



# Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

## Second Sunday of Easter

*'My Lord and my God'*

*White*

Acts 4:32-35 Psalm 118 1 John 5:1-3 John 20:19-29

*Sometimes people use the saying, "seeing is believing," to mean that it is easier to believe something when you have seen it with your own eyes than not.*

*Thomas would not believe that Jesus had risen from the dead without seeing it for himself.*



### Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for The Second Sunday of Easter, 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

John 20:19-29

The disciples were afraid of the Jewish leaders, and on the evening of that same Sunday they locked themselves in a room. Suddenly, Jesus appeared in the middle of the group. He greeted them and showed them his hands and his side. When the disciples saw the Lord, they became very happy. After Jesus had greeted them again, he said, "I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me." Then he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone's sins, they will be forgiven. But if you don't forgive their sins, they will not be forgiven." Although Thomas the Twin was one of the twelve disciples, he was not with the others when Jesus appeared to them. So they told him, "We have seen the Lord!"

But Thomas said, "First, I must see the nail scars in his hands and touch them with my finger. I must put my hand where the spear went into his side. I won't believe unless I do this!"

A week later the disciples were together again. This time Thomas was with them. Jesus came in while the doors were still locked and stood in the middle of the group. He greeted his disciples and said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands! Put your hand into my side. Stop doubting and have faith!" Thomas replied, "You are my Lord and my God!" Jesus said, "Thomas, do you have faith because you have seen me? The people who have faith in me without seeing me are the ones who are really blessed!"

## *FIRST READING*

Acts 4:32-35

The followers of Jesus all felt the same way about everything. None of them claimed that their belongings were their own, and they shared everything they had with each other. In a powerful way the apostles told everyone that the Lord Jesus was now alive. God greatly blessed his followers, and no one went in need of anything. Everyone who owned land or houses would sell them and bring the money to the apostles. Then they would give the money to anyone who needed it.

## *PSALM*

Psalm 118

**Response:** Give thanks, for the Lord is good, God's love is everlasting

Let Israel shout, "God is always merciful!"

Let the family of Aaron the priest shout, "God is always merciful!"

Let every true worshiper of the Lord shout, "God is always merciful!"

The stone that the builders tossed aside has now become the most important stone.

The Lord has done this, and it is amazing to us.

This day belongs to the Lord! Let's celebrate and be glad today.

## *SECOND READING*

1 John 5:1-3

Beloved: If we believe that Jesus is truly Christ, we are God's children. Everyone who loves the Father will also love his children. If we love and obey God, we know that we will love his children. We show our love for God by obeying his commandments, and they are not hard to follow.

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

Doubt is a common response by many to matters of faith. It must have been so for the disciples dealing with the shock of the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus. Thomas expressed this doubt and placed conditions on his belief. Jesus' response was compassionate and accepting, and led to one of the most profound professions of faith. The move from doubt to faith is one of transformation: the fear of the disciples, locked huddled in their upper room was transformed into peace and even joy by the greeting of Jesus and the gift of the Holy Spirit; the transformation of the doubt of Thomas into faith. This transformation of Thomas occurs when he is given the opportunity to touch Jesus. Along with the transformation comes the responsibility of being sent, just as Jesus was sent, to act as he did. There is an ancient tradition that Thomas went on to preach the gospel as far East as India. The first reading exhorts the early Christians in living their faith with renewed faith and joy, and strengthening them in the face of persecution.

## *Images from the Readings*

- Jesus Appeared
- Peace
- Breathed
- A week
- Faith
- Hands, touch

## *Reflection for Leaders*

Touch is a powerful sense. In times of sadness or bereavement a simple touch can often convey more comfort than words. It goes beyond verifying physical presence. It can provide healing and comfort and speaks of support or compassion.

Laying on of hands, often within a rite of anointing, is a potent symbol indicating the impartation of the Holy Spirit and is used in many sacraments – for example the Rite of Reconciliation, anointing of the Sick, Confirmation. The disciples in today's reading were transformed by the unexpected presence of Jesus among them. The process of transformation in our own lives often requires the support of others. Are there times when God has acted in a way that is different to what you have expected? Have there been times of doubt in your life experience or your faith journey? How did you overcome these doubts, and how will you nourish your faith in the future? During this week look for ways in which a simple touch might convey unspoken messages of support to others.



## *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:

White cloth, Lectionary, Candle

# LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

## Second Sunday of Easter

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 have blessed us with faith and hope in you. Help us to be people who are ever hopeful and cheerful knowing your love for us.

**R** Amen.

*First Reading: Acts 4:32-35*

*(if used)*

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

*Psalm 118*

**Response: Give thanks, for the Lord is good, God's love is everlasting**

*(or another suitable response known by the children)*

*Second Reading: 1 John 5:1-3*

*(if used)*

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



Easter: Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Je - sus is ri - sen from death.

Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. He is the light of the world.

*Gospel: John 20:19-29*

**Minister of the Word:** A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John  
**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 Whakāaro*

**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.

- Invite the children to share some experience of a time when they believed in something (e.g., an event at school or a friend’s sporting achievement), even though they were not there to see it occur. Is this easy to do? Encourage the children to put themselves into today’s Gospel story. Discuss: How might you have told Thomas about Jesus’ appearance?
- Would you believe the story if you were Thomas? What did Jesus say when he came in? What did Jesus say to Thomas? What did Thomas call Jesus?
- Like Thomas, sometimes it is difficult for us to believe in something or someone we have not seen but we believe because we trust the people who tell us. People come to believe in Jesus by what we say and do and how we live our lives as disciples of his.

**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*

Thomas' powerful act of faith was:

“You are my Lord and my God”

Invite the children to repeat this statement and then greet each other with a sign of peace.



## *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:** With faith and hope in our hearts let us call upon our loving God for our needs:

- For the Church home of those who hope, that everyone who enters will be welcomed.

Let us pray to the Lord            R    Lord hear our prayer

or                                    **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- That there will be peace so that all might live as children of the light..

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 no one who cares for them and no friends

Let us pray to the Lord            R    Lord hear our prayer

or                                    **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- That we will believe in Jesus and follow his way even when the going gets tough.

Let us pray to the Lord            R    Lord hear our prayer

or                                    **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

**Leader:** God of light and peace, you bring hope to sinners, bless us and those for whom we pray through Jesus our risen Lord.

**All:**    Amen

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





# Second Sunday of Easter

## Chorus play

John 20:19-29

Thomas encounters the Risen Lord

This reflection is intended to be read by one person (Reader) who is assisted by another person holding SIGNS (as indicated by CHORUS). The rest of the children read the signs as they are help up.

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Reader: Jesus had died and ...

Chorus: RISEN!

Reader: But the disciples were still...

Chorus: AFRAID!

Reader: So they locked themselves in a room. Suddenly,

Chorus: JESUS APPEARED!

Reader: He stood right in the middle of the room and said,

Chorus: PEACE BE WITH YOU!

Reader: God sent me and now I am sending you out ...

Chorus: RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT!

Reader: Now there was one disciple,

Chorus: THOMAS!

Reader: Who was not there when Jesus appeared. When the other disciples told him...

Chorus: WE HAVE SEEN JESUS!

Reader: Thomas could not quite believe them.

Chorus: UNLESS I SEE – I WON'T BELIEVE YOU!

Reader: Some time later, Jesus appeared again and this time Thomas was there!

Again Jesus said to them,

Chorus: PEACE BE WITH YOU!

Reader: Give me your hand Thomas. Touch me and believe! Thomas replied,

Chorus: MY LORD AND MY GOD!

Reader: Happy are you Thomas – you can believe because you see. Happier still are those who cannot see but still ...

Chorus: BELIEVE!



**RISEN!**

**AFRAID!**

**JESUS APPEARED!**

**PEACE BE WITH YOU!**

**RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT!**

**THOMAS!**

**WE HAVE SEEN JESUS!**

**UNLESS I SEE – I WON'T BELIEVE YOU!**

**PEACE BE WITH YOU!**

**MY LORD AND MY GOD!**

**BELIEVE!**

*From 'Just Imagine 3, Even more Creative ways of presenting Scripture...' written by Rina Wintour, Mountjoy Enterprises, [www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au](http://www.mountjoyenterprises.com.au). Available from the Liturgy Centre.*