



# *Liturgy of the Word with Children*

Te Ritenga o te Kupu hei ngā Tamariki

Prepared by the Liturgy Centre, Catholic Diocese of Auckland

## *Body and Blood of Christ, Year A*

*White*

*By sharing in the same loaf of bread, we become one body,  
even though there are many of us.*

*Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a; (Ps) 147; 1 Cor. 10:16-17; John 6:51-58*

*Sometimes the most basic of everyday things are the things that we often overlook or take for granted. Bread is a staple food item that we often don't pay much attention to. but it is a very important part of our diet. Jesus was a person just like us – ordinary and special. Jesus told us that he is the bread from heaven – living bread - and he makes our lives special. During Mass we remember and give thanks for this. When we gather as a large family and share in the eucharistic meal we also share life with Jesus.*



### *Leader's Preparation*

It is to be first noted that today is the feast of 'The Body and Blood Christ.' The title 'Corpus Christi' should be avoided. Since the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council were implemented today's feast is known as 'Corpus et sanguis Christi' in Latin. As this feast reverences both sacred species, to refer to the feast as 'Corpus Christi' is, as such, incomplete.

In preparation for leading this celebration begin by reading and reflecting on the Scriptures for the feast of The Most Holy and Blood of Christ, starting with the Gospel. Then look through the preparatory material that follows and familiarise yourself with the Liturgy Outline. (You may choose to use or focus on one reading only, but remember that the Gospel may not be omitted. The reading from Paul from 1 Corinthians will be helpful this week to reinforce the importance of sharing as communion, and that we are all members of the Body of Christ.)

Jesus said to the crowd: "I am the bread from heaven! Everyone who eats it will live forever. My flesh is the life-giving bread that I give to the people of this world."

They started arguing with each other, and asked, "How can he give us his flesh to eat?"

Jesus answered: "I tell you for certain that you won't live unless you eat the flesh and drink the blood of the Son of Man. But if you do eat my flesh and drink my blood, you will have eternal life, and I will raise you to life on the last day.

"My flesh is the true food, and my blood is the true drink. If you eat my flesh and drink my blood, you are one with me, and I am one with you.

"The living Father sent me, and I have life because of him. Now everyone who eats my flesh will live because of me.

"The bread that comes down from heaven is not like what your ancestors ate. They died, but whoever eats this bread will live forever."

*FIRST READING*

Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a

Moses told the people: "Don't forget how the Lord your God led you in the desert for forty years. The Lord did this so that you would learn to depend on him. And he wanted to know if you were truly willing to obey him.

"The Lord made you go hungry. Then he gave you manna, a kind of food that you and your ancestors had never heard about. He did this to teach you that people need more than food to live. They need every word that the Lord has spoken.

"The Lord your God brought you out of Egypt, where you were slaves. He led you safely through a big and terrible desert that was full of poisonous snakes and scorpions.

"The Lord gave you water from solid rock. And in the desert he gave you manna, a kind of food your ancestors had never heard about. He tested you like this to teach you to depend on him, so that all would go well for you."

*RESPONSORIAL PSALM*

147

**Response: Praise the Lord Jerusalem!**

Everyone in Jerusalem, come and praise the Lord your God!

God lets you live in peace, and he gives you the very best wheat. **R**

God gave his laws and teachings to the descendants of Jacob, the nation of Israel.

But he has not given his laws to any other nation. Shout praises to the Lord. **R**

Brothers and sisters:

When we drink from the cup that we ask God to bless, isn't that sharing in the blood of Christ? When we eat the bread that we break, isn't that sharing in the body of Christ? By sharing in the same loaf of bread, we become one body, even though there are many of us.

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

The first reading calls the Israelites to remember the wonderful gift of manna, the bread from heaven, which sustained them through their long journey to the Promised Land. The people had short memories and needed to be reminded of God's provision for them.

Today's Gospel comes after Jesus has fed multitudes with the loaves and fishes, and his reference to himself as the 'bread from heaven' links into the memory of the exodus journey undertaken by their ancestors. Food is a basic necessity for life, and bread is recognised as an economical nourishing staple for many cultures.

However Jesus' allusion to the eating of this flesh and the drinking of his blood was shocking and unthinkable for many of his listeners. Blood was considered to be the life force of a creature (Gen 9:4) and the Law of Moses with its strict dietary laws prohibited its consumption. This was probably the most challenging teaching that Jesus gave, and was to prove to be the defining moment for many of the crowds who flocked around him. So the outcome of this discourse was that many of Jesus' followers left. But Jesus doesn't back down when the arguments started. Instead he reasserts what he has already stated, adding the consequences of participating in the feast of his body.

The giving of Jesus' flesh and blood for the life of the world refers to the dawn of a new covenant to be forged through the sacrifice of his death for the salvation of the world. Gathering together to remember Jesus' teachings, break bread and share the cup is one of the oldest traditions of the Church.

### *Images from the Readings*

- Life-giving bread
- Flesh to eat
- Eternal Life
- Depend on God
- Become one body



## *Reflection for Leaders*

Jesus gave us a common food item to link us into the remembrance of his special gift of eternal life. Eating food, sharing meals, is a day-to-day experience for most of us. What significance does eating and drinking have in your life? What are the times that you gather with others to share food and drink, and with whom do you gather? What happens to relationships when you share meals with other people? If we receive the gift of Jesus himself in the Eucharist, what are the implications for us as we go out into the world? You might invite someone to share a meal with you this week, especially someone who might not otherwise have some company. During this week be conscious of being life-giving 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, a candle, pita bread or roll and a glass of grape-juice.



## *Body and Blood of Christ, Year A*

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, your Son Jesus gave bread and wine to friends on the night before you died. Help us to remember you when we gather with our friends in prayer and for the meal of the Eucharist.

**R** Amen.

#### *First Reading: Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 14b-16a*

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

#### *Responsorial: 147*

**Response:** Praise the Lord Jerusalem!

#### *Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 10:16-17*

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



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: John 6:51-58

**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 children 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.*

- Can you remember what Jesus calls himself? (Bread from heaven) Why do you think he chose that image? (bread is part of our daily diet, different breads are staple parts of different culture's food, common, readily available, cheap and affordable etc)
- What sort of breads have you eaten? (wholegrain, pita, naan, bagel, pizza, rolls, damper or camp breads, French sticks, croissants etc)
- Why do we use bread? (its filling, easy to carry – sandwiches)
- In Holy Communion we receive another sort of bread, sometimes called a host or wafer. During the Mass the prayers of the priest blesses/consecrates this bread so that we receive Jesus in a special way. When we share Holy Communion with our faith community we help to build ourselves into a strong family – just like at home when we share a meal together.
- Are we only allowed to go to Communion when we are good? (no, we go to because we want to be good, and Jesus helps us)

**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*

Lead the Children in the following prayer (adapted from Eucharistic Prayer for Children III).  
The children respond: **Glory to God in the highest.**

**Leader:** God our Father, we remember with joy all that Jesus did to save us. In this holy sacrifice, which he gave as a gift to his Church, we remember his death and resurrection.

Father in heaven, accept us together with your beloved Son. He willingly died for us, but you raised him to life again. We thank you and say:

**All:** **Glory to God in the highest.**

**Leader:** Jesus now lives with you in glory, but he is also here on earth, among us. We thank you and say:

**All:** **Glory to God in the highest.**

**Leader:** One day he will come in glory and in his kingdom there will be no more suffering, no more tears, no more sadness. We thank you and say:

**All:** **Glory to God in the highest.**

Invite the Children to sing 'How is Jesus Present?' by Cecily Sheehy. Sheet Music available at the end of this resource.

## *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.



# 64 How is Jesus present?

♩ = 88

Cecily Sheehy

The musical score is written in G major (one sharp) and 2/2 time. It consists of two systems. The first system has a tempo marking of ♩ = 88. The first system of music has a treble clef and a bass clef. The lyrics are: "How is Je- sus pre- sent? How is Je- sus pre- sent? Tell me how he's pre- sent. Tell me how he's pre- sent." Above the first system, the chords D, G, and D are indicated. The second system of music has a treble clef and a bass clef. The lyrics are: "How is Je- sus pre- sent to- day? (He's) Tell me how he's pre- sent to- day. (He's)". Above the second system, the chords Bm, D/A, A7sus4, A7, D/A, A7, and D are indicated. There are first and second endings marked with '1' and '2' respectively.

- 1 How is Jesus present? How is Jesus present?  
How is Jesus present today?  
Tell me how he's present. Tell me how he's present.  
Tell me how he's present today.
- 2 He's present in the children, present in the family,  
present in the meal that you share.  
He's present when you're laughing, present when you're giving,  
present when you listen and care.
- 3 But I cannot see him, but I cannot see him,  
but I cannot see him today.  
Are you just pretending? How can it be real?  
I would like to see him today.
- 4 Every time you listen, every time you're sorry,  
every time you care for a friend,  
that is when he's present, though you do not see him,  
"I am with you always", he said.
- 5 Now I understand. Now I understand.  
Let us celebrate today!  
He's present in the WORD, present in the PEOPLE,  
present in the breaking of BREAD.

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