



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Ascension of the Lord

White

'Go tell everyone the Good News'

Acts 1: 8-11 Psalm 47 Mark 16: 15-20

The mission of the church is to evangelise. Our Gospel reading tells us that before Jesus left the disciples to be with God, his Father in heaven, he gave them a job to do. Go to every part of the world and tell everyone the Good News. This command is accompanied by the promise that Jesus will be with them



always. "Go and preach the good news to everyone in the world."

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for The Ascension of the Lord, 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

Mark: 16: 15-20

Jesus told his disciples: "Go and preach the good news to everyone in the world. Anyone who believes me and is baptized will be saved. But anyone who refuses to believe in me will be condemned.

Everyone who believes me will be able to do wonderful things. By using my name they will be able to force out demons, and they will speak new languages. They will handle snakes and will drink poison and not be hurt. They will also heal sick people by placing their hands on them."

After the Lord Jesus had said these things to the disciples he was taken back up to heaven where he sat at the right side of God. Then the disciples left and preached everywhere. The Lord was with them, and their miracles they worked proved that their message was true.

Jesus told his disciples: "The Holy Spirit will come upon you and give you power. Then you will tell everyone about me in Jerusalem, in all Judea, in Samaria, and everywhere in the world."

After Jesus had said this and while they were watching, he was taken up into a cloud. They could not see him, but as he went up, they kept looking up into the sky.

Suddenly two men dressed in white clothes were standing there beside them. They said, "Why are you standing there and looking up into the sky? Jesus has been taken to heaven. But he will come back in the same way that you have seen him go."

PSALM

Psalm 47

Response: God mounts the throne to shouts of joy.

All of you nations, clap your hands and shout joyful praises to God.

The Lord most High is fearsome, the ruler of all the earth.

God goes up to his throne, as people shout and trumpets blast.

Sing praises to God our King.

God is ruler of all the earth! Praise God with songs.

Scriptures from the Lectionary for Masses with Children (CEV)
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Background to the Readings for Leaders

These final verses of Mark's Gospel were an addition to the original ending of the women at the empty tomb. They show that from the earliest times the disciples realized that even though Jesus was no longer physically with them, the Lord was working with them.

The word "apostle" comes from the Greek for 'one who is sent out' and is used of those who met the risen Lord. Indeed the apostles did go forth unhesitatingly and preached everywhere.

Mark uses vivid and dramatic figures of speech when referring to demons, snakes and poison to illustrate that those who believe in the good news of Jesus Christ and preach it can face all that threatens or destroys life and overcome it. This stewardship of life includes stewardship of all creation.

The confirmation of the presence of Jesus through the power of the Holy Spirit and the extraordinary signs and miracles shown by the apostles did not end with them. They shared

what they had received with all those they baptized and they continued the work. We are the baptized of today and the same promises that Jesus made to the apostles then, belong to us now. You are literally preaching the good news to the children you gather with this Sunday.

Images from the Readings

- Go
- Good News
- Believe
- Baptized
- Power

Reflection for Leaders

Jesus sends out his disciple to continue his work of bringing good news. This reminds us that the “sending out” which occurs at every Mass. Not all of us can go to the whole world, but all of us are called to bring the good news wherever we are in our daily lives.



This call applies not only to people but to all ‘creation’. Are there areas where we can be ‘good news’ to others or for the earth? Do we need to revisit our commitment to the reconciliation with other people or to recycling? Can we reduce our consumerism, share with those in great need, reduce waste, plant a tree?

As we consider this feast – marking the end of one era and the beginning of another – we can reflect on those experiences of our lives where one chapter has closed and another has opened. The task that Jesus asks of us may not be easy. There will be some who rejoice in the message, and others who will reject it. However Jesus’ presence with us will ensure that we can link into the power he has promised to continue the work.

What signs of hope accompany the work of the Church in the world today and the work that you are called to do?

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

Prepare a focus for the area where the children’s Liturgy of the Word is to be held:

White cloth, Lectionary, a candle,



LITURGY OUTLINE

Sixth Sunday of Easter

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

for their

I invite the children to join in the procession

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, you tell us that you are with us always and we need never be afraid. Help us to do your work in the world until you send Jesus back to us in glory.

R Amen.

First Reading: Acts 1:8-11

(if used) The Word of the Lord / Ko te Kupu a te Ariki

Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua

Psalm 47

Response: God mounts the throne to shouts of joy.
(or another suitable response known by the children)

Easter: Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Je - sus is ri - sen from death._____

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. He is the light of the world.

Gospel: Mark 16:15-20

Minister of the Word: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark

Children: **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.**

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH THE CHILDREN – Whai Whakaaro

8-12 year olds: Suggested Beginning: A good place to begin is with the question: What did you hear? Allow each child the opportunity to respond in their own words to hearing the Word of God. Then begin a general discussion, building on these responses, perhaps using some prepared questions, to stimulate ideas:

- How do we feel when someone we love very much has to leave and go away? How do you think the disciples felt when Jesus went to be with his father again? They were filled with great sadness because they knew they would not see Jesus again. Perhaps they felt lonely and afraid.
- Jesus knew how they would be feeling so he made them a special promise that he would be with them always. Can you remember some of the different ways that Jesus had promised to be with his disciples in the Easter stories that we have shared? Through the power of the Holy Spirit, through the sharing of the bread and wine at the Eucharistic meal and the wonderful things the disciples would be able to do in Jesus name. These are some of the ways that Jesus still shares himself with us today.
- What did Jesus tell his disciples to do after he left them? Go out to every part of the world and tell everyone the good news, and to baptize people.
- How/why were the disciples able to do this? They were filled with the power of the Holy Spirit.

Remind the children that we also received the Holy Spirit when we were baptized: “In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. So we too have the power of the Holy Spirit to be witnesses for Jesus.

How can we do this? By the way we live our life; being obedient to our parents and teachers, being kind to our friends, caring for those who are sick or upset , standing up for a friend who is being bullied - try to keep the children focused on ideas truly possible for them at their age)

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*



In place of the Profession of Faith, this week teach the children this echo creed (maybe chanted) as they repeat:

Jesus rose from the dead.	Alleluia
Jesus ascended into heaven.	Alleluia
Jesus is seated at the right hand of the Father.	Alleluia
Jesus will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.	Alleluia
The kingdom of Jesus will have no end.	Alleluia

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL – *Te Inoīnga 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: On this day when Jesus was lifted up from our midst, let us stand before his Father in prayer:

- That God will give wisdom and insight to those who lead the Church into the new time in our history. Let us pray to the Lord

R Lord hear our prayer or E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou

- That we always share the wonderful things that God has done for us with those we meet. Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For those who are suffering, that God will empower them
 Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For all those who feel afraid of the future, that God will give them strength and comfort Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: God most holy, we ask you to hear our prayers as we wait for Jesus to return in glory. We come to you with our needs through Jesus Christ our Lord who has ascended to your right hand.

R: **Amen**

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

