



# Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

## Twenty First Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C

*'Least become most important'*

*Green*

Hebrews 12:5a, 6-7, 11    Psalm 119    Luke 13:22-30



*How did Jesus show us the way to God's kingdom? The things that he said and did helped us to see the way that God wanted us to live. It is not easy to live this way. Can anyone belong to the kingdom of God? What must each of us do today and every day to please God and be ready when Jesus comes again?*

### Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration, begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Twenty First 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 13:22-30

As Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem, he taught the people in the towns and villages. Someone asked him, "Lord, are only a few people going to be saved?"

Jesus answered: "Do all you can to go in by the narrow door! A lot of people will try to get in, but will not be able to. Once the owner of the house gets up and locks the door, you will be left standing outside. You will knock on the door and say, 'Sir, open the door for us!'

"But the owner will answer, 'I don't know a thing about you!'

"Then you will start saying, 'We dined with you, and you taught in our streets.'

"But he will say, 'I really don't know who you are! Get away from me, all you evil people!'

"Then when you have been thrown outside, you will weep and grit your teeth because you will see Abraham and Isaac and all the prophets in God's kingdom. People will come from all directions and sit down to feast in God's kingdom. There the ones who are now least important will be the most important, and those who are now most important will be least important."

Brothers and sister:

You have forgotten that the Scriptures say to God's children,

“When the Lord punishes you, don't make light of it.

The Lord corrects the people he loves and disciplines those he calls his own.”

Be patient when you are being corrected! This is how the Lord treats his children. Don't all parents correct their children?

It is never fun to be corrected. In fact, at the time it is always painful. But if we learn to obey by being corrected, we will do right and live at peace.

**PSALM**

Psalm 119

Response: **O Lord, great peace have they who love your law**

Lord, you give peace of mind to all who love your Law.

Nothing can make them fail. **R**

You know everything I do.

You know I respect every law you have given. **R**

If you will teach me your laws, I will praise you. **R**

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

In the first reading, the community to whom the letter was addressed was evidently going through some suffering, for which sinful behaviour was apparently not the cause. Viewing suffering as a form of discipline or instruction, such as is intrinsic in a loving parent/child relationship, allows the community to learn from it and be prepared and strengthened for what is ahead. In the Gospel the Jewish people had always considered themselves to be the Chosen People, so they were in a privileged relationship with God. This story that Jesus told in response to the question about entry to the kingdom of God would have shattered their confidence. Jesus is warning that it is not enough to have shared a meal and heard the word, they must make a response to that word and act on it. To enter by the narrow door requires some effort, and just belonging to the chosen people is not enough to ensure salvation. Luke writes this Gospel to a mostly Gentile community, those who have been gathered for a place at the feast. The teaching assures them of the universality of God's love, and that redemption is open to all who respond positively.

## *Images from the Readings*

- *Narrow door*
- *Least become most important*
- *Left standing outside*
- *Obey by being corrected*
- *Feast in God's kingdom*

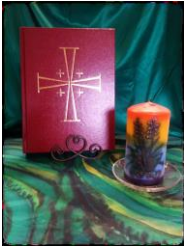
## *Reflection for Leaders*

We must encourage each other in our common efforts to be faithful to the responsibility to share the good news. The Gospel today gives us a picture of being 'insiders' and 'outsiders'. Think about an experience you have had when you felt like an 'outsider'. Who are the people in our society who are treated as 'outsiders'? Is there anything that you personally can do for them? Jesus talks about going in by the narrow door, and we recognise that this is difficult and takes some effort. Have there been times when you have avoided the narrow door? Is there a narrow door in your life at the moment that you would rather go around than through? Do you make the most of the opportunities you have to enhance the relationship you have with God through your prayer, service and the way you live your life? Think about those people around you who are the last to receive your attention or support. Try to make them first 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*

*Green cloth*

*Lectionary*

*Candle*

# LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

## Twenty first Sunday in Ordinary Time, Yr 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:** God of love and forgiveness, you have called us to be your children. Help us to live in your way and be always ready to greet you.

**R Amen.**

#### *First Reading: Hebrews 12:5a. 6-7, 11*

(if used)

The Word of the Lord / Ko te Kupu a te Ariki  
**Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua**

#### *Psalm 119*

**Response:** O Lord, great peace have they who love your law  
**or** Alleluia

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

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

Bm            G            D            A            G            A            D

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

*Gospel: Luke 13:22-30*

**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.

- Have you ever missed out on something special because you were too slow? What did that teach you? (Don't miss your chances and opportunities)
- Lots of people asked Jesus questions while he was travelling. Often he answered them by telling stories that made people think really hard.
- Who can belong to God's kingdom? (we are all invited to be God's children. God doesn't exclude anyone whatever their colour or language or standing in society)
- Are you glad that everyone can belong to God's kingdom?
- What is Jesus saying to us with this story? (don't miss your chance, it takes some effort)
- How do we have to live? (We must try to live in a way that is pleasing to God. We have to stay in relationship with God, and to work on keeping that relationship healthy even when we make mistakes)
- What does Jesus mean when he says that the ones who are now least important will be the most important?



**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*



Ask the children to think of someone they think is 'least' and pray for them.  
Pray for all people who try to live God's way.

## 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:** We have listened to the Gospel and come in faith to our God with our prayers and our needs:

- That the leaders of our Church understand and imitate God's faithful love for all people  
... Let us pray to the Lord  
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we develop a deep sense of being God's children and being obedient ...  
... Let us pray to the Lord  
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For a greater awareness that God's ways are not our ways, that the first will be last and the last, first ... Let us pray to the Lord  
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For great peace amongst all who love God and God's law ... Let us pray to the Lord  
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

**Leader:** God of love and compassion, look kindly on those for whom we pray and grant us what we ask you in faith. We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ

**All:** Amen

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