



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Twenty-Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A	2
Theme: Come to the Feast.....	2
Summary	2
Objectives.....	2
Leader's Preparation:	2
Environment and Materials.....	2
Background	2
Prayer Leader Reflection Questions.....	3
The Liturgy.....	3
Procession from the main Church	3
Welcome.	3
Lectionary Readings	4
Reflection	6
The Creed	7
Prayer of the Faithful	7

Twenty-Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time, Year A

Theme: Come to the Feast

Summary

Hospitality is a hallmark of Christian discipleship. A feast is an analogy of the kingdom of God. The banquet God provides is the ultimate food and banquet. God invites us to the banquet. The Eucharist is a foretaste of the Feast.

Objectives

- † To examine feasting as a symbol of heaven.
- † To identify ways to say yes to the invitation to a wedding feast of the Kingdom of God.

Leader's Preparation:

- † Pray the Lectionary readings.
- † Sin is part of our lives and affects our relationship with God.
- † Throughout history, God calls us to continually grow closer by overcoming sin.
- † Jesus made it possible to overcome sin.
- † People are oriented to goodness.
- † God desires us to direct our decisions toward good and just decisions.

Environment and Materials

- † Two screened adult leaders.
- † Liturgical space for Children's Liturgy of the Word.
- † Candle, table, liturgical colours, and any other visual aids.
- † Read the lectionary readings and backgrounds.
- † Bookmark the readings in the Bible. Place the Bible in a prominent location for the children to see when they enter the space for the Children's Liturgy of the Word.
- † Prepare any hymns that the children will sing as they gather in the space for the Children's Liturgy of the Word.
- † Select volunteers (older children or adults) to proclaim the readings.
- † Display the responsorial psalm refrain lyrics, if possible and desired.
- † Display the Creed, if possible and desired.

Background

Isaiah 25:6-10

- † The prophet Isaiah announces God is our banquet host.
- † A wedding feast is an image of Salvation.
- † Isaiah announces that all humanity is invited into communion with God and one another.
- † The feast symbolizes the abundance God offers to all people.

Matthew 22:1-14

- † The parable follows last week's parable.
- † The feast is a wedding feast.
- † Refusing to attend signifies turning away from God's invitation to eternal life.
- † God sends his disciples to invite everyone who wants to attend the Feast.
- † The parable helps us think about God's unending generosity.
- † God has prepared a Feast, and we need only accept the invitation.

Prayer Leader Reflection Questions

- † How do you experience meals, banquets and spiritual feasting?
- † What is the state of your white garment?
- † How do you keep it unstained?

The Liturgy

Procession from the main Church

After the opening prayer, when all are seated, the leaders come forward and stand facing the altar.

Priest: God invites us to a beautiful feast, a party that will never end. The Mass is a small taste of what that celebration will be like. Go in peace.

One of the leaders carries the Book of God's Word, held high for all to see. The second leader assists by directing the children to form a procession behind the leader with the book. When it appears that most of the children have formed a procession, the leader with the book proceeds to the place of the celebration. The second leader usually walks behind the children to ensure they remain in the procession. Upon arrival at the place of the celebration, the leader places the book on the prepared table. The parish music minister may have selected a song of dismissal for the assembly to sing while the children leave.

Welcome.

The leaders assist the children to sit, welcome them and invite them to participate in the prayer. When the children are seated and settled, one of the leaders or a child may light the candle beside the book.

The leader may say the prayer.

O God, allow our hearts to be open to your Word so we may serve you completely. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Invite the children to sit and listen to the readings.

Lectionary Readings

One of the leaders (or an older child who has prepared the text) stands, takes the book from the table, stands behind the table, and proclaims the first reading. The reading is concluded with: The Word of the Lord. All respond: Thanks be to God.

FIRST READING Isaiah 5:1-7

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

On this mountain, the Lord All-Powerful will prepare a feast of the finest foods for all nations.

Choice wines and the best meat will be served. Here, the Lord will strip away the funeral clothes that cover the nations. The Lord All-Powerful will destroy the power of death and wipe away each tear. No longer will his people be embarrassed everywhere.

The Lord has spoken! On that day, people will say, "The Lord God has saved us! Let's celebrate. We waited and waited, and now he is here."

The powerful arms of the Lord will protect this mountain.

The Word of the Lord.

The leader may teach the children to respond: Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is observed. Inviting the children to think about some particular aspect of the reading during this time may be helpful. Perhaps the gesture of bowing heads and closing eyes will foster the effective use of this silent period.

GOSPEL Matthew 22:1-14

The children stand for the Gospel. The leader proclaims the Gospel.

✠A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All respond: Glory to you, Lord. All sign themselves on the forehead, lips and breast.

Jesus used this story to teach the people:

"The kingdom of heaven is like what happened when a king gave a wedding banquet for his son. The king sent some messengers to invite guests to the banquet, but they refused to come. He sent other messengers to say to the guests,

'The banquet is ready! My cattle and prize calves have all been prepared. Everything is ready. Come to the banquet.'

"But the guests did not pay attention. Some of them went home, and others to work. Others grabbed the servants to beat and kill them.

"The king was angry and sent soldiers to punish them. Then he said to the other servants,

'It is time for the wedding banquet, and the invited guests don't want to come. Go now and tell everyone you meet to come to the banquet.'

"They went out on the streets and brought in everyone they could find, good and bad alike. And the banquet room was filled with guests."

The Gospel of the Lord.

The leader concludes the Gospel with The Gospel of the Lord. All respond: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

The children sit to listen to the reflection.

Reflection

The leader may offer this reflection in these or similar words. Please consider the amount of time available to return to the main assembly. The leader may wish to reduce the number of questions.

A feast differs from an everyday meal and is held for special occasions – perhaps even a party. We usually see family and friends at feasts and parties that we may not have seen recently. Maybe we may tell them that we are happy to see them.

Have you ever been to a party or feast? (Invite a few short responses and try to return to the reflection in a straightforward and reasonable time.)

The king sent messengers to invite guests to a feast, but they refused.

Do you think God felt hurt? (Invite a few short responses and try to return to the reflection in a straightforward and reasonable time.)

In the Gospel, the king is God. God sends messengers regularly inviting us to God's feast: our parents, teachers and Jesus. We usually wear nice clothes for a feast or special dinner. That is like saying 'yes' to God. Putting on good clothes is like putting on our best selves for God. Doing good, being nice and helping others.

How does knowing that God invites you to a feast make you feel? (Invite a few short responses and try to return to the reflection in a straightforward and reasonable time.)

Some people refuse to come to the feast, though. So, God invites other guests. God reaches out to us in many different ways, primarily through Jesus. Jesus is telling a story about God's generosity and love. God invites us to live forever with Jesus. That feast is the kingdom of heaven.

Think about how you would feel if you invited ten friends to a party, but twenty showed up because your mom invited them and there was enough food for everyone. That is an example of how God feels when we respond to God with gratitude and praise.

Following the reflection, the prayer leader invites everyone to stand to profess our faith.

Together, recite the Creed.

The Creed

Depending on the time, a simple profession of faith may be made (see below).

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

All: We do believe.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, who became our brother and gave his life for us?

All: We do believe.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts and gives us everlasting life?

All: We do believe.

Leader: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it.

Prayer of the Faithful

Invite the children to think of the needs of others and to announce their petitions. The leaders may begin the intercessions by announcing the needs they know. It may be necessary for the leader to repeat and/or paraphrase the petition and conclude it with the cue for the response: For this, we pray. All respond to each petition by saying: Lord, hear our prayer. Sample intercessions are below.

Leader: Grateful for our faith, we now pray to God.

Please respond, "Lord, hear our prayer." R.

For Pope Francis and Douglas, our bishop, we pray to the Lord. R.

For government leaders, we pray to the Lord. R.

For an end to hunger, we pray to the Lord. R.

For our families, we pray to the Lord. R.

For the sick, we pray to the Lord. R.

The leader may invite other intercessions from the children or add intercessions based on the Church's current needs, the world, or the local community.

For all who have died, we pray to the Lord. R.

Merciful God, you are compassion and love. Grant that we, your children, may always seek your forgiveness and forgive our brothers and sisters. Through Christ our Lord.

Children: Amen.

Ask the children to return to the main assembly. Ask them to return quietly and perhaps think about what they have heard and are now doing.

Be mindful of children having difficulty finding their families.

Text: Excerpts from the English translation of *The Roman Missal* © 2010, ICEL. All rights reserved.

Text: New Revised Standard Version of the Bible © National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA (NCCC). Adapted by the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Adaptations © 2009, NCCC. All rights reserved.

All Hymns and Mass Settings are Reprinted under One License.net 710963. All rights reserved

Prepared by the Diocese of Hamilton, Liturgy Office, © 2023



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON