



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

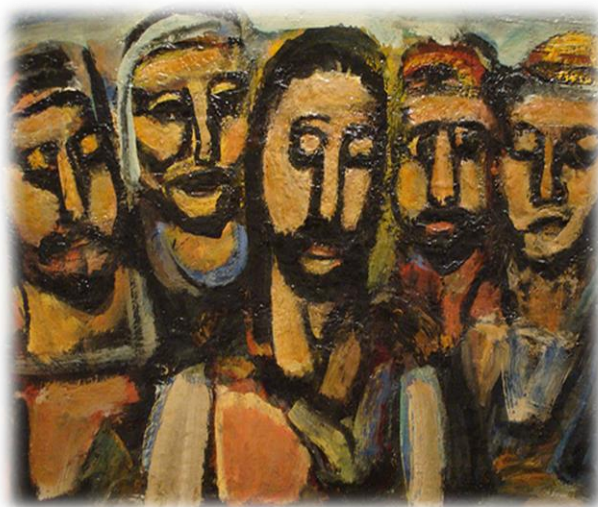
Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

Fifth Sunday of Easter - Year C

White

'A new commandment'

Acts 14:21-27 Psalm 145 Revelation 21:1-4 John 13:31, 33-35



Jesus told his apostles that he was going to leave them, he knew that his time had come, and that he would suffer and die before rising from the dead and returning to his father in heaven. Jesus gave his disciples a new commandment, to love one another as he had loved them. How do we show people that we are followers of Jesus?

People see Jesus in us and know that we are his followers when we love and care for others as he taught us to.

Leader's Preparation

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for The Fifth 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 13:31, 33-35

After Judas had gone, Jesus said:

"My children, I will be with you for a little while longer. Then you will look for me, but you won't find me. I tell you just as I told the people, 'You cannot go where I am going.'

But I am giving you a new command. You must love each other, just as I have loved you. If you love each other, everyone will know that you are my disciples."

FIRST READING

Acts 14:21-27

Paul and Barnabas preached the good news in Derbe and won some people to the Lord. Then they went back to Lystra, Iconium, and Antioch in Pisidia. They encouraged the followers and begged them to remain faithful. They told them, "We have to suffer a lot before we can get into God's kingdom." Paul and Barnabas chose some leaders for each of the churches. Then they went without eating and prayed that the Lord would take good care of these leaders. Paul and Barnabas went on through Pisidia to Pamphylia, where they preached in the town of Perga. Then they went down to Attalia and sailed to Antioch in Syria. It was there that they had been placed in God's care for the work they had now completed. After arriving in Antioch, they called the church together. They told the people what God had helped them do and how he had made it possible for the Gentiles to believe.

PSALM

Psalms 145

Response: I will praise you forever, my king my God

You are merciful, Lord! You are kind and patient and always loving.
You are good to everyone, and you take care of all your creation. **R**

All creation will thank you, and your loyal people will praise you.
Then everyone will know about the mighty things you do
And your glorious kingdom. **R**

SECOND READING

Revelation 21:1-4

I, John, saw a new heaven and a new earth. The first heaven and the first earth had disappeared, and so had the sea. Then I saw New Jerusalem, that holy city, coming down from God in heaven. It was like a bride dressed in her wedding gown and ready to meet her husband. I heard a loud voice shout from the throne: God's home is now with his people. He will live with them, and they will be his own. Yes, God will make his home among his people. He will wipe all tears from their eyes, and there will be no more death, suffering, crying, or pain. These things of the past are gone forever.

Scriptures from the Lectionary for Masses with Children (CEV)
© Archdiocese of Chicago LTP. 1994 Used with permission

Background to the Readings for Leaders

The missionary journey of Paul and Barnabas is continued in the first reading today. It has not been without difficulties, and they have had to endure suffering which is inescapable in life. The structure and organization of the churches that were being established was evidence of the growth of the Church, and this structure was already in evidence in Jerusalem, where elders were entrusted with oversight of worship, discipline, instruction and administration. The apostles were not independent missionaries – they had been sent forth by the Church, and they were returning to report what had been accomplished by God.

The Gospel today comes from a section of John's Gospel known as the 'farewell discourse' delivered by Jesus just prior to his arrest, when Judas has already left to betray him. Time has grown short for those who have not yet recognised Jesus as the Messiah. He had locked himself away with those who do believe, and is giving them instruction on how they are to continue his mission after he is gone. Jesus is telling his disciples not just that they must love one another, but that they must love as he had loved. The love that Jesus showed was totally unconditional and self-giving, expressed in service and fulfilled by the ultimate sacrifice of his death on the cross. It is this love which reveals the total love of a God who is Love. And it is this love that is the true mark of Christian discipleship – that sets us apart from others because it is so hard to attain.

Images from the Readings

- *After Judas had gone*
- *A new command*
- *My disciples*
- *Encouraged the followers*
- *God's home is with his people*

Reflection for Leaders

No society can survive without tolerance, yet Jesus is demanding more than this for the new community that he has formed. There are times when to love is one of the most challenging things we are asked to do, especially when it is not deserved. Can you think of people who have displayed this selfless love? How would people be able to tell you were a follower of Christ even if you didn't say anything?

Jesus went on to say that this was to glorify God. In what ways do you glorify God in your life?

Perform some random acts of kindness and act with love towards all the people you encounter this week.



Reflecting on the Readings with the children

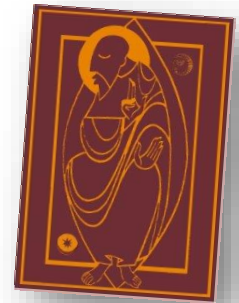
Before Sunday read over the suggested discussion points given in the Leader's Liturgy Outline.
With the 8-12 year olds: First, listen to the children's own responses to the Reading/s and then, if needed, use some of the discussion starters suggested.

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 red heart



LITURGY OUTLINE

Fifth 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 sent Jesus to show us how we should love one another.
May our love be a sign to bring others to know and love you too.

R Amen.

First Reading: Acts 14:21-27

(if used)

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

Psalms 145

Response: I will praise you forever, my king my God

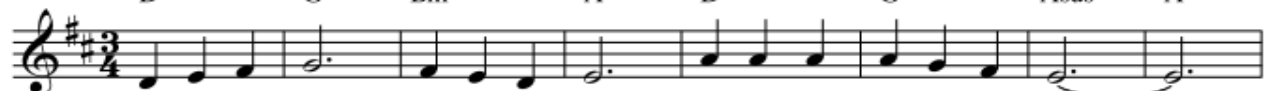
(or another suitable response known by the children)

Second Reading: Revelation 21:1-4

(if used)

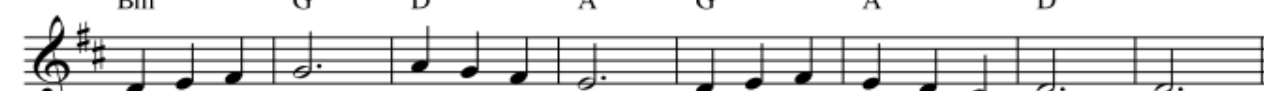
The Word of the Lord / Ko te Kupu a te Ariki
Thanks be to God / Whakamoemiti ki te Atua

D G Bm A D G Asus⁴ A



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: John 13:31, 33-35

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 the activity below and some prepared questions, to stimulate ideas.*

- What has Jesus told us to do? (Love one another)
- How do we know that this is very important? (Jesus said it is “a command”)
- What did he mean when he said to “love one another as I have loved you”? (Jesus said this after he had washed the disciples feet – we show our love through service of others)
- How did Jesus show his love for others? (you might wish to record some examples on a sheet of paper or whiteboard)
- Why did Jesus say that people would know we were his disciples if we did this?
- What does it mean to be a disciple? (a follower of Jesus)
- Have you ever had a friend who has gone away to another country? How did you feel? How would his disciples have felt when Jesus told them that he was going away where they couldn’t go?



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

Teach the children the 'Glory Be' –

“Glory be to the Father, and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen”



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: We come to you, O God, encouraged by your Word, and bring to you all our needs.

- For the Church, that we always witness to the risen Jesus. Let us pray to the Lord

℟ Lord hear our prayer *or* **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- That the people of our country extend love and caring towards all who need it... Let us pray to the Lord

℟ Lord hear our prayer *or* **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- For the gift of encouragement in a world that can be very discouraging. Let us pray to the Lord

℟ Lord hear our prayer *or* **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- For a spirit of generosity. Let us pray to the Lord

℟ Lord hear our prayer *or* **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

- For those ANZAC soldiers who lost their lives to protect our country. Let us pray to the Lord

℟ Lord hear our prayer *or* **E te Ariki whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou**

Leader: God, our encourager and our hope, fill us with joy this Easter time and grant the things we have asked for, through Jesus Christ our Lord

All: **Amen**

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