



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Green

'Calming a storm'

Job 38:1, 8-11 Psalm 107 2 Corinthians 5: 14-17 Mark 4:35-41



*What kind of person is this?
Even the wind and waves obey him. Often in life we will find that when we have invited Jesus into our boat – into our life – we don't get so thrown by all the stormy things that happen in our lives. If we panic too much we can't always hear Jesus helping us to weather the storm until things calm down a bit. Then we realise that with God in charge we don't actually need to be so terrified.*

Leader's Preparation

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

Mark 4: 35-41

Jesus said to his disciples, "Let's cross over to the east side." So they left the crowd, and his disciples started across the lake with him in the boat.

Some other boats followed along. Suddenly a windstorm struck the lake. Waves started splashing into the boat, and it was about to sink.

Jesus was in the back of the boat with his head on a pillow, and he was asleep. His disciples woke him and said, "Teacher, don't you care that we're about to drown?"

Jesus got up and ordered the wind and the waves to be quiet. The wind stopped, and everything was calm.

Jesus asked his disciples, "Why are you afraid? Don't you have any faith?"

Now they were more afraid than ever and said to each other, "Who is this? Even the winds and waves obey him!"

FIRST READING

Job 38:1 8-11

From the storm the Lord said to Job: "After the ocean was born, I enclosed it with a wall. I used the mist for its baby clothes and covered it with clouds. I marked out its boundaries and locked it behind doors. "Then I said to the ocean, 'Your raging waves stop here! This is as far as you go!"

PSALM

Psalm 107

Response: Give thanks to the Lord, God's love is everlasting.
or Alleluia!

Some of you made a living sailing the mighty sea,
and you saw the miracles the Lord performed there. **R**

At his command a storm arose and waves covered the sea.
You were in serious trouble, but you prayed to the Lord and he rescued you. **R**

He made the storm stop and the sea be quiet. You were happy because of this.
And he brought you to the port where you wanted to go. **R**

SECOND READING

2 Corinthians 5:14-17

Brothers and sisters: We are ruled by Christ's love for us. We are certain that if one person died for everyone else, then all of us have died. And Christ did die for all of us. He died so we would no longer live for ourselves, but for the one who died and was raised to life for us. We are careful not to judge people by what they seem to be, though we once judged Christ in that way. Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten and everything is new.

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

In the First Reading after Job's comforters have had their say, and failed to answer his question: "Why do the just suffer?" God speaks to him "from the heart of the storm" words from the mouth of Isaiah "As high as the heavens are above the earth, so are my ways above your ways". So this passage stresses God's power over the sea, and all of creation. The Hebrews were never sea going people, and stood in awe of its thunderous waves. They were affected by ancient myths which saw the sea as the source of evil and chaos. The image of an all-powerful God holding back the waves beating at the shore was a symbol of God's power to limit evil and destruction. Speaking from the tempest is always a powerful manifestation of the might of God. In the Gospel we have the first of Mark's miracle-stories framed in a storm at sea. Jesus suggests to his followers that they cross the lake to the other side. The sun has set and soon it would be nightfall. The pressing crowds are left behind, but what lay ahead? The lake was normally calm, but because of its position - about seven hundred feet below sea level - it is subject to sudden wind storms which sweep down from the surrounding hills, rush through the narrow gorges that break upon the lake and whip up the saucer-like sea. It is clear that Mark intends the raging sea to be a symbol of the forces of evil. The words Jesus addresses to the sea are words he uses to drive out devils; words that could be addressed to a snapping dog: Shut up! Down! It has been said that Jesus' miracles are not designed to produce the spectacular, but to restore things to normal.

Images from the Readings

- Across the lake
- Windstorm struck
- Be quiet
- Calm
- Everything is new

Reflection for Leaders

The disciples wake Jesus with an accusation - master do you not care we are going down! After calming the sea and their fear, Jesus rebukes them for their great fear and small amount of faith; it is then that the question arises "Who then is this man?"

We know who Jesus is. But the question remains for us, will our faith in Jesus stay with us even during threat and danger and storm? The disciples experience is not unknown to us. We believe that Jesus accompanies us on our journey to God. To journey with him is to journey through storms rather than around them, we must nurture a strong belief that Jesus is "Lord of all chaos", that there is no storm that will not be calmed at last by his presence.

You might point out to the children that often we can have stormy weather inside us. Discuss how storms of worries, problems and life's troubles can assail us and how, since Jesus is always with us he has the power to calm and make smooth these storms too. Suggest that when we feel shaken inside by worries, fear, anger or trouble we can ask Jesus to calm the storm inside us.

This Gospel passage lends itself readily to dramatisation in the form of some mime work. You could go over firstly with the children the bare bones of the story. The calm sea, Jesus falling asleep in the boat, the wind coming up, whipping up the sea, the boat beginning to move with the wind, beginning to be rocked, then tossed about by the waves. Then the human drama, the faith, calm and the security felt by the disciples to have Jesus with them and sleeping in the stern of the boat. Then the coming of the wind and the growing turbulence of the sea and with it the disciples mounting anxiety, their fear rising to panic driving them eventually to awaken Jesus, who acts and calms down the storm, once more the waters are calm and the boat is still, but the disciples are jumpy and wondering and still fearful, asking themselves who can Jesus be. Often in life we will find that when we have invited Jesus into our boat – into our life – we don't get so thrown by all the stormy things that happen in our lives. If we panic too much we can't always hear Jesus helping us to weather the storm until things calm down a bit. Then we realise that with God in charge we don't actually need to be so terrified.

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 model sailing ship or picture of the ocean



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

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: Lord Jesus, you are always with us. You bring peace and tranquillity into our lives. Help us to bring your peace to those we meet.

R Amen.

First Reading: Job 38:1, 8-11

(if used)

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

Psalm 107

Response: Give thanks to the Lord, God's love is everlasting.

or Alleluia!

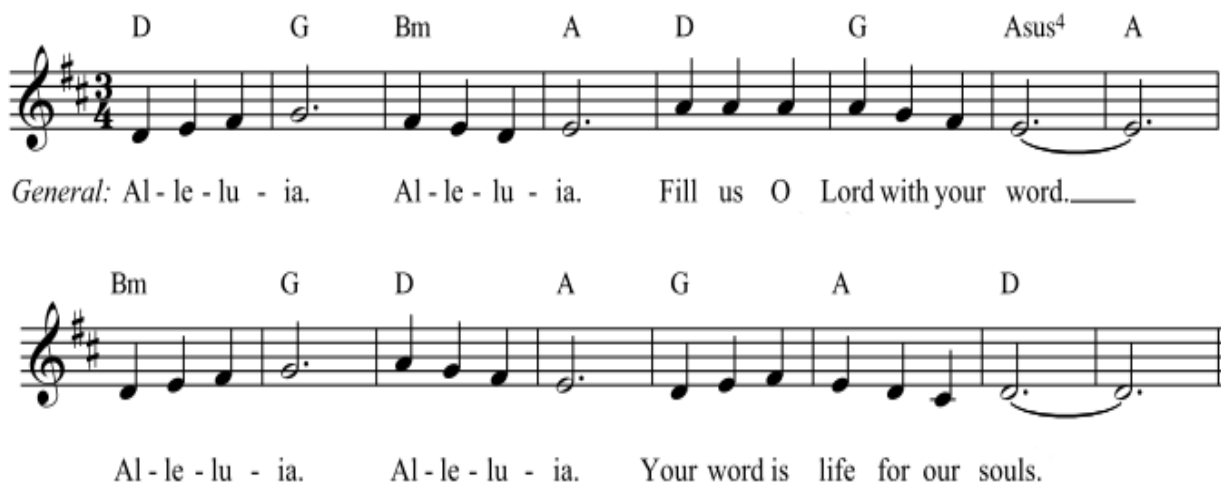
Second Reading: 2 Corinthians 5: 14-17

(if used)

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

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (Sing)

Music © 2011 Maria Guzzo



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: Mark 4:35-41

Minister of the Word: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark
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.*

- In the First Reading what sort of a picture did you get of God? What feelings does the reading give you about God?
- When you look at creation, the trees, sea, wind, sun shining in great hollow shafts through autumn burnt leaves. What do you feel? Do you feel the wonder and the gift of God's work?
- Which words did you like most in the First Reading? What sort of a God does the Psalm sing about?

- In the Gospel story how do you think the disciples felt before they woke Jesus?
- Have you ever experienced a storm, were you afraid? When you are afraid what do you do/ What did the disciples in the story do?

Reassure the children that it is perfectly all right to feel afraid and scared in a storm, and like the disciples to find someone who can help us or comfort us.

Perhaps the children can also think of times when they have helped to calm someone down or comfort them when they have been afraid or worried. Jesus is like that. When we are frightened or scared or upset, whether we're children or adults, we can all come to Jesus and he will help to calm us down and comfort us. He may do that through our family and he may use your words and arms to comfort other people or other creatures. Sometimes you will find that as you ask Jesus to help calm you down, you will suddenly feel calm inside just like it feels after a big storm has finished. Jesus is more than an ordinary teacher, he has God's power to draw on.

We can see in Jesus the power and love of God.

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 song of peace,

e.g. Peace is flowing like a river, flowing out through you and me

OR

Demonstrate and invite the children to exchange 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 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: Let us pray to the God of all creation for our needs:

- For Church leaders throughout the world, let us pray to the Lord.
Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For people everywhere, that they may care for the world, the plants, insects and animals, the waters, the earth, the sea and the air
Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For all who live in Aotearoa New Zealand, may our hearts be open to those who have had to leave their own homeland because of war or strife.
- Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That we will show, by the way we live, respect for all of God's creation,
Let us pray to the Lord R Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: Almighty and constant God hear the prayers we your children make to you.
Through Jesus our Lord.

All: **Amen**

The children rejoin the assembly before the prayers over the gifts.

Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

Echo Mime

Mark 4:35-41

Calming a storm

An Echo mime assists children of all ages to understand and recall a Scriptural story. Each statement is accompanied by an action. The leader (an individual in the group) voices the statement and performs the accompanying actions. Both statement and action are repeated or echoed by the rest of the group.

A reading from God's Word	
	Hands open as in reading a book
Jesus told his disciples	Hand to mouth
'Get into the boat!	Stepping action
We're going sailing!	Move hand in a wave motion
Suddenly	One finger pointing skywards
A wind storm came	Move arms in a rolling fashion
and blew the boat	Blowing action with lips
from side to side;	Move hands from left side to right side
up and down	Move hands up and down
this way and that way	Move hands in front of body and behind body
and the boys were terrified!	Shake with fear
But Jesus was asleep	Head on hands
in the back of the boat.	Point in one direction
The disciples said to Jesus,	Hand to mouth
'Jesus don't you care about us?	Hands raised in questioning pose
Just then Jesus did wake up	Arms stretching as in a yawn
and stood up	Move from crouch to standing position
and raised his arms	Raise arms
and spoke to the wind	Hand to mouth
'Be quiet!'	two hands outstretched palms facing downwards
He spoke to the waves,	Hand to mouth
'Calm down!'	Two hands outstretched, move hands up and down slowly
And they did!	Cross hands in front of body with palms facing downwards

Jesus turned to the boys and said,
'Be quiet!'

Hand to mouth

two hands outstretched palms facing
downwards

'Calm down!'

Two hands outstretched, move hands up and
down slowly

And they did!

Cross hands in front of body with palms facing
downwards

'Why, oh why are you so scared?

Hands raised in a questioning pose

Don't you trust me?

Hands raised higher in a questioning pose

Where is your faith?'

Hands together as in praying

The boys asked

Hand to mouth

'Who is this guy?

Pointing to someone

Even the wind and the waves
obey him!'

Two hands outstretched, move hands up and
down slowly

A reading from Mark's Gospel

Hands open as in reading a book



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.