



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

'The Lord is King'

White

Daniel 7:13-14 Psalm 93 Revelations 1:5-8 John 18:33-37



*Today is the last Sunday of the Church's year,
the Solemnity of Christ the King.*

*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

John 18:33-37

Pilate called Jesus over and asked, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus answered, "Are you asking this on your own or did someone tell you about me?"

"You know I'm not a Jew!" Pilate said. "Your own people and the chief priests brought you to me. What have you done?" Jesus answered, "My kingdom does not belong to this world. If it did, my followers would have fought to keep the Jewish leaders from handing me over to you. No, my kingdom does not belong to this world."

"So you are a king," Pilate replied.

"You are saying that I am a king," Jesus told him. "I was born into this world to tell about the truth. And everyone who belongs to the truth knows my voice."

FIRST READING

Daniel 7:13-14

During the night I had a vision, and I saw what looked like the Son of Man, coming with the clouds of heaven. He came toward the Eternal God and was led into his presence, where he was honoured and given the power to rule as king. People of every nation and language worshipped him. He will rule forever, and his kingdom will never be destroyed.

PSALM

Psalms 93

Response: The Lord is king, he is robed in majesty.

Our Lord, you are King! Majesty and power are your royal robes.

You put the world in place, and it will never be moved. **R**

You have always ruled, and you are eternal.

Your decisions are firm, and your temple will always be beautiful and holy. **R**

SECOND READING

Revelation 5:1-8

May kindness and peace be yours from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness.

Jesus was the first to conquer death, and he is the ruler of all earthly kings.

Christ loves us, and by his blood he set us free from our sins. He lets us rule as kings and serve God his Father as priests. To him be glory and power forever and ever! Amen.

Look! He is coming with the clouds. Everyone will see him, even the ones who stuck a sword through him. All people on earth will weep because of him. Yes, it will happen! Amen.

The Lord God says, "I am Alpha and Omega, the one who is and was and is coming. I am God All-Powerful!

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

In the first Reading, Daniel saw in a vision a human figure that was led into the presence of God. The tradition of the Jews later interpreted this figure as someone who would judge all the nations in the name of God. From here it was only a small step for Christians to see the human figure as Jesus the Christ, risen to glory at the right hand of God. The writing of both the first and second readings is highly imaginative, so we need to be aware to avoid literal interpretation. The symbolism of the second Reading is to do with three aspects of Jesus' mission – giving witness, the victory of the resurrection, and God as the master and shaper of history. The first and last letters of the Greek alphabet reflect God's place as the starting point and the end point of history. In the Gospel, Pilate, as prefect or governor of the Roman province of Judea, holds power. His reputation as insensitive to Jewish religious practices was expressed often as brutal force to repress dissent against Roman rule. He struggles to come to grips with the reality of what Jesus presents him with in an attempt to trap him into an admission of guilt – "Are you a king? ... What have you done? ... So you are a King?"

The crime Jesus was tried and executed for was sedition – the claim that he was the 'King of the Jews' was a direct threat to the Emperor. Crucifixion was a Roman punishment not a Jewish one.

Images from the Readings

- The truth
- Knowing Jesus' voice
- People from every nation and language worshipped him
- The Alpha and the Omega
- He will rule forever

Reflection for Leaders

Even though it appears that Pilate is sitting in judgement on Jesus, in truth it is Jesus who is Pilate's judge. The 'truth' talked of here refers to the fact of God as eternal creator, contrasted against the temporal things of the world. If Jesus is King, then all Christians belong to a royal race. The Church is Christ's people, yet ours is a kingship of service which has no concern for the things of the world. We are to bear witness to truth and be messengers of truth, standing for peace and justice for all who are oppressed.

In our reflection today we might consider what are some of the conflicts between the values of the society we live in today and values of the kingdom of Jesus?

In a world in which few 'kings' remain, how can Christ the King be given meaning today?

In what ways has Jesus become 'king' of your life?

Today's feast marks the end of the liturgical year. What has been important to you this year? Have you noticed change and progress in your faith journey? How are you progressing in your own search for truth?

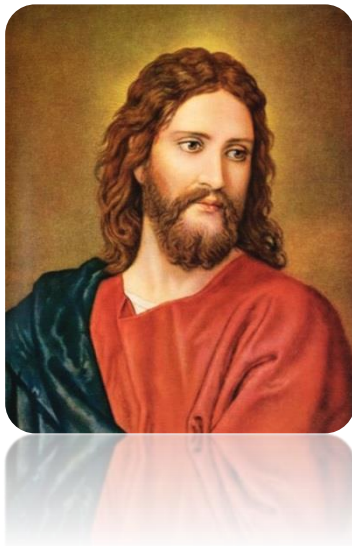
Reflecting on the Readings with the children

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, a candle, a crown and an image of Jesus



LEADER'S LITURGY OUTLINE

Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

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: Loving God, thank you for sending your only Son to be our saviour.
Help us to know and love your truth.

R Amen.

First Reading: Daniel 7:13-14

(if used)

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

Psalms 93

Response:

The Lord is king, he is robed in majesty.

(or another suitable response known by the children)

Second Reading: Revelation 1:5-8

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



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: John 18:33-37

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 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 sort of a King is Jesus? Is he like Queen Elizabeth II, or the Kings and Queens we read about in fairy tales?
- What is the difference between an earthly king who rules an earthly kingdom, and Jesus' kingship?
- Jesus' kingdom is one of truth, love and peace. How do we know this?
- When Pilate asks Jesus questions, what is he trying to find out?

- What does Jesus tell him? Who does he say that he is?
- In what ways can Jesus' kingdom be lived out here today?
- What are the things that we can do to be more truthful, caring and peace-filled in our families and schools?



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

Invite the children to stand in front of the image of Jesus and the crown and make a deep bow as they say together:

*"The Lord is King;
He is clothed in majesty"*



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 glad hearts let us pray to God for all our needs.

- For the church that it will be a place where truth and justice flourish
Let us pray to the Lord ℟ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- For peace in the war-torn parts of the world
Let us pray to the Lord ℟ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That the land and seasons will bear plenty of food for all the people of the world
Let us pray to the Lord ℟ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**
- That the sick and lonely amongst us will be comforted
Let us pray to the Lord ℟ Lord hear our prayer
or **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: Saving God, shower your blessings and protection upon 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.