seeds...



bowl of mustard

LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

At a suitable moment after the Opening Rites, but before the First Reading is proclaimed, the children are presented with the Children's Lectionary and a candle and sent, with their ministers, to the place where they will celebrate their own Liturgy of the Word, with words of dismissal such as the following:

INVITATION – Pōwhiri I invite the children to join in the procession for their celebration of the Liturgy of the Word.

To the Minister of the Word: Receive this Book of Readings and proclaim God's Word faithfully to the children entrusted to your care.

Receive this candle as the light of Christ who is present in his Word.

PROCESSION WITH THE BOOK OF READINGS – Te Kapa o te Pukapuka Tapu

WELCOME – Ko te whakatau

Leader: O God, we trust you and your love for us. Increase our faith in you and your goodness.

R Amen.

First Reading: Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4

(if used)

The Word of the Lord / Ko te Kupu a te Ariki

Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua

Psalms 95

Response: If today you hear God's voice,
harden not your hearts.

or Alleluia

- *Do you know what faith is? (believing in something even when we can't understand or see it) What sort of things can faith help you to do? (pray, trust God, face something that is difficult or frightening) What do you think Jesus means when he said 'servants don't deserve special thanks for what they are supposed to do'? (we ought not to expect to be rewarded for what we do for God, but act out of gratitude)*

5-7 year olds: Adapt some of the questions in the 8-12 material and then join with the older group for the 'Liturgical Action'

LITURGICAL ACTION – Ko te Ritenga Karakia



Teach the children the prayer...

"I do have faith, but not enough. Help me have more!"

PROFESSION OF FAITH – Panui o te Whakapono

We believe in God the Father,
 who made the whole world.
 We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
 who was born in Bethlehem
 and lived among us,
 who died on the cross for us,
 and rose from the dead.
 We believe in the Holy Spirit
 who brings life and love to us all.
 We believe that the Church is one family,
 and that one day
 we will share everlasting life
 with God in heaven.
 Amen.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL – Te Īnoinga o te Hunga Whakapono

(Here are some suggested intercessions; you are encouraged to compose your own according to the age and experience of the children)

Leader: Gracious God, we trust in your goodness and so we are not afraid to bring our needs to you:

- For all our leaders, that they be unafraid to admit mistakes and ask forgiveness...
Let us pray to the Lord
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For all who doubt, that the gift of faith be increased ...
Let us pray to the Lord
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For the people in our families, our schools, our community, who are faithful and serve others with a good attitude ...
Let us pray to the Lord
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For the sick, the lonely and the poor, that they be comforted...
Let us pray to the Lord
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: Look kindly on your children and those we pray for.
You are a God of love and in faith,
we ask these prayers through Our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: **Amen**

The children re-join the assembly before the prayers over the gifts.

LITURGY OUTLINE – CHILDREN'S COPY

Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

First Reading: Habakkuk 1:2-3, 2:2-4

(if used)

The Word of the Lord / Ko te Kupu a te Ariki

Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua

Psalms 95

Response: If today you hear God's voice,
harden not your hearts.

or **Alleluia!**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

(Sing)

Music © 2011 Maria Guzzo



General: Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Fill us O Lord with your word. _____



Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Your word is life for our souls.

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 1:6-8

(if used)

The Word of the Lord / Ko te Kupu a te Ariki

Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua

Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

Children:

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord / Korōria ki ā koe, e te Ariki

At the end of the Gospel:

The Gospel of the Lord

Children:

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ / Kia whakanuia rā koe,
e te Ariki, e Hēhu Karaiti.**

PROFESSION OF FAITH

We believe in God the Father,
who made the whole world.
We believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God,
who was born in Bethlehem
and lived among us,
who died on the cross for us,
and rose from the dead.
We believe in the Holy Spirit
who brings life and love to us all.
We believe that the Church is one family,
and that one day
we will share everlasting life
with God in heaven. Amen.

Faith

Do what you do because you love God



Twenty Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

Chorus Play

Luke 17:5-10

God gives us many gifts

People required: Reader

Reader: God gives us gifts!

Chorus: **Thank you God!**

Reader: God's Spirit gives us power!

Chorus: **Thank you God!**

Reader: God gives us love!

Chorus: **Thank you God!**

Reader: God's Spirit gives us self-control!

Chorus: **Thank you God!**

Reader: God's Spirit gives us faith!

Chorus: **Thank you God!**

Reader: Do the right thing!

Chorus: **Okay!**

Reader: Don't expect a reward!

Chorus: **Okay!**

Reader: Do what you do because you love God.

Chorus: **Thank you God for loving us.**



From 'Just Imagine 4, Many creative ways of presenting Scripture...' written by Rina Wintour, Mountjoy Enterprises, www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au. Available from the Liturgy Centre.