



# Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

## Trinity Sunday Year C

*'Jesus promises the Spirit of truth'*

*White*

Proverbs 8:22-31 Psalm 8 John 16:12-15

*We have many different ways of relating to the people we know. In our family we might be a son or a daughter, a niece or a nephew, a brother or a sister. We might be a friend, a cousin, a grandson or granddaughter. Sometimes we might even be an aunt or an uncle. We might have more than one relationship with someone else. In the same way, the depth of God's relationship with us is indicated by the three persons of the Holy Trinity – the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.*



### *Leader's Preparation*

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for Trinity Sunday, starting with the Gospel. Then look through the preparatory material that follows and familiarise yourself with the Liturgy Outline. (You may choose to use or focus on one reading only, but remember that the Gospel may not be omitted. As the mystery of the Trinity is a difficult concept for all of us, let alone for children, it would be appropriate to stress relationship within the Trinity - Father, Son, Holy Spirit - and the **love** that is the Blessed Trinity {God is love}.

### *GOSPEL*

John 16:12-15

Jesus said to his disciples:

"I have much more to say to you, but right now it would be more than you could understand. The Spirit shows what is true and will come and guide you into the full truth.

"The Spirit does not speak on his own. He will tell you only what he has heard from me, and he will let you know what is going to happen.



“The Spirit will bring glory to me by taking my message and telling it to you. Everything that the Father has is mine. That is why I have said that the Spirit takes my message and tells it to you.”

## FIRST READING

Proverbs 8:22-31

From the very beginning, I was with the Lord. I was there before he began to create the earth. At the very first, the Lord gave life to me.

When I was born, there were no oceans or springs of water.

My birth was before mountains were formed or hills were put in place.

It happened long before God had made the earth  
or any of its fields or even the dust.

I was there when the Lord put the heavens in place  
and stretched the sky over the surface of the sea.

I was with him when he placed the clouds in the sky  
and created the springs that fill the ocean.

I was there when he set boundaries for the sea  
to make it obey him,  
and when he laid foundations to support the earth.

I was right beside the Lord, helping him plan and build.

I made him happy each day,  
and I was happy at his side.

I was pleased with his world and pleased with its people.

## PSALM

Psalm 8

**Response: O Lord, Our God, How wonderful your name in all the earth!**

I often think of the heavens your hands have made,  
and of the moon and stars you put in place. Then I ask,

“Why do you care about us humans! Why are you concerned for us weaklings?” **R**

You made us a little lower than you yourself, and have crowned us with glory  
and honour. You let us rule everything your hands have made.

And you put all of it under our power – **R**

The sheep and the cattle, and every wild animal, the birds in the sky,  
the fish in the sea, and all ocean creatures. **R**

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

Each of the readings casts a particular light on the mystery of God. The first invites us to marvel at the creation of God and consider the eternity of the Godhead before creation existed. The identification of Wisdom with Christ leads us to understand that from all ages Christ *is*, and the loving plan that God had for all creation was in place from the very beginning. The Holy Spirit, according to Jesus' promise in the Gospel, will teach his disciples everything they were unable to grasp during his time with them. The love of God binds us through Jesus and in the Holy Spirit. Belief in the Trinity - one God, Father, Son and Spirit – is one of the most basic foundations of Christian faith. The experience of the one God was inherited from the Jewish tradition, yet in Jesus the early Christians had experienced God present with them in the flesh. As the church grew, the actions of the Holy Spirit were recognised. It took many centuries for the mystery to be formulated into words, and these are still totally inadequate to convey such a concept. St Augustine's image of the Trinity as a communion of love (the Lover, the Beloved and the Love which exists between them) is a rich analogy.

## *Images from the Readings*

- *Wisdom in Creation*
- *Playfulness of God*
- *Wonders of creation*
- *Jesus promises the Spirit of truth*
- *Unity between Father and Son in the Spirit*

## *Reflection for Leaders*

Words are wholly inadequate to explain the mystery of the Trinity, yet our experience of God as Father, Son and Spirit has enabled us to have access to God in a personal way that would otherwise be denied us. What were your earliest ideas about God, and how have these developed as your life has unfolded? What have been significant moments of new understanding and closeness to God for you – turning points in your life? In what ways can you open yourself to God more fully, to develop your personal relationship with the Trinity? How does Jesus embody the love of God for you? Is the Holy Spirit still active in the Church today, to lead us all to new understandings and truth, as was experienced by the early Christians? How have you recognised God acting in your life? How can this reflection on the experience of God be transformed into reality in your relationships with the people who are close to you this week?

## *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, three white candles, an Icon of the Trinity



# Liturgy Outline

## Trinity Sunday

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, you gave us your Son, Jesus Christ, and your Holy Spirit to show us how to live as your children. Help us today to do what is right.

**R** Amen.

*First Reading: Proverbs 8:22-31 (if used)*

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

**Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua**

*Psalm 8*

**Response: O Lord, Our God,  
How wonderful your name in all the earth!**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Sing)

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D G Bm A D G Asus<sup>4</sup> A

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

Bm G D A G A D

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

### Gospel: John 16:12-15

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

**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:*

- Do you know what the special feast today is? (Trinity Sunday)  
‘Trinity’ means something made up of three, and today we give thanks for the three persons of God – the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. The Trinity is a mystery that we cannot really understand, but in today’s Gospel Jesus tells us that he is the image of what God is like, and the same Spirit that was in him is available for us today.

- Do you know anything about your great-great-grandparents?  
People often forget what their ancestors were like. Old photos might help, and old letters and diaries and family stories help us to remember who they were and what they did.
- Jesus lived and taught much longer ago than our great-great-grandparents, yet we remember him and what he taught us. How? (Holy Spirit has been given to the church to help us remember, we read Scriptures and say prayers which include Father, Son and Spirit)

**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 Sign of the Cross, and the Glory Be:*

“Glory be to the Father,  
and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning,  
is now and ever shall be,  
world without end.

Amen”



## *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 Īnoīnga 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:** God's love has been poured into our hearts as we have listened to his Word,  
so we turn to our God for what we need:

- For the gift of wisdom, so that we may know what is just in life. Let us pray to the Lord.  
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For the gift of truth, that the Spirit may guide all those in power in our country to know the truth and act on it. Let us pray to the Lord.  
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That God's message reaches all those in our homes, schools and communities who are hungry to know of God. 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 sick and lonely. Let us pray to the Lord.  
R Lord hear our prayer or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**



**Leader:** God of the Trinity, may your kingdom come. Listen to the prayers of your children, through Jesus Christ our Lord

**All:** Amen

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

