



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time Year C

'Being thankful'

Green

2 Kings 5:14-17 Psalm 98 2 Timothy 2:11-13 Luke 17:11-19

Leprosy is an infectious disease that causes severe, disfiguring skin sores and nerve damage in the arms and legs. The disease has been around since ancient times, often surrounded by terrifying, negative stigmas and tales of leprosy patients being shunned as outcasts. Outbreaks of leprosy have affected, and panicked, people on every continent. In Jesus' day Lepers suffered because they are cast out



from their homes and communities, and sent off to live quite miserable lives away from healthy people. Jesus took pity on all who came to him for healing.

Do you think he was pleased that only one person came back to say 'thank you' when ten had been healed? What is Jesus telling us about being thankful today?

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Twenty Eighth 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 17:11-19

On his way to Jerusalem, Jesus went along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As he was going into a village, ten men with leprosy came toward him. They stood at a distance and shouted, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

Jesus looked at them and said, "Go show yourselves to the priests." On their way they were healed. When one of them discovered that he was healed, he came back, shouting praises to

God. He bowed down at the feet of Jesus and thanked him. The man was from the country of Samaria.

Jesus asked, "Weren't ten men healed? Where are the other nine? Why was this foreigner the only one who came back to thank God?"

Then Jesus told the man, "You may get up and go. Your faith has made you well,"

FIRST READING

2 Kings 5:14-17

Naaman, the Syrian, did what God's prophet Elisha had told him to do. He went down to the Jordan River and dipped in the water seven times. Then he was well, and his skin looked as healthy as that of a young child.

Naaman and everyone with him went back to the prophet Elisha. Naaman said, "Elisha, now I know that the only God in all the world is in Israel. Please, sir, let me give you a gift."

Elisha replied, "I serve the living God, and I swear by him that I will not take a thing from you!"

Naaman kept begging him to accept something, but Elisha refused.

Naaman said, "Sir, if you won't accept a gift, then let me take back as much of Israel's soil as two mules can carry. From now on I will give sacrifices and offerings only to the Lord."

PSALM

Psalm 98

Response: **The Lord has revealed to the nations His saving power**

Sing a new song to the Lord!
He has worked miracles, and with his own powerful arm,
he has won the victory. **R**

The Lord has shown the nations that he has the power
to save and to bring justice.
God has been faithful in his love for Israel. **R**

His saving power is seen everywhere on earth.
Tell everyone on this earth to sing happy songs in praise of the Lord. **R**

SECOND READING

2 Timothy 2:11-13

Here is a true message:

"If we died with Christ, we will live with him.

If we don't give up, we will rule with him.

If we deny that we know him, he will deny that he knows us.

If we are not faithful, he will still be faithful.

Christ cannot deny who he is."

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

Lepers suffered a two-fold alienation, physical and spiritual. Because of their threat to public health, they were ostracised and forced to live outside the city walls. But leprosy was also considered to be a punishment for sin. Samaritans, too, were despised by the Jews for their divergent religious history – yet the stigma of leprosy superseded any racial differences. In these readings it is interesting that while many suffered from leprosy in Israel, in both instances God chose to heal foreigners – their recognition of God’s power (which in the gospel reading works through Jesus) prefigures the understanding that it is this very power that extends over the entire world is no respecter necessarily of religious traditions or ethnic identity. God’s love and concern is for all people, Jew and non-Jew alike. The Samaritan was not the only one who had faith, but his gratitude sets him apart from the others, and Jesus upholds him as an example. This gospel tells of Jesus going along the border between Galilee and Samaria. Borders were often places where disputes took place, with barriers often erected against those who are outside accepted norms of society on each side.

Images from the Readings

- *Have pity on us!*
- *Bowed down and thanked Jesus*
- *Where are the other nine?*
- *Your faith has made you well*
- *Being thankful*

Reflection for Leaders

God’s grace and healing does not confine itself to religious, social, gender, class, ethnic or racial constraints. Sometimes we must cross boundaries to obtain healing; and healing brings new life, which is completely dependent on faith. But the underlying message is that our response must be gratitude and this must not be forgotten in the excitement of the moment. Review your own life: what have been the turning points for you, and what impact have these had on you? Have you experienced the pain of being excluded or treated as an outsider? Identify what God has done for you. What is your response? What should you do next? What are the things you can thank God for?

During this week, reflect on where the barriers are in your own life, the things that cut you off from others. Work towards breaking down one barrier 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, a 'thank you' card...





LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Twenty Eighth 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: God who restores and heals us, we know that you want us to be healthy and whole. Help us to have an attitude of gratitude for all your gifts.

R Amen.

First Reading: 2 Kings 5:14-17

(if used)

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

Psalm 98

Response: The Lord has revealed to the nations His saving power
or Alleluia

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 2:11-13

(if used)

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

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



Thanksgiving itself is an act of worship. Let the children sit in silence and think of things that they can be thankful for.

*Say some thank-you prayers to God.
'For _____ , thank you God'*

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: Let us turn to our loving God in expectant faith with all our needs:

- For the Church, that it be a safe and healing place for all who are sick and oppressed ...
Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For sick people everywhere, for healing and wholeness ...
Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For an attitude of thankfulness towards God ...
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 are excluded and treated as outsiders ...
Let us pray to the Lord
R **Lord hear our prayer** or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: God of hope and healing, we know you love us and want us to be whole. We bring our prayers to you knowing that you care for us and those for whom we pray we ask these prayers through Our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: **Amen**

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

Thank you God



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Chorus Play

Luke 17:11-19

The Ten Lepers

People required: Narrator, Chorus, Jesus, Lepers, Samaritan Leper ...

- Narrator: One day Jesus was going to a village between Samaria and Galilee, when he was met by ten men suffering a terrible skin disease.
- Chorus: Skin disease! You mean they were Lepers!
Stay clear Jesus, you'll be contaminated.
- Narrator: The lepers stood at a distance and called to Jesus:
- Lepers: Jesus! Master! Friend of the poor! Have pity on us!
- Jesus: What would you like me to do for you?
- Lepers: Heal us! Make us well! Give us back to our families.
- Narrator: Jesus was moved with compassion for these suffering ones.
- Jesus: Go and show yourselves to the priests
- Chorus: How could the priests help them? They weren't doctors.
- Narrator: The lepers did as Jesus said.
- Lepers: Look! We are cured! Jesus has made us clean! Now we can return to our homes and our families. We can live like normal people again.
- Samaritan
Leper: I can't believe my eyes! What a wonderful miracle! Thank you Jesus!
Thank you.
- Jesus: Where are your friends?
- Chorus: Ungrateful lot!
- Jesus: It is your faith in me that has made you well.
Remember that always.
- Chorus: Faith in Jesus: works very time!



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