



# DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

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

## Children's Liturgy of the Word TWELFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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*Often, in life, we find that when we have invited Jesus into our boat—into our lives—we don't get so thrown by all the stormy things that happen in our lives. If we panic too much, we can't always hear Jesus helping us to weather the storm until things calm down a bit. Then we realise that with God in charge, we don't actually need to be so terrified.*

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The first reading stresses God's power over the sea and creation. The Hebrews were in awe of the seas and affected by ancient myths that saw them as the source of evil and chaos. The image of an all-powerful God holding back the waves beating at the shore symbolized God's power to limit evil and destruction. In the Gospel, we have the first of Mark's miracle stories framed in a storm at sea. Jesus suggests to his followers that they cross the lake to the other side. The sun has set, and soon, it will be nightfall. The pressing crowds are left behind, but what lies ahead? The lake was usually calm, but because of its position is subject to sudden wind storms. Mark intends the raging sea to be a symbol of the forces of evil. The words Jesus addresses to the sea are words he uses to drive out devils and quiet nature. Jesus' miracles are not designed to produce the spectacular but to restore things to normal.

### Objective

- † To introduce God's power in creation.
- † Jesus' calming of the storm is a sign of his divinity.

## Background

**Job 38:1, 8-11** The Book of Job deals with the mystery of human suffering. Job, a righteous man, is afflicted with numerous difficulties. His friends claim he suffers because he sinned, reflecting a traditional religious point of view. However, rightly so, Job vehemently disagrees. He turns to God to ask why he is afflicted. God responds by reminding him of the great mystery and marvels of the universe that God created. Job begins to see that God is more mysterious than he will ever be and that God, not Job, is in charge.

**Psalms 107** The Israelites believed that the desert and the sea were the most dangerous and mysterious places on earth (chaos). They knew that only God could control them. This psalm uses sailors who set out from safe shores and encounter a storm to convey God's providence. The sailors acknowledge God's authority as they call out, and God responds by guiding them to a safe harbour. The psalmist invites everyone to praise our loving God.

**2 Corinthians 5:14-17** Paul insists that true apostles have been transformed by faith in Christ and live for Him, not themselves. He encourages us to embrace this transformative change and adopt a Christlike perspective.

**Mark 4:35-41** In the time of Jesus, the Sea of Galilee was a boundary between the Jews and the Gentiles. Jesus encouraged his followers to journey into the unfamiliar territory of the Gentiles, symbolizing a challenging passage where fear and doubt weighed heavily on the disciples and the early Church. Despite the Lord's presence, they felt the burden of the journey as if they were alone, and at times, it appeared that Jesus was unaware of their struggles. In moments of fear, the disciples cried out, awakening Jesus from his slumber, fearing for their lives. Jesus's command to calm the turbulent waters illustrates his authority over chaos and the world. This extraordinary event signifies that Jesus is God's chosen one. We can endure any storm with Jesus by our side, relying on his unwavering presence and protection.

## Leader's Reflection Questions

- † How do you see God in the storms of life?
- † How does creation inspire your prayer?

## Suggested Focus

Green cloth, a Lectionary, a candle, a model sailing ship, or an ocean picture.

## 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, storms can be scary. Sometimes, when life does not go your way, you get upset. Listen carefully to the Word of God today and hear how God calms the storms and brings calm to us in 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 in sitting and preparing. **Begin with the Sign of the Cross.** Help the children think and connect their actions as they touch their foreheads, shoulders, and stomachs. The leader may say the following prayer in these or similar words.

**O God,**

**God, send the calming presence of the Holy Spirit into our hearts as we listen to your Word.**

**Amen.**

Invite the children to listen to the readings. Proclaiming all the readings is unnecessary; however, the Gospel is required.

## First Reading

### **A reading from the book of Job.**

From the storm, the Lord said to Job:

"After the ocean was born, I enclosed it with a wall.  
I used the mist for its baby clothes and covered it  
with clouds.

I marked out its boundaries and locked it behind  
doors.

Then I said to the ocean,  
'Your raging waves stop here!  
This is as far as you go!"

### **The word of the Lord.**

*At the end of the reading, the Minister of the Word proclaims, "The word of the Lord."*

### **Children: Thanks be to God.**

*A period of silence is observed after the reading.*

## Responsorial Psalm

**R.** Give thanks to the Lord; God's love is everlasting.

Some of you made a living sailing the mighty sea,  
and you saw the miracles the Lord performed there. **R**

At his command, a storm arose, and waves covered  
the sea.

You were in serious trouble, but you prayed to the  
Lord, and he rescued you. **R**

He made the storm stop, and the sea be quiet. You  
were happy because of this. And he brought you to  
the port where you wanted to go. **R**

## Second Reading

### **A reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.**

Brothers and sisters:

We are ruled by Christ's love for us. We are certain that if one person died for everyone else, then all of us have died. And Christ did die for all of us.

He died so we would no longer live for ourselves but for the one who died and was raised to live for us.

We are careful not to judge people by their appearance, though we once judged Christ in that way.

Anyone who belongs to Christ is a new person. The past is forgotten, and everything is new.

### **The word of the Lord.**

At the end of the reading, the Minister of the Word proclaims, "The word of the Lord."

### **Children: Thanks be to God.**

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

## Gospel

The children stand for the Gospel, which the leader proclaims. They sign themselves on the forehead, lips, and chest.

### ✠ A reading from the holy Gospel, according to Mark.

**Children respond: Glory to you, O Lord.**

Jesus told his disciples, "Let's cross over to the east side." So they left the crowd, and his disciples started across the lake with him in the boat.

Some other boats followed along. Suddenly, a windstorm struck the lake. Waves started splashing into the boat, and it was about to sink.

Jesus was in the back of the boat with his head on a pillow, and he was asleep. His disciples woke him and said, "Teacher, don't you care that we're about to drown?"

Jesus got up and ordered the wind and the waves to be quiet. The wind stopped, and everything was calm.

Jesus asked his disciples, "Why are you afraid? Don't you have any faith?"

Now they were more afraid than ever and said to each other, "Who is this? Even the winds and waves obey him!"

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

### **The Gospel of the Lord.**

**Children: Glory to you, O Lord.**

## Reflection

The leader may offer this reflection in these or similar words. Remember 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?** Allow each child to respond to the Word of God in their own words. Then, begin a general discussion, building on their responses, using prepared questions, like the following, to stimulate ideas.

In today's Gospel, we hear about a bad storm that caused the boat that Jesus and the disciples were in to rock from side to side. They were afraid that the boat would sink. Jesus was asleep. His friends woke him up because they were afraid.

### **Have you ever felt afraid?**

Jesus commanded the storm to stop, and it was over.

### **Who did you go to when you felt scared?**

After he calms the storm, Jesus asks the disciples, "Why were you afraid? Don't you have any faith?" The disciples must have forgotten that God was always with them and would always care for them. They panicked. They forgot to pray to God for help.

### **How do you think the disciples felt before they woke Jesus?**

When they asked Jesus for help, he helped them right away! Then they weren't afraid anymore. Sometimes, things happen suddenly that scare us. This is just how life can be sometimes. Jesus wants us to know that he is always with us, no matter what is happening, good or bad. He is always listening.

### **Have you ever prayed to Jesus when you were afraid?**

Have faith because when you trust in God's love, even when bad things happen. In addition to all the people you've named who can help you when you feel scared or sad, you can always go to Jesus. Jesus can always help us when we are afraid. We can pray to Jesus. We can pray in the silence of our hearts, whisper a prayer when we are by ourselves, and say a prayer with a big group of people as we do at Mass. No matter how we pray, Jesus hears us.



### For Consideration

You may consider reassuring the children that it is all right to feel afraid and scared in a storm and, like the disciples, find a parent, teacher or guardian who can help or comfort us.

Another possibility is to ask the children to remember times when they have comforted someone fearful or anxious. Similarly, Jesus acts with compassion. Whenever we feel scared, troubled, or distressed, regardless of age, we can all turn to Jesus for help calming and comforting us. He may do this through our family or use our words and embrace to console others.

Sometimes, as you seek Jesus' help calming your fears, you may suddenly experience inner peace, like the calmness after a storm. Jesus is more than just a regular teacher; he has the power of God to rely on.

We can see in Jesus the power and love of God.

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: I believe.

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

All: I believe.

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

All: I believe.

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

## Prayer of the Faithful

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: we pray. All respond to each petition by saying: **Lord, hear our prayer**. Sample intercessions are below.

**Leader: Let us pray to the God for our needs: R./**

**Lector: For Church leaders throughout the world, we pray: R./**

**Lector: For people everywhere, that God will help us care for the waters, the earth, the sea and the air, we pray: R./**

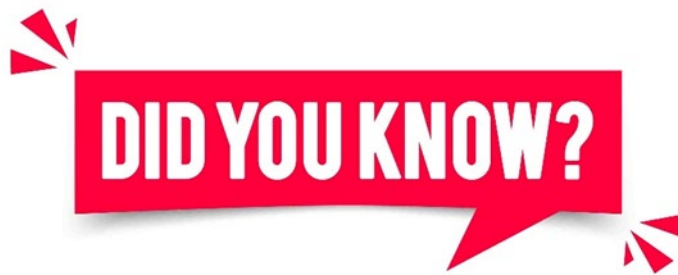
**Lector: For the lonely, the sick, and the hungry, we pray: R./**

The leader may invite other intercessions from the children.

**Leader: Almighty God, hear the prayers your children make to you. Through Jesus our Lord.**

**Amen.**

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.



## **Glory to You, O Lord**

When the priest or deacon announces the Gospel at Mass, the people respond, "Glory to you, O Lord." The response marks the tiniest change introduced in the revised English translation of the Mass. It inserts the word "O."

This brief dialogue serves two purposes—one practical, the other spiritual. The announcement tells the community which of the four Gospels provides today's excerpt. Spiritually, though, the people respond by glorifying the Lord. Their words acclaim Jesus Christ the Lord, who is about to speak to them through his word. The proclamation of the Gospel is a sacramental moment. Christ is present to his people. He is talking to them. This is not a mere reading of an old book but a living proclamation of Christ's word to his people today.

For this reason, the people greet Christ before and after the Gospel: "Glory to you, O Lord," at the beginning and "Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ," at the end. They do not address the deacon or the priest who proclaims the Gospel; they address Jesus Christ, whose word they hear.

The word "O" appears in this acclamation. Some people were saying it all along. Others make a slight adjustment. Throughout the revised translation of the Missal, the word "O" has been inserted into prayers addressing "Lord" or "God" to soften the way we speak, to sound more humble, and to show respect for the one we are addressing. This happens most often in the priest's prayers but occasionally in the texts assigned to the people. When you respond, "Glory to you, O Lord," you are greeting Jesus Christ, who is about to speak to you, and you show him respect with your word and your heart.

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Lectionary for Masses with Children, Catholic Book Publishing Co, New York, NY, 1993.

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Liturgy adapted for Children.

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