



# DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

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

## Children's Liturgy of the Word

### Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

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## Theme: Christ, King of the Universe

### Summary

On this last Sunday of the liturgical year, we reflect on the day we will meet Christ face to face. We began this important message two Sundays ago when the readings encouraged us and the children to prepare for the end times. Last week, the readings invited us to consider how we have spent the time waiting for Christ. This week's readings add another nuance: Did we recognize that Christ was always with us, especially in the poor?

### Objectives

- † Help children recognize that Jesus is the King.
- † Help children recognize that when we do something good for others, we do it for Jesus.

### Leader's Preparation:

- † Pray the Lectionary readings.
- † Prepare the Environment and Materials.
- † Review the background.
- † Reflect upon the reflection questions.

### Environment and Materials

- † Two screened adult leaders.
- † Liturgical space.
- † Candle, table, liturgical colours, and any other visual aids.
- † Bookmark the readings in the Bible.
- † Place a Bible in a prominent location for the children to see when they enter the space.
- † Prepare any hymns that the children will sing as they gather in the space.
- † 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.

#### **Insight**

Ancient people considered their kings to be shepherds of the people. During times of drought, the leaders provided food. They were expected to provide protection against invaders. When the kings failed the people, the Israelites in captivity realized their dependency on God. Christ as divine ruler is the shepherd-king who willingly cares and goes out of the way to gather strays. The shepherd gives his life's blood for the salvation of all.

Christ identifies so much with his own that our hungers are his hungers; our thirsts are his thirsts, and our misery is his pain. Divine royalty is hidden in the least powerful of those among us. Even if we do not know it, what we do for them we do for Christ, but when we avert our eyes from the plight of the needy, we neglect Jesus.

## Background

- † Jesus' first public teaching was during the Sermon on the Mount. Today's Gospel is his last public teaching.
- † In the past two weeks, we heard parables regarding being prepared for the coming of the Son of Man. The Son of Man is the King – Jesus.
- † Today's Gospel leaves no room for doubt about the behaviours that demonstrate good and wise preparation and the proper use of what we have been given.
- † Anticipating the commission to preach the Gospel to all nations, we read that the King or the Son of Man (Jesus) will judge all the nations. No one will be exempt from God's scrutiny.
- † As in last week's parable, there is no middle ground: every person has lived as a sheep or a goat.
- † Although Jesus shared a preaching mission with his disciples, nothing about this judgment concerns professions of faith or formal religious observances.
- † The Shepherd is the King of the entire universe. His flock includes everyone, and his criterion of judgment has to do with nothing other than the well-being of the flock.
- † Jesus conquered evil, and his sheep continued his mission, whether or not they realized it.
- † What the King expects of his sheep – you, me and all his disciples - are the simplest services possible.
- † Jesus expects his disciples to respond to the most basic human needs: food and water, clothing and shelter, and care for the incapacitated.
- † The Gospel conveys that if we want a share in the kingdom of the divine Shepherd, we must seek and serve him by serving those in need.

## Prayer Leader Reflection Questions

- † What corporal works of mercy do you practice regularly?
- † What other corporal works of mercy can you incorporate into your life?
- † As we approach the end of the liturgical year, what changes might you make in the celebrations beginning in Advent?

## 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:** Dear children, Jesus is King forever and reigns with love, the same love he shows for the least among our sisters and brothers. Listen and learn from him that he may love the least ones through you.

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. When 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. Upon arrival at the location of the celebration, the leader places the book on the prepared table.

## Welcome.

The leaders assist the children to sit, welcome them and participate in the prayer, helping them to settle.

The leader may say the prayer.

## **O God, help us to understand your Word with open hearts and increase our faith. Through Christ our Lord.**

Invite the children to sit and listen to the readings.

## Gospel

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.

### **J**esus said to his disciples:

"When the King comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory.

All the people of the world will come to him, and he will separate them just like a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at the left.

Then the King will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, you that my Father blesses, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry, and you gave me food, I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger, and you welcomed me, I was naked, and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.'

Then the people will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when did we see you a stranger and welcome you, or naked and give you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?'

And the King will answer them, 'Just as you did it to one of the least of these, you did it to me.'

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 (Two Options)

The leader may offer either of these reflections 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.

### Option 1

Today is a special feast in the church year.

#### **Do you know what it is?**

(it is the end of the church year when we celebrate Christ the King – ask the children to repeat).

#### **What does 'Christ the King' mean?**

(Jesus will come back at the end of time to judge all people. He will sort out the good from the bad).

Jesus tells us in the Gospel today that he wants us to care for one another.

#### **Can you remember what these things were?**

(Feed and clothe the hungry and needy, care for the sick, welcome strangers)

The Gospel reminds us of the message that Jesus has brought us week after week. He wants us to be loving and caring towards each other.

#### **Who are the people hungry or thirsty that need our help? How can we help them?**

(We could contribute to groups such as St Vincent de Paul, food banks, etc.)

Jesus said, "Whenever you did it for any of my people, no matter how unimportant they seemed, you did it for me."

## Option 2

During the past weeks, when we have been here at Mass, we have heard that we should prepare, be alert and use our gifts well. These messages help our hearts get ready for the new season of Advent. Next Sunday, we celebrate Advent. Today, we learn why Jesus tells us why it's important to prepare, be careful and use our gifts well. Jesus wants us to always live with God in this world and the next. When we care for others, we are living close to God.

### **When has one of us seen someone hungry? Thirsty? Unwelcome? Poorly clothed?**

Jesus wants us to know that how we serve our neighbours in need counts. When we serve them, we are serving Jesus.

### **How do you respond to those in need?**

### **Did it change your attitude to helping others?**

The Church has always helped the sick, the hungry and those who are in need.

### **Are there ways that you and your family might become more involved in helping people in need?**

During the week, think about how you and your family can help your neighbours in need and know that you are helping others and Jesus.

Following the reflection, the prayer leader invites everyone to stand to profess our faith. Together, sing or recite the Apostles' or Nicene Creed. Refer the children to the words of the prayer that you have displayed.

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

Together, recite the Creed.



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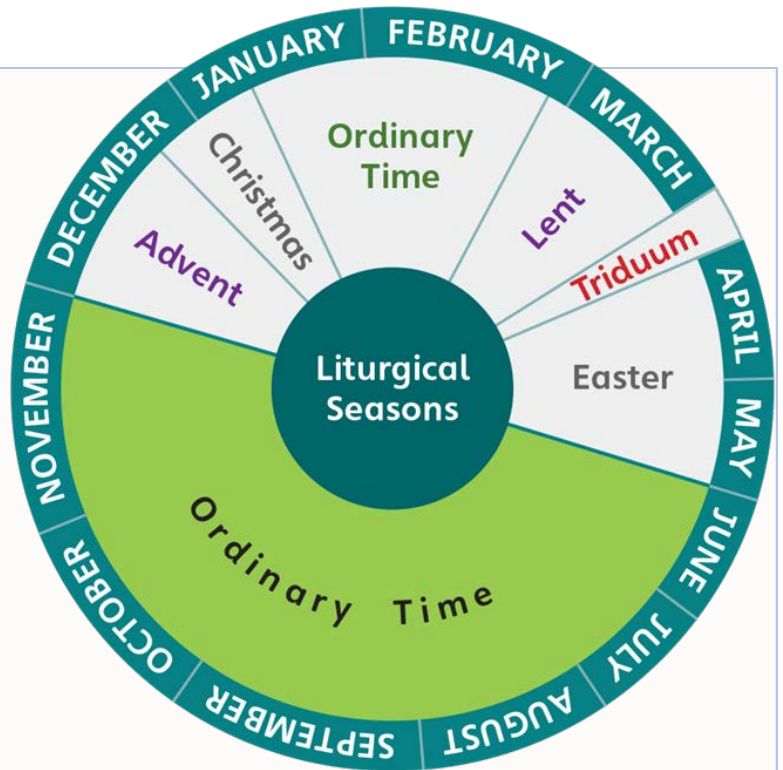


DIOCESE OF HAMILTON



# Children's Bulletin

## Bucket List for Jesus



- This last Sunday of the liturgical year has a special name, the Solemnity of our Lord Jesus King of the Universe. We celebrate that Christ rules throughout all time. The church calendar is different from other calendars. We use a circle to show that even though one year ends, Christ's reign is ongoing.
- We will begin a new church year next week. The four weeks before Christmas are the season of Advent.
- Other liturgical seasons follow. Christmas season is about three weeks. Then we have several weeks of Ordinary Time. Lent is six weeks. Then Easter season is eight weeks. The remainder of the year is Ordinary Time again, and then the year begins anew.
- Advent and Lent are shown in violet to remind us to turn away from sin. For Christmas and Easter, the color is white to represent joy. Weeks of Ordinary Time are green, the color of eternal hope. You will color in the calendar later.

During the end of the church year we hear Scripture readings that encourage us to use our time on earth doing good actions, such as, the corporal works of mercy. Some of you may have heard of an idea called "a bucket list." This is a list some people make of the things they want to do. For most people, this is a selfish "I want" list, but Christians can use the same idea as a "Bucket List for Jesus."

In the sections of your liturgical calendar, draw pictures or write your bucket list. These are things you would like to do for Jesus based on the corporal works of mercy. You may not be able to do some of them until years from now. For example, someday you may go to a poor African village to help dig a water well or you might become a prison minister.

When I was...



You...