



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

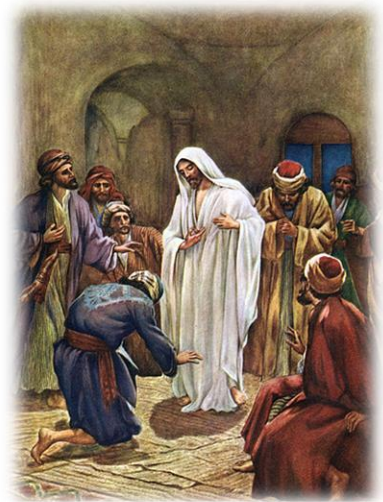
Third Sunday of Easter

White

'You must tell everything that has happened.'

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19 Psalm 4 Luke 24:35-38

Today we hear a story about how Jesus showed himself to the disciples after the resurrection so that they could believe the good news that he was really alive again. He even eats some food to show them that he really is flesh and bone.



Leader's Preparation

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

Luke 24:35-48

The disciples from Emmaus told what happened on the road and how they knew he was the Lord when he broke the bread.

While Jesus' disciples were talking about what had happened, Jesus appeared to them and said, "May God give you peace!" They were frightened and terrified because they thought they were seeing a ghost.

But Jesus said, "Why are you so frightened? Why do you doubt?"

Look at my hands and feet and see who I am! Touch me and find out for yourselves. Ghosts don't have flesh and bones as you see I have."

After Jesus said this, he showed them his hands and his feet. The disciples were so glad and amazed that they could not believe it.

Jesus then asked them, "Do you have something to eat?" They gave him a piece of baked fish. He took it and ate it as they watched.

Jesus said to them, "While I was still with you, I told you that everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the Books of the Prophets, and in the Psalms had to happen."

Then he helped them understand the Scriptures. He told them: "The Scriptures say that the Messiah must suffer, then three days later he will rise from death. They also say that all people of every nation must be told in my name to turn to God, in order to be forgiven. So beginning in Jerusalem, you must tell everything that has happened."

FIRST READING

Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

Peter told the people: "The God that Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and our ancestors worshipped has brought honour to his Servant Jesus. He is the one you betrayed. You turned against him when he was being tried by Pilate, even though Pilate wanted to set him free.

"You rejected Jesus, who was holy and good. You asked for a murderer to be set free, and you killed the one who leads people to life. But God raised him from death, and all of us can tell you what he has done.

"My friends, I am sure, that you and your leaders didn't know what you were doing. But God had his prophets tell that his Messiah would suffer, and now he has kept that promise. So turn to God! Give up your sins, and you will be forgiven."

PSALM

Psalm 4

Response: Lord, let your face shine on us.

You are my God and protector.
Please answer my prayer.
Now have pity and listen as I pray.

The Lord has chosen everyone who is faithful
to be his very own,
and he answers my prayers.

Let your kindness, Lord,
shine brightly on us.
You brought me happiness.

(Second Reading not included this week)

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

In the Gospel of Luke all the events of Easter run into one another and the whole of Chapter 24 should really be read as a continuous narrative. Beginning with the discovery of the empty tomb, the resurrection narrative follows the disciples as they move away from what had happened in Jerusalem, but they encounter the risen Christ in the breaking of the bread. In witnessing to this, Christ is present among them again until he finally returns to the Father.

Luke also wrote the Acts of the Apostles. His Gospel is the story of Jesus' journey to Jerusalem to the cross and resurrection. Acts is the story of the Gospel spreading from Jerusalem to 'all the nations.'

Images from the Readings

- Terrified
- Ghost
- Flesh and bone
- Forgiven
- The one who leads people to life

Reflection for Leaders

The strong, confident and sure words of Peter in the First Reading contrast quite dramatically with the picture of "frightened and terrified" followers whom Jesus appears to in the locked room. Something dramatic, a radical transformation, happened to these followers between their cowering in fear behind locked and bolted doors and the forthright and courageous preaching of Peter a short time later. What had happened. Somehow the specially chosen disciples changed into vital, erudite men and women virtually overnight. How did this happen? Something had changed, somehow the power of the risen Christ was absorbed by these people. That power filled them and drove them out.

Shouldn't it be the same for us? Made fearless by the power of our risen Christ are we not driven by an inner force to reach out to others? Prompted to shout about it? So what do we in fact do? Jesus rose from the dead to bring peace and forgiveness to others. When we do that we show that Jesus is here with us.

We are invited to be witnesses to our faith in the risen Lord and challenged to go out and call others to change their lives and to believe. And for those who seek forgiveness Peter preaches "now change your lives....be forgiven."

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, candle, Lectionary, Cross with a pathway of stones from it.



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Third 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, called by Jesus and the early Apostles to be forgiving, we ask you to help us to forgive the hurt that we feel and to ask forgiveness of those we hurt.

R Amen.

First Reading: Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

(if used)

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

Psalm 4

Response: Lord, let your face shine on us.

(or another suitable response known by the children)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Sing)

Music © 2011 Maria Guzzo



D G Bm A D G Asus⁴ A

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

Bm G D A G A D

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

Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

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 ideas.

- What did Jesus say to his followers when he appeared to them? What did he say the disciples must do? How do you think they would have felt after Jesus had said this to them?
- How do we feel when we are forgiven? How can we bring Jesus' peace and forgiveness to others?
- How can you help to make your home a place of peace?
- When can Jesus be really present in your life?
- Have you ever felt God's presence?

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

Pray the following prayer with the children:

Jesus, you bring us peace and forgiveness

All: For this we thank you

Jesus, you are holy and good

All: For this we praise you

Jesus, you lead us to life

All: For this we thank you



Invite the children to share the sign of peace with each other.



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 courage and faith let us call upon God for our needs for God listens to the voice of his people:

- That the Church throughout the world will have the wonder, joy, and freshness of the early Church. Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That those who have nothing will feel the love and care of the Church. Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That the people of Aotearoa New Zealand will recognise Jesus as their teacher, leader and saviour. Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we will love and care for others especially the poor. Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: God of Resurrection and Life you care for your people who put their trust in you. Be mindful of our needs and the needs of those for whom we pray.

All: Amen

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