



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

The Body and Blood of Christ

'Jesus you are bread for us'

White

Genesis 14:18-20 Psalm 110 Corinthians 11:23-26 Luke 9:11-17



Jesus and his disciples were looking after all the people who crowded round to be healed and learn. They were a long way from the town, and they had no food. The disciples wanted Jesus to send the people home. But Jesus knew that God would provide all that they needed to sustain them. We share a special meal together when we gather at Mass. We believe that, through the power of God, the bread and wine that we share at Communion

become the body and blood of Jesus, who gives himself to each of us in a very special way.

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for The Body and Blood of Christ, 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 9: 11-17

Jesus welcomed the people. He spoke to them about God's kingdom and healed everyone who was sick.

Late in the afternoon the twelve apostles came to Jesus and said, "Send the crowd to the villages and farms around here. They need to find a place to stay and something to eat. There is nothing in this place. It is like a desert!"

Jesus answered, "You give them something to eat."

But they replied, "We have only five small loaves of bread and two fish. If we are going to feed all these people, we will have to go and buy food." There were about five thousand men in the crowd.

Jesus said to his disciples, "Have the people sit in groups of fifty."

They did this, and all the people sat down. Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish. He looked up toward heaven and blessed the food. Then he broke the bread and fish and handed them to his disciples to give to the people.

Everyone ate all they wanted. What was left over filled twelve baskets.

FIRST READING

Genesis 14: 18-20

King Melchizedek of Salem brought out some bread and wine.

He was a priest of God Most High, and he said to Abraham,

"I give you the blessings of God Most High,

Creator of heaven and of the earth.

All praise belongs to God Most High,

who let you defeat your enemies."

Then Abraham gave him a tenth of everything.

PSALM

Psalm 110

Response: You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchizedek

The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at my right side,
until I make your enemies into a footstool for you." R

Your glorious power will be seen on the day you begin to rule.
You will wear the sacred robes and shine like the morning sun in all of your strength. R

The Lord has made a promise that will never be broken:
"You will be a priest forever, just like Melchizedek." R

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Brothers and sisters: I have already told you what the Lord Jesus did on the night he was betrayed. And it came from the Lord himself.

He took some bread in his hands. Then after he had given thanks, he broke it and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Eat this and remember me."

After the meal, Jesus took a cup of wine in his hands and said, "This is my blood, and with it God makes his new agreement with you. Drink this and remember me."

The Lord meant that when you eat this bread and drink from this cup, you tell about his death until he comes.

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

The first reading describes an encounter between Abram, ancestor of the Israelites, and a priest named Melchizedek. Abram initiated tithing as a response to the religious practice that has taken place. The words pronounced by Melchizedek are both a blessing for Abram and an exclamation of praise of God Most High. The second reading is an account of the institution of the Lord's Supper, faithful to Jewish etiquette, and with a charge to repeat among themselves the actions demonstrated by Jesus himself. In the Gospel reading, Jesus' healing and teaching ministry is in full swing. The place was somewhat isolated, but close enough to be able to procure food from more populated areas should this be necessary. Jesus' actions over the food are in thanksgiving, and the actions of the apostles are the ones through whom the crowd experiences the abundance of provision. This indicates that Jesus provides for his people through the agency of the Church. The feast celebrates the living presence of Christ, which we know in the gift of his body and blood in the Eucharist.



Images from the Readings

- *Eat this and remember me*
- *Tell about his death until he comes*
- *Looked up toward heaven and blessed the food*
- *Everyone ate all they wanted*

Reflection for Leaders

Jesus, his disciples and the crowd are away in 'a lonely place'. We are all in a lonely place in a sense, as we long for food and refuge and place to belong. As Catholics, the Eucharist is the place that satisfies these needs on our life journey. We understand the Gospel, in the context of the Eucharist, as being the way throughout history in which Jesus feeds the people who hunger and thirst for real 'food' and real 'drink'. What parallels do you recognise between the purpose of daily meals and the Eucharist itself? As you approach Jesus within the community of the church, what kinds of things do you hunger for, and how does Jesus satisfy these hungers? Can you share the task of satisfying the hungers of others? What resources do you have to offer to accomplish this? During this week be aware of your responsibility to feed others, within your family and outside. Find a way to give practical help and support to someone in need.

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, candle, crucifix (some bread rolls and a cup of wine)



D G Bm A D G Asus⁴ 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: Luke 9:11-17

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

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, like the following, to stimulate ideas.*

- Speak to the children about how Jesus knew he was going to die, but wanted to enable his disciples to realise that he would always be among them, loving them, helping them, strengthening them. Are there times in our lives when we celebrate an event with a special meal? When? What do you eat on those occasions? (Help the children see that certain foods become symbols of what we are celebrating, these special things make the event real and remind us of past celebrations, as the Passover did for the Jews)
- Show the children the gifts of bread and wine, which will become the body and blood of Christ. Help them make the connection between Mass and Jesus’ words, “Do this in memory of me.”
- What happens at Mass? At our celebration of the Eucharist we remember the meal that Jesus shared with his friends the night before he died; and we share in his death and resurrection. We believe that through the power of God the bread and wine truly become Jesus’ body and blood. This is a mystery to us, but we believe it because we have faith.

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'

Leaders may wish to ask the Priest before Mass begins whether the children can bring forward the bread and wine during the procession of the gifts when they return from their separate Liturgy of the Word.

LITURGICAL ACTION – Ko te Ritenga Karakia

Teach the children the second Memorial Acclamation to a tune regularly sung at your parish:



“When we eat this bread,
and drink this cup
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again”



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: With trust in our hearts we call upon our loving God for our needs:

- For the Church, the body of Christ in the world, that each of its members will be cherished. Lord hear us.

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

- For peace where there is trouble in the world. Lord hear us.

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

- That we the children of Aotearoa New Zealand will lead our people to live in peace with each other. Lord hear us.

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

- For the gift of understanding that we will, with cheerful hearts love others as ourselves. Lord hear us.

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

Leader: God our hope and peace hear these prayers we make through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: Amen

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

The Body and Blood of Christ

Chorus Play

Luke 9: 10-17

Many are fed

Narrator, Response holder, Jesus, Disciples 1,2,3,4 & 5,

Narrator: A large crowd had followed Jesus into the hillside. Some had seen him work miracles and they were hoping for more.

Chorus: **Miracles, miracles, give us a miracle Jesus.**

Narrator: Jesus had spent the day, preaching, listing and healing the sick. As the hour became late, Jesus grew concerned at the large crowds that had gathered around him.

Disciples: Send them home Jesus. It is getting late and we have no food to feed such a gathering

Jesus: It is too late for them to find their own food, you must help them.

Chorus: **Food glorious food, give us food!**

Disciples: You've been in the hot sun too long Master. We have no food. What can we possibly do to help?

Chorus; **Food glorious food, give us food!**

Jesus: Be creative, disciples. Use your imagination, find a way to help these poor people.

Chorus: **Come on disciples put your thinking hats on! We're starving.**

Disciples: Can't you work a miracle Jesus?

Chorus: **Miracles, miracles, give us a miracle Jesus.**

Jesus: You are my miracles, you find a way!

Disciple 1; I have a little, it's not much but I suppose it's a start.

Disciple 2: Me too, I have a small amount, I'm happy to share it.

Disciple 3: I have a few fish I caught this morning. You can have them.

Disciple 4: I have some bread, bread goes well with fish.

Disciple 5: I have some too, here take it.

Disciples: Here's a little more, put it all into some baskets.

Chorus: **Food glorious food, give us food!**

Narrator; The disciples walked amongst the people, gathering small amounts of food. When they had finished they were amazed to see just how much food they had gathered.

Jesus: You see what can be achieved when everyone shares what they have. There is more than enough to go round.

Chorus: **More than enough.**

Narrator: Jesus said a special grace and they all ate until they were all full.

Print out the following and cut into the four for the 'response holder' to hold up for the 'Chorus' to read:

Miracles, miracles, give us a miracle Jesus.

Food glorious food, give us food!

**Come on disciples put your thinking hats
on! We're starving.**

More than enough.

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