



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

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

Children's Liturgy of the Word SECOND SUNDAY OF LENT

The Hebrew tradition doesn't offer a definitive view of the nature of God. Jesus' intimate relationship with God offers a more comprehensive picture of God's nature – forgiving, loving, healing, and redeeming. The ancient stories, much like the parables of Jesus, call us to think very seriously about who God is.

In today's gospel, Jesus is beginning his journey toward Jerusalem and the fate that waits for him there. But the start of that journey is delayed by this awesome revelation that we know as the Transfiguration – the moment when Jesus is glorified and revealed as the beloved Son of God, Messiah.

This event is traditionally associated with Mt Tabor, and the voice from heaven echoed those words spoken at the baptism of Jesus. The appearance of Moses and Elijah links Jesus with the expectations of the Jewish people. Moses, representing the Law, and Elijah, the prophets, looked forward to God's supreme intervention in human affairs (Jesus).

The desire of the disciples to preserve the moment by building shelters was in contrast to Jesus' aim of continuing the journey to its outcome.

Objectives

- † To connect children with their Baptism.
- † To help children listen to Jesus.

Background

- † We hear the Transfiguration every year on the Second Sunday of Lent.
- † Peter saw a preview of eternal life and wanted to prolong their experience.
- † By following God's command to listen to Jesus, we obtain eternal life.
- † Peter, James, and John were having a mountaintop (spiritual) experience.

Leader's Reflection Questions

- † During anxious moments, how often do you turn to God?
- † How do you respond?

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, go with your leaders and God, inviting us to listen to Jesus.

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 and prepare. Begin with the Sign of the Cross. Help the children think about and connect their actions as they touch their foreheads, shoulders, and stomachs. The leader may say the following prayer in these or similar words.

**Loving God, you invite us to follow you. Help us to listen to your voice.
Amen.**

Invite the children to listen to the Gospel.

Gospel

The children stand for the Gospel. The leader proclaims the Gospel. All sign themselves on the forehead, lips and chest. Minister of the Word: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Mark. All sign themselves on the forehead, lips and chest.

Children respond: Glory to you, O Lord

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel, according to Mark

Jesus took Peter, James and John with him and led them up a high mountain alone. And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became dazzling white, like no one on earth could bleach them.

And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, who were talking with Jesus.

Then Peter said to Jesus, "Rabbi, it is good for us to be here; let us make three dwellings, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He did not know what to say, for they were terrified.

Then a cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud came a voice, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

Suddenly, when they looked around, they saw no one with them anymore but Jesus.

As they came down the mountain, he ordered them to tell no one about what they had seen until after the Son of Man had risen from the dead.

So they kept the matter to themselves, questioning what this rising from the dead could mean.

At the end of the Gospel, the Minister of the Word proclaims The Gospel of the Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Children: 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.

An excellent place to begin is the question:

What did you hear?

Have you ever climbed a mountain?

People often went up mountains to come close to God, and this is why Jesus took some of his special friends with him. Last week, Jesus was in the desert. This week, we read about Jesus going to the top of a high mountain.

Jesus took three friends with him: Peter, James and John. Something amazing happened. Jesus was with them but looked very different. His face was shining bright, and his face was as bright as the sun. He was so bright that even it was difficult for his friends to recognize him.

How do you think Peter, James and John felt?

(They may have been frightened.)

Then they saw two people talking with Jesus, who lived long ago. Everyone heard a voice saying, "This is my Son, the Beloved; listen to him!"

They learned that Jesus was God's Son and God loved him. Not everyone could have witnessed this, and God wanted us to listen to what Jesus said.

When you were baptized, you became God's child, too. Even though we weren't on the mountaintop with Peter, James and John, we know what they learned.

Each Easter, we remember that Jesus died for us and then rose from the dead. God's love and God's life are stronger than death. Jesus is with us forever. He promises us that we will be with God forever, too. Right now, we are getting ready for Easter.

How can we listen to and follow Jesus today?

(Allow time for the children to answer. Possible answer: By telling everyone about Jesus).

When we do these things, Jesus asks that we shine like he did. We are Jesus' friends forever.

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

Recite the Creed or use the sample below to ask the children to respond.

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 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: Inspired by today's readings, let us call upon God for our needs. Our response is: Lord, hear our prayer. **R./**

Lector: For the Church, the sign of God in the world, that the Holy Spirit will be seen to live strongly there, we pray: **R./**

For the poor of the world and those who have nothing, we pray: **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.

Lector: For the gift of patience, we pray: **R./**

Leader: Loving and eternal God, you are all seeing and knowing; bless us and those for whom we pray in hope through Jesus our Lord. Amen.

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.

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

Be mindful of children having difficulty finding their families.

Readings: Lectionary Sundays and Solemnities, Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Ottawa, ON, adapted for children.
Prepared by the Diocese of Hamilton, Liturgy Office, © 2024



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