



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

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

Children's Liturgy of the Word THIRTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

The Book of Wisdom was the last Hebrew Scriptures written before Christ's birth. It accepts an idea late to Hebrew thought: immortality, of life after death.

In the first reading, death means not physical death but the death of the spirit. We all must die physically, but for God's faithful, death changes life but does not end it. Death gives way to the promise of immortality.

In the Gospel at Mass, the story of the woman suffering from a hemorrhage has been sandwiched into the story of Jairus' daughter, just at the point between Jairus' plea for help and their receiving the news of the death of his daughter. (Although today's Gospel reading for Children has left out the story of the woman with the hemorrhage, as leaders, reflecting on the two stories together as the Gospel writer wrote them is helpful.) Jairus asks Jesus to lay his hands on his daughter to make her better and save her life, and when news of her death comes, Jesus tells him, "Don't worry, just have faith."

The word used for "get well" also means "save." The physical healing is only a sign of a deeper healing - salvation. Mark depicts Jesus as one with unprecedented power and authority. On this occasion, power over that final, fearful human misery - death. As Mark's Gospel will eventually reveal, death has no finality in the presence of Jesus. He has the victory.

Objective

- † To help children understand that God intends for humans to live forever.
- † To help children see hope in Jesus for eternal life.

Background

Wisdom 1:13-15; 2:23-24 This passage combines ideas from Jewish and Greek thinking. It says everyone is made to live forever because we are all made like God. It explains that death came into the world because of the serpent, which is the same as Satan. It says those who live the way God made us will never die. But those who don't live like this won't have eternal life. The author presents us with a choice: eternal life or everlasting death. We trust in God and pray that God helps us to choose the right way.

Psalms 30: The text is a song of praise and thanksgiving to God for saving the writer from a terrible fate. It emphasizes God's kindness, dependability, and readiness to help.

2 Corinthians 8:7, 9, 13-15 Paul encourages the Corinthian community to share their material abundance with others. He praises them for following Christ and receiving many gifts through the Spirit. Paul asks the Corinthians to share with other communities in need, as he believes this is imitating Jesus and experiencing God's graciousness.

Mark 5:21-43 This passage talks about having faith in God, which helps us connect. It shows that we become a living example of God's care and healing by doing this. In the story, Jesus faces evil, sickness, and death while celebrating life. When Jesus goes to Jairus' house, they find out that Jairus' daughter has died. Jesus tells Jairus not to be afraid but to have faith. Despite the crowd's disbelief, Jesus goes to the girl, touches her, and asks her to wake up. Jesus brings the girl back to life and tells her parents to give her something to eat. This story encourages us to have faith in God's life-giving care. Like Jesus, followers are asked to reach out so that others can feel God's healing care and compassion. The Gospel focuses on Jesus' mission to guide people from loneliness, sickness, and the power of evil to God and the life-giving support of family and community. It also talks about the challenges of being a disciple.

Leader's Reflection Questions

- † What is your experience of death?
- † How does it shape your understanding of God's power?
- † How does hope in eternal life affect how you live now?

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, God does not want us to suffer or our lives to end. He made us to live forever with him in joy and peace. Jesus is our way to God and our promise of life everlasting. He speaks to you now in today's readings and guards you with his love. Go and listen to him.

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 Wisdom.

God did not create death, but he is sad whenever a living creature dies.

God made everything, and there is a reason for every living creature.

No deadly poison is in them, and the kingdom of death doesn't rule the earth.

Goodness will never die. God created us to live forever, just as he does.

But the Devil was jealous and brought death into the world.

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. I will praise you, Lord, for you have rescued me.

Your faithful people, Lord, will praise you with songs
and honour your holy name.

At night, we may cry, but when morning comes,
we will celebrate. **R**

Have pity, Lord! Help!

You have turned my sorrow into dancing.

I will never stop singing your praises,
my Lord and my God. **R**

Second Reading

A reading from the second letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters:

You do everything better than anyone else.

You have stronger faith.

You speak and know more.

You are eager to give, and you love us better.

Now, you must give more generously than anyone else.

You know that our Lord Jesus Christ
was kind enough to give up all his riches and become
poor so that you could become rich.

I am not trying to make life easier for others by making
life harder for you.

But it is only fair for you to share with them
when you have so much, and they have so little.

Later, when they have more than enough
and you are in need,
they can share with you.

Then, everyone will have a fair share.

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 got into the boat and crossed Lake Galilee. Then, as he stood on the shore, a large crowd gathered around him. The person in charge of the Jewish meeting place was also there. His name was Jairus, and when he saw Jesus, he approached him. He kneeled at Jesus' feet and started begging for help. He said, "My daughter is about to die! Please come and touch her so she will get well and live!" Jesus went with Jairus. Many people followed and kept crowding around.

A little while later, some men came from Jairus' home and said, "Your daughter has died! Why bother the teacher anymore?" Jesus heard what they said and said to Jairus, "Don't worry. Just have faith!" Jesus did not let anyone go with him except Peter and the two brothers, James and John. They went with Jairus and saw the people crying and making a lot of noise.

Then Jesus went inside and said to them, "Why are you crying and carrying on like this? The child is not dead. She is just asleep." But the people laughed at him.

After Jesus had sent them all out of the house, he took the girl's mother, father, and his three disciples and went to where she was. He took the twelve-year-old girl by the hand and said,

"Talitha, koum!" means, "Little girl, get up!" The girl got up and started walking around. Everyone was amazed. But Jesus ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened. Then he said, "Give her something to eat."

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.

Have any of you been very sick?

How did your moms and dads feel when you were sick?

In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus heals the very sick daughter of a man named Jairus. Like your parents, Jairus must have felt scared and worried. He loved his daughter and needed to find help for her. Jairus must have trusted that Jesus could help him. He must have believed that Jesus could do great things. Even when people said it was too late for anyone to help Jairus' daughter, Jesus said to Jairus, "Don't worry. Just have faith!"

What does it mean to have faith? To Jesus, all our dead, children and loved ones, are but asleep in death. As the risen Lord, he will come to awaken them. That is our faith. That is why the words addressed to Jairus are addressed to us all: "Don't worry (or be afraid), just have faith." This Gospel story is given to us as Good News to nourish our faith in Jesus and to relight our hope in his power over death. It is a strong message to those who see death as the end, as the last word in every human story. Our faith tells us differently.

When we have faith in someone, we trust them. We trust them just like Jairus trusted Jesus. We trust that they will do what they say, even if others say they won't. We believe what they say even if we don't have any proof that it's true.

What does it mean to have faith in God?

Jairus's faith in Jesus was greatly rewarded when he got his beloved daughter back. We must also have the same kind of trust and faith in God. As we discussed last week, Jesus is with us in good times, in sad times, in scary times, and in happy times. Jesus is with us always, and he always wants good things for us. We just have to have a strong faith in Jesus!

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 the church, home of the poor, that it will lead with strong faith that shines out for all to see, we pray: R./

Lector: For ourselves, we will show our belief in Jesus by the way we live, 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.



Ordinary Time

ORDINARY TIME, the longest season of the Church year, fills the weeks that do not celebrate a specific aspect of the mystery of Christ (*Universal Norms on the Liturgical Year and the General Roman Calendar*, 43). It's the no-particular-reason season. Christmas Time honors the birth of Christ. Easter Time rejoices in the Resurrection. Ordinary Time is devoted to the mystery of Christ in all its aspects.

The number of the weeks of Ordinary Time replaces the old counting of weeks “after Epiphany” and “after Pentecost.” The old calendar suggested that Pentecost ran for six months. The new calendar gives Pentecost a day. Then we return to Ordinary Time.

At first glance, the principles of Ordinary Time seem basic enough. Start counting the weeks after Christmas Time. Break for Lent and Easter. Resume after Pentecost and keep counting until Advent. Basically, that's how it works. But we have a few quirks.

For example, there is no “First Sunday in Ordinary Time”; however, there is a first week. Usually Christmas Time ends on a Sunday with the Baptism of the Lord. The lectionary also calls it the First Sunday in Ordinary Time, but it is part of Christmas

Time. (Some years the Baptism of the Lord falls on a Monday, but that's another story.) Ordinary Time gets underway on a weekday. When the next Sunday rolls around, we start week two.

On the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday, we see the last of Ordinary Time until after Pentecost. Even then, it emerges only on weekdays. Trinity Sunday always follows Pentecost Sunday, and the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of the Lord comes the next Sunday in the United States. (In countries where this solemnity is a holyday, it falls on a Thursday.) Therefore, when the numbered Sundays in Ordinary Time return in summer, we start out a little higher than where we left off.

Sometimes we skip one or two entire weeks of Ordinary Time during the Easter break. We want to close the Sundays of the year with Christ the King, one week before Advent. Christ the King always falls on the Thirty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. So, we determine the week number after Pentecost not based on where we left off before Lent, but by counting backwards from Christ the King. One or two weeks may disappear, but Ordinary Time still serves the complete mystery of Christ.

Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: The Liturgical Year © 2020 Archdiocese of Chicago:
Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner.

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

Did you know: Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: The Mass © 2020 Archdiocese of Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications. All rights reserved. Written by Paul Turner.

Liturgy adapted for Children.

All rights reserved. Prepared by the Diocese of Hamilton, Liturgy Office, © 2024



DIocese OF HAMILTON