



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 'Christ the King'

White

'I was hungry and you fed me'

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 14-16 Psalm 23 1 Corinthians 15:20-24 Matthew 25:31-46

*Today is the last Sunday of the church's year, the
Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the
Universe.*

*As the year draws to an end, we turn our thoughts to the
time when Christ will return as king.*



Leader's Preparation

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

GOSPEL

Matthew 25:31-46

Jesus said to his disciples:

"When the Son of Man comes in his glory with all of his angels, he will sit on his royal throne. The people of all nations will be brought before him, and he will separate them as shepherds separate their sheep from their goats.

"He will place the sheep on his right, "My father has blessed you! Come and receive the kingdom that was prepared for you before the world was created.

When I was hungry you gave me something to eat, and when I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. When I was a stranger, you welcomed me, and when I was naked and you gave me clothes to wear. When I was sick, you took care of me, and when I was in prison you visited me.' "Then the ones who pleased the Lord will ask, 'when did we give you something to eat or drink?

When did we welcome you as a stranger or give you clothes to wear or visit you while you were sick or in jail?'

"The king will answer, 'whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me.'

FIRST READING

Ezekiel 34: 11-12, 14-16

The Lord says this:

"I, the Lord God, will look for my people and take care of them myself. As a shepherd looks for sheep that have wandered away, I will search for my scattered people. I will rescue them from all the places where they went on that dark gloomy day.

My people will be like sheep grazing and resting in good pastures and on Israel's mountains. I, the Lord All-Powerful, will lead them there and watch over them.

"I will look for the lost sheep and bring back the ones that have wandered off. If any are hurt, I will bandage their wounds. If any are weak, I will help them. I will take good care of my people!"

PSALM

Psalm 23

Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

You, LORD, are my shepherd; I will never be in need. You let me rest in field of green grass.

You lead me to streams of peaceful water, and you refresh my life. You are true to your name, and you lead me along right paths.

You treat me to a feast, while my enemies watch. You honour me as your guest, and you fill my cup until it overflows. Your kindness and love will always be with me each day of my life, and I will live forever in your house, LORD.

SECOND READING

1 Corinthians 15:20-24

Brothers and sisters:

Christ has been raised to life! And he makes us certain that others will also be raised to life. Just as we will die because of Adam, we will be raised to life because of Christ. Adam brought death to all of us, and Christ will bring life to all of us. But we must each wait our turn. Christ was the first to be raised to life, and his people will be raised to life when he returns. Then after Christ has destroyed all powers and forces, the end will come.

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

The reading from Ezekiel contains prophecies that deal with the redemption of God's people who are in exile in Babylon. Ezekiel considers rulers who have misused their power. God himself will be the shepherd of his people and explains specifically what this means. In the letter to the Corinthians Paul deals with the question of resurrection. Paul contrasts Adam and Jesus and declares that the faithful departed will be brought to life in Christ who was the first to be raised to life. Matthew's Gospel ties the theme of shepherding in with a beautiful climax to the mission of Jesus. He will return in glory to gather his people from all the nations of the world. Just as in Middle Eastern flocks sheep and goats were mixed, so are people in our time thrown together in a mix of good and bad. Matthew sets out the principles of judgment and clearly indicates the fate of each group. Being a shepherd in ancient times was seen as a lowly occupation. Mostly they were hired hands that felt no responsibility for the sheep. Jesus refers to himself as the Good Shepherd who knows his sheep and cares for them with authority and care.

Images from the Readings

- *Sit on his royal throne*
- *Separate the people of all nations*
- *You did it for me*
- *I will take good care of my people*
- *Christ will bring life to all*

Reflection for Leaders

During the past weeks we have been exhorted to be prepared, to be alert and use our gifts well. Today we get the bottom line. We are to be judged worthy of a place in God's kingdom. What



counts is how we have served those in need, how we have recognised Christ in each other. How do you respond to those in need? Can you recall an experience of having someone respond to a need of our own? Did it change your attitude to helping others? The church has always worked in areas of social justice and help for the poor, the needy and the sick. How does your faith community engage in these areas of service? Are there ways that you and your family might become more involved? Does your faith express itself in practical ways? During the week seek out someone in need and reach out to them with a loving action.

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:

Green cloth, Lectionary, a candle, a picture of a Good Shepherd



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Christ the King

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 heaven and earth, you have set Jesus Christ as King of the Universe, help us to always give you praise and glory as you watch over us and guide us.

R Amen.

First Reading: *Ezekiel 34:11-12, 14-16*

(if used)

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

Psalms 23

Response: The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want
(or another suitable response known by the children)

Second Reading: *1 Corinthians 15; 20-24*

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 Asus⁴ 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: Matthew 25:31-46

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.*

- Today is a special feast in the church year. Do you know what it is? (it is the end of the church year when we celebrate Christ the King) How do we show that it is special? (there may be a procession, white or gold vestments etc)
- What does 'Christ the King' mean? (Jesus will come back at the end of time to judge all people. He will sort out the good from the bad) Jesus tells us in the Gospel today of the sorts of things he wants us to do for each other. Can you remember what these things were? (feed and clothe the hungry and needy, care for the sick, welcome strangers, visit those in prison)
- This Gospel sums up the message that Jesus has brought to us week after week. Jesus wants us to be loving and caring towards each other.
- Are there still people in the world today who are hungry, thirsty or need our help? How can we help them? (we could contribute to groups such as St Vincent de Paul, Lovelink, caring groups, Catholic Caring foundation, caritas, food banks etc)
- Jesus said "whenever you did it for any for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed you did it for me' How do you think children might be able to do



this? (eg welcome new pupils at school, helping people who are hurt, gold coin donations)

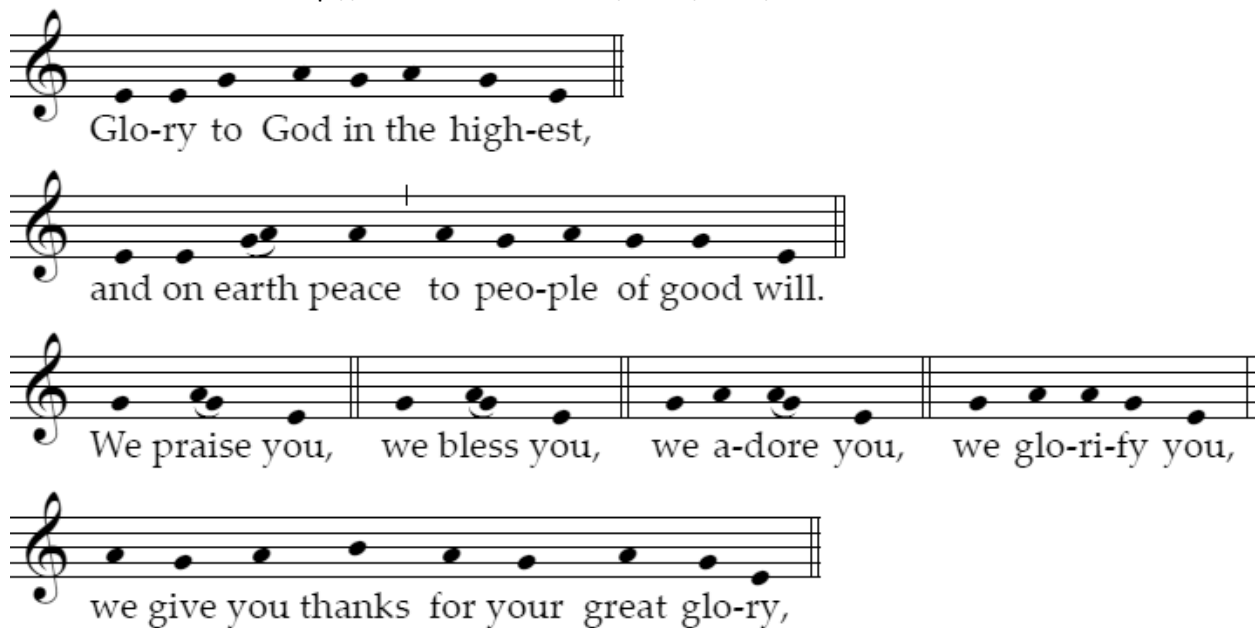
- We can't be good all the time, but we can try to ensure that our loving actions outweigh our unloving ones.

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

Sing a version of the Gloria, or a shepherd song that the children might know

<http://www.universalis.com/static/mass/orderofmass.htm>



PROFESSION OF FAITH – Panui o te Whakāpono

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 confidence and hope let us bring our prayers to the God of glory

- For all those who shepherd the people of God
Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That all God's family, the church, have the courage to reach out to help all people in need, especially those who seem unimportant
Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That the love of God will be felt through the actions we share with the people around us
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 have died, that they will be raised with Jesus when he comes in glory
Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: Shepherding God, you care for all of us, even the most insignificant of us. Grant us all that we, your children, have asked for through Jesus Christ our Lord, Universal King.

All: Amen

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



Mother Teresa with a sick child

Christ the King

Liquid Picture

Matthew 25:31-46

I was hungry and you fed me

Note to leaders: The following **liquid picture** is appropriate to use with children of any age but especially suitable for **younger children**.

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: The Kingdom of God is like this ...

I was hungry!

We fed you.

I was a stranger!

We welcomed you.

I was sick!

We looked after you.

I had no home.

We gave you a home.

I was unhappy!

We cheered you up.

I was afraid!

We made you our friend.



Leader: This is what God's kingdom looks like!

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.