



# Liturgy of the Word with Children

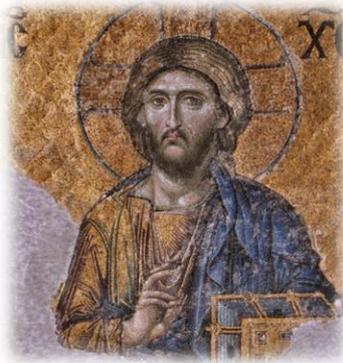
Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

## Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, Year C

*'Lord, remember me when you come into your kingdom'* *White*

2 Samuel 5:1-3 Psalm 47 Colossians 1:15-18 Luke 23:35-43



*This is the last Sunday of the liturgical year, and we celebrate the Solemnity of Christ the King. When Jesus was on the cross many people mocked and jeered him, and a sign was put up saying that he was the 'King of the Jews'. We know that Jesus was not a king the way that people expected a king to be because his kingdom is not of this world.*

*What does this mean to us as his followers?*

### Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Solemnity of Christ the King, 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.

**Please Note:** During the Liturgy of the Word with Children the Scriptures are to be proclaimed from either the *Lectionary for Masses with Children* or from the *Contemporary English Version of the Bible* as approved by the New Zealand Bishops Conference. Scripture should not be proclaimed from loose sheets of paper during liturgy.

### GOSPEL

Luke 23:35-43

While the crowd stood there watching Jesus, the leaders insulted him by saying, "He saved others. Now he should save himself, if he really is God's chosen Messiah!"

The soldiers made fun of Jesus and brought him some wine. They said, "If you are the king of the Jews, save yourself!"

Above him was a sign that said, "This is the King of the Jews."

One of the criminals hanging there also insulted Jesus by saying, "Aren't you the Messiah? Save yourself and save us!"



But the other criminal told the first one off, “Don’t you fear God? Aren’t you getting the same punishment as this man? We got what was coming to us, but he didn’t do anything wrong.” Then he said to Jesus, “Remember me when you come into power!” Jesus replied, “I promise that today you will be with me in paradise.”

## FIRST READING

2 Samuel 5:1-3

Israel’s leaders met with David at Hebron and said, “We are your close relatives. Even when Saul was king, you led our nation in battle. And the Lord promised that someday you would rule Israel and take care of us like a shepherd.”

During the meeting, David made an agreement with the leaders, and asked the Lord to be their witness. Then the leaders poured olive oil on David’s head to show that he was now the king of Israel.

## PSALM

Psalm 47

Response: **God is King of all the earth**

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. **R**

God is ruler of all the earth! Praise God with songs.  
God rules the nations from his sacred throne. **R**

## SECOND READING

Colossians 1:15-18

Brothers and sisters:

Christ is exactly like God, who cannot be seen. He is the first-born Son, superior to all creation. Everything was created by him, everything in heaven and on earth, everything seen and unseen, including all forces and powers, and all rulers and authorities. All things were created by God’s Son, and everything was made for him.

God’s Son was before all else, and by him everything is held together.

He is the head of his body, which is the church. He is the very beginning, the first to be raised from death, so that he would be above all others.

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

This final scene of Luke's Gospel for the liturgical year, Jesus forgives those who have rejected and punished him. Doing so, his mercy transcends time and his forgiveness extends to all who have rejected him throughout the ages. The inscription INRI posted by Pilate on the cross stands for the Latin 'Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews'. Pilate is not the only one to acknowledge his sovereignty. At the moment of crucifixion, one of the criminals he is being executed with recognises that he does have a kingdom to enter and begs to be remembered. The promise of that remembrance is offered at that very moment and the kingship of Christ is revealed to all. Paradise was literally a beautiful enclosed garden, filled with fountains and lush with vegetation. It became an image of the joy and delight of Eden, and an image of heaven. Jesus as King is symbolic. Jesus himself, although announcing the kingdom of God, rejected all attempts to make himself an ordinary king, but the followers of Jesus acknowledge the ultimate authority over all his followers. The throne of Christ the King is a cross, and his crown, thorns.

## *Images from the Readings*

- *Death on the cross*
- *Mocking by soldiers*
- *The King of the Jews*
- *The promise of paradise*
- *Shepherd King*
- *First to be raised*

## *Reflection for Leaders*

The fascination of people for royalty is endemic in our society. Why do the stories of the royal family hold such a fascination for us? You might like to look at some representations of Christ as King - Eastern tradition icons, art books, internet, etc have many such depictions. Do you find the image of Jesus as a king to be helpful for you? As you reflect on the readings today, who among those surrounding Jesus in this Gospel do you identify with? Where have you seen or experienced Jesus' forgiveness? Watch 'The Passion' or sing the Taize chant, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom" this week. In the spirit of the Gospel, forgive a wrong done to you during the 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*

*White and gold cloths intertwined, Lectionary, candle, crucifix with a gold paper crown, decorate with flowers and ribbons.*



# LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

## Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe - 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:** O God, you sent your son Jesus to share the good news of your kingdom with all the world. May your love reign in our hearts always.

**R** Amen.

#### *First Reading: 2 Samuel 5:1-3*

(if used)

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

#### *Psalms 47*

**Response:** God is King of all the earth

or Alleluia

#### *Second Reading: Colossians 1:15-18*

(if used)

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

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 23:35-43*

**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 discussion.*

- What do you know about Kings and royalty? How are kings usually treated? Why was Jesus treated so differently from a usual king? What were his throne and his crown? Have you ever seen a crucifix with the little inscription INRI above the figure? That stands for the Latin words which say “Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews”. These are the words Pontius Pilate wrote.
- Who recognised that he really was a king?
- What did Jesus promise the good criminal? This is what he promises all those who believe in him.
- So what does it mean to us to be followers of Jesus?
- This feast today is a very special day in the church’s year. It is the last Sunday of the liturgical year (if you have a liturgical calendar you could show the children the different seasons and colours and show them where this feast is, just before Advent)

- What are some of the jobs that Jesus has given us this year? (love people who hate us; be generous with what we have; saying sorry; helping others; not always taking the best of everything; not wanting to be first – any others?)

**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*



*Invite the children to pledge their allegiance to Christ the King.*

“Jesus, you are our brother and our King.  
With your help we promise to follow you,  
to listen to your words and to build up your kingdom”

### *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:** Having listened to God's word, let us confidently turn to God for what we need in the church and the community:

- That the Church will be a true shepherd to all God's people, caring and loving in her leadership, and faithful to the teachings of Jesus ... Let us pray to the Lord  
R Lord hear our prayer or E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou
- For those who have done wrong, that they have the gift of repentance and come to recognise Jesus as King and Saviour ... Let us pray to the Lord  
R Lord hear our prayer or E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou
- For the people in our families, our schools, our community, that we may treat each other with respect and dignity ... 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 close to death, that they may be comforted by the promise of paradise for those who love Jesus and acknowledge his kingship ... 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 mercy, you sent Jesus to be our King.  
We bring our prayers to you through Jesus Christ, our Lord, our Saviour,  
our King.

**All:** Amen

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



**Jesus, remember me  
when you come into your Kingdom**