



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

Green

“Make your light shine!”

Isaiah 58:7-10, Psalm 122, 1 Corinthians 2:1-5, Matthew 5:13-16

What would happen to life in our world if there was no light? In Antarctica the sun does not shine for six months of the year, and the other six months it does not set. But we order our days by the setting and rising of the sun – often when Daylight Saving comes in or finishes it can take some time for us to adjust. Jesus reminds us of the importance of ‘light’ to our vision, and ‘salt’ to our taste buds. At our baptism we were given the light of Christ. When we share this with others we help them to ‘see’ more clearly, and make our world a better place. Jesus is telling us to be the people that we were made to be.



Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the Fifth 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

Matthew 5:13-16

Jesus said to his disciples:

“You are like salt for everyone on earth. But if salt no longer tastes like salt, how can it make food salty? All it is good for is to be thrown out and walked on.

“You are like light for the whole world. A city built on top of a hill cannot be hidden, and no one would light a lamp and put it under a clay pot. A lamp is placed on a lamp stand, where it can give light to everyone in the house. Make your light shine, so that others will see the good that you do and will praise your Father in heaven.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 58:7-10

The Lord says this: Share your food with everyone who is hungry, and share your home with the poor and homeless. Gives clothes to all in need and don't turn away your own relatives. Then your light will shine like the dawning sun, and you will quickly heal. Your honesty will protect you as you advance, and the glory of the Lord will defend you from behind. Then you will call for help, and the Lord will answer, "Here I am!"
Don't oppress others or falsely accuse them or say cruel things. Give your food to the hungry, and care for the helpless.
Then your light will shine in the darkness, and your darkest hour will be like the noonday sun.

PSALM

Psalm 122

Response: **A light rises in the darkness for the upright.**

Those who worship the Lord will be so kind and merciful and good,
that they will be a light in the dark for others who do the right thing.
Life will go well for those who freely lend and are honest in business. **R**

They are dependable and not afraid. They will always be remembered
and greatly praised, because they were kind and freely gave to the poor. **R**

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 2:1-5

A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Corinthians

Brothers and sisters: When I came and told you the mystery that God had shared with us, I didn't use big words or try to sound wise. In fact, while I was with you, I made up my mind to speak only about Jesus Christ, who had been nailed to a cross.

At first, I was weak and trembling with fear. When I talked with you or preached, I didn't try to prove anything by sounding wise. I simply let God's Spirit show his power. That way you would have faith because of God's power and not because of human wisdom.

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

In the ancient world salt was absolutely essential as a preservative to enable food to be kept and as a seasoning to make it palatable. It is also an excellent antiseptic. The people of Israel often referred to the Law of God as 'salt' because it was what gave flavour to life and preserved them as God's chosen people. It was also compared to a light which showed them the path of life. Like salt, light was carefully conserved by peoples for whom it was not readily accessed at the flick of a switch. Oil lamps were hung high to illuminate as large an area as possible. Even cities were built on the highest part of a hill so that they could be easily defended and were a visible sign of the power of their rulers to protect their citizens. Jerusalem, the city on the hill, was the great focal point for the people then just as it is for so many peoples today. Matthew's writing was to encourage his early Christian readers. At the

time of writing they had recently been expelled from the synagogues, and they would have been anxious about what the future held for them. Jesus' words call for them, individually and as a group, to stand out from the crowd and remind others that God is with them.

Images from the Readings

- Like salt and light
- Allowing our light to shine for others
- Sharing with those in need
- Being generous, merciful and just
- Let God's Spirit show power



Reflection for Leaders

Jesus gives a new focus to all the images of salt and light with his call for us to be a witness to God's presence with all people. Do you see the church as 'salt of the earth' and 'light for the world' in your community or in the world today? Where do you look for inspiration and encouragement? Jesus' words challenge each of us to not lose our 'flavour' or hide our 'light', but to keep the gift of our faith alive and fresh; when we take it for granted we let it become tasteless. In what practical ways can we do this? Are there any areas of your life that have been dull and tasteless and lost their appeal? What can you do about this? How can we possibly be the best people that we are made to be? During this week identify one of your unique gifts and talents and use it for the benefit of someone else.

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'.

With both age groups you may also choose to use the 'Liquid Picture' on page 8 to reinforce the Gospel message.

Suggested Focus

Prepare a focus for the area where the children's Liturgy of the Word is to be held:

Green cloth, Lectionary, a candle, a small dish of salt, a tea-light candle for each child.

LEADER'S Liturgy Outline

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year A

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, we became your children at our baptism. Help us always to walk as children of the light, touching the lives of others with your love and your truth.

R Amen.

First Reading: Isaiah 58:7-10 (if used)

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

Psalm 122 (if used) Response: A light rises in the darkness for the upright.

Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 2:1-5 (if used)

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

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

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

*Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16***Minister of the Word:** A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew**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.

- What are your favourite foods? What makes them so tasty?
- Have you ever tasted salt all by itself? When it is used on food it brings out the flavour of the food. But by itself its taste is really strong. (offer the dish for the children to taste a few grains of salt – rock salt with large crystals could be useful)
- Do you know what else salt is good for? (preserving things, antiseptic – eg saline solution)
- The food that we find most enjoyable is often salty.
- Jesus told us that we were to be like salt and like light. We know that salt enhances the flavour of our food. I wonder what use light is to us? Can you think of what would happen if we had no light? How do you feel when it is very dark?
- Is it easy to see then? When Jesus spoke about putting a lamp on a lamp stand, what does that mean for us?



- We received the light of Christ at our baptism. Now Jesus wants us to be the very best people that we were made to be. When we are, people will know that it is God that the people who see us will turn to.

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’. There may be time to use the ‘Liquid picture’ on page 8.

LITURGICAL ACTION – Ko te Ritenga Karakia

Both older and younger children come together for the liturgical action this week.

Light a tea-light candle for each child. Pray a litany together:

For the light of day
For the moon and the stars
For electric lights, candlelight and firelight
For the light that others have been to us
For Jesus, the light of the world

We praise you, O God
We praise you, O 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.

PRAAYER 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: This week we have celebrated our national day, Waitangi Day. Placing our trust in our faithful God, let us pray with confidence:

- That our Church shines as a bright light of hope in our world

Let us pray to the Lord

Rx

Lord hear our prayer

or

- For a spirit of unity, respect and co-operation with each other in our country, our community and our homes
Let us pray to the Lord **R** **Lord hear our prayer**
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For a spirit of generosity in sharing what we have with those who have less
Let us pray to the Lord **R** **Lord hear our prayer**
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For the courage to let our own light shine so that the good we do will give glory to God
Let us pray to the Lord **R** **Lord hear our prayer**
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: Gracious God, our hope and light, gather us and those for whom we pray, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

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

Note to leaders: The following **liquid picture** is appropriate to use with children and young people of **any age**.

How to do liquid pictures:

Liquid Pictures is a form of drama which allows a story to be presented in a flowing or liquid manner. The process follows this pattern:

- Divide the story or Scriptural passage into five or six main statements.
- Accompany each statement with a simple action that can be held in a freeze frame position.
- Choose one child to say each statement and do a simple action. These children form a straight line facing the audience.
- A leader introduces the story.
- The first child steps forward, repeats the statement two or three times (once is not enough for children to remember!) then freezes.
- The second child steps forward, repeats the statement and freezes.
- The process continues until the last child finishes.
- The leader concludes with a simple statement.

Leader: If you are a Kingdom person, this is what you'll do. You will ...

Become salt for the earth!
Make a difference!
Be light for the world!
Show God's ways!
Get involved!
Praise God!



Leader: If you are a Kingdom person, that is what you'll do.

From 'Just Imagine 4, Many Creative ways of presenting Scripture' written by Rina Wintour, Mountjoy Enterprises, www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au. Available from the Liturgy Centre.