



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

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

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

Today's readings focus on the theme of Mission, highlighting the sending of Jesus' disciples to fulfill a purpose.

In the first reading, God chose Amos, a sheep farmer, to speak out against social injustice in the northern kingdom of Israel. He bravely confronted the government and the nation's rulers despite the expectation that prophets would only denounce external enemies. Amaziah, the priest at Bethel, attempted to get Amos to leave, but Amos, a farmer with no community status, was unswayed. He continued to warn about the consequences of their unjust ways. Amos, a prominent and outspoken prophet from Judah, delivered an unwelcome message during Israel's era of expansion and prosperity.

In the Gospel, we have the story of Jesus sending out the Apostles as his missionaries, telling them to travel light. They should not be weighed down with possessions, nor should they take money. They were to have the freedom of Amos—the freedom of the unencumbered. They have to carry the missionary word of Jesus. That is enough. That is the only necessity they are to take.

When Jesus sends his disciples out, he sends them in pairs to support each other. We need to ask ourselves two questions: How ready are we to speak God's truth when we know it will make us unpopular? How best can we support and encourage each other to live and work as Jesus asks us to, especially if we are in an environment that is hostile to hearing the good news of God's love?

Objective

- † Help the children see Christian faith as a faith of mission – the mission of Jesus Christ.
- † You might help the children understand that when we are not burdened with false titles (possessions) or pride, we are free to work for the Lord.
- † You may wish to introduce the children to the Sacrament of the Sick.

Images from the Readings

- † Sent
- † Turn to God
- † Anointing with oil

Oil of the Sick

The Oil of the Sick is used in the Sacrament of the Sick in the Catholic Church. This healing sacrament traditionally uses olive oil. The bishop blesses fresh oil each year during Holy Week at the Chrism Mass, but in case of necessity, any priest may bless the oil for this sacrament within the celebration of the rite. In the distant past, lay people anointed the sick, but today, only a priest or bishop may administer this sacrament.

The sick were anointed even before Christ. In Mark 6:13, Jesus sent the disciples out to anoint the sick. James 5:14 urges the sick to send for the church's elders for an anointing. The custom of anointing the sick continued, but only the dying were anointed for several hundred years. The priest prayed for their forgiveness and anointed them on seven different parts of the body. The Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) brought about a renewed understanding of the Sacrament of the Sick.

The priest anoints the sick's forehead and palms while praying that God will save and raise them. The anointing accompanies a prayer for physical and spiritual healing.

The Oil of the Sick is often kept in a container marked OI for oleum infirmorum, the Oil of the Sick in the church, however, almost every priest carries some in his car.

Background

Amos 7:12 Amos, a herdsman from Judah in 750 BC, was called by God to prophesy to the northern kingdom of Bethel. He announced God's judgment on the prosperous north for their injustice toward the poor. Despite being banished by the priest of Bethel, Amos remained faithful to God's word, emphasizing that his loyalty lies with God and not with priests or kings.

Psalms 85 expresses the longing of a suffering community for restoration, justice, and peace. It emphasizes the community's trust in God's covenant promises to bring about economic prosperity and communal well-being.

Ephesians 1:3-14 The message to the Ephesians stresses the Trinitarian nature of God and emphasizes that we were chosen for adoption in Christ, to be holy and without blemish. Through Christ, we are redeemed, and the Holy Spirit, we become children of God at baptism. We are called to share this knowledge so that all may become aware of God's deep, mysterious love.

Mark 6:7-13 emphasizes Jesus' intention to empower his followers to continue his mission in the world. Jesus taught his disciples to confront the forces of evil by healing the sick and bringing hope and restoration to those in need. He entrusted them with the same authority that he had and instructed them to rely on others and travel light as they carried out their mission. Jesus also warned them that they would face rejection but encouraged them to shake off the negativity and keep moving forward. As we follow the same guidance and instructions today, we become instruments through which God's love and care are brought to life. In proclaiming God's reign and continuing Jesus' work, we become living testimonies to his teachings.

Leader's Reflection Questions

- † What is your Christian mission?
- † How do you assess it?
- † How do you shake off negativity and embrace the mission of Christ?

Suggested Focus

Green cloth, Lectionary, a candle, a walking stick and sandals.



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: Children, when you follow Jesus, you will not need many things. God's love and grace go with you. Always place your hope and trust in God. May you go forward as Jesus' followers, keeping God in your heart. Go in peace.

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,

Come, Holy Spirit, fill us with your presence.

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 the prophet Amos.

Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent this message to Jeroboam, the king of Israel: "Amos is plotting against you in the very heart of Israel. Our nation cannot put up with his message for very long. Here is what he is saying: 'Jeroboam will be put to death, and the people will be taken to a foreign country.'"

Amaziah told Amos, "Take your visions and leave! Go back to Judah and earn your living there as a prophet. Don't do any more preaching here at Bethel. The king worships here, and this is our national temple."

Amos answered, "I'm not a prophet! And I wasn't trained to be a prophet. I raise livestock and take care of fig trees. But the Lord told me to leave my herds and preach to the people of Israel."

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. Lord, show us your mercy and love and grant us your salvation.

Or Alleluia.

I will listen to you, Lord God,
you promise peace to those who are faithful.
You are ready to rescue everyone who worships you
so that you will live with us in all of your glory. **R**

Love and loyalty will come together; goodness and peace
will unite.

Loyalty will sprout from the ground;
justice will look down from the sky above. **R**

Our Lord, you will bless us;
our land will produce wonderful crops.
Justice will march in front,
making a path for you to follow. **R**

Second Reading

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

Brothers and sisters:

Praise the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ for the spiritual blessings that Christ has brought us from heaven! Before the world was created, God had Christ choose us to live with him and to be his holy, innocent, and loving people. God was kind and decided that Christ would choose us to be God's own adopted children. God was very kind to us because of the Son he dearly loves, and so we should praise God.

Christ sacrificed his life's blood to set us free, which means that our sins are forgiven. Christ did this because God was so kind to us.

God has great wisdom and understanding, and through Christ, God has shown us his own mysterious ways. Then, when the time is right, God will do everything he has planned, and Christ will bring together everything in heaven and on earth.

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 called together his twelve apostles and sent them out two by two with power over evil spirits. He told them: "You may take along a walking stick. But don't carry food or a travelling bag or any money. It's all right to wear sandals, but don't take along a change of clothes.

When you are welcomed into a home, stay there until you leave that town.

If any place won't welcome you or listen to your message, leave and shake the dust from your feet as a warning to them."

The apostles left and started telling everyone to turn to God. They forced out many demons and healed a lot of sick people by anointing them with oil.

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.

Ask the children what they remember about last Sunday's readings.

Jesus himself was rejected as a prophet. In today's Gospel, Jesus sends his apostles to preach and heal the sick. He warns them that they, too, might be rejected. Tell the children that these people were called "apostles" because that word means "a person who is sent." Help the children see that when an apostle doesn't have many possessions, they can be free to work for the Lord.

What did Jesus tell the apostles to do?

Why do you think he wanted them to do that?

Jesus asks his special friends to help more people learn about God. He gives them instructions on preaching, healing, and sharing God's love with others. The disciples go out in pairs and do amazing things! They share God's message and tell people to make God important in their lives. They healed the sick and made other people feel better!

You are also one of God's special friends. You can even start now by helping others know Jesus. Like I teach you, you can teach or share what you learn with someone else! It begins with you going to another person and sharing what you have learned about God.

Who tells us about God?

How might we tell other people about God?

How do we do this by our actions? By our words?

Who are the people you want to share something about God with today?

God cared for the disciples as they followed Jesus' directions. We can trust that God will care for us when we obey what Jesus teaches.

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: With hopeful hearts and strong faith, let us call upon God for our needs: **R.**

Lector: For the Church, a mother to those without hope, we pray: **R.**

Lector: That we have the strength and courage to do what we know is right, we pray: **R.**

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

Lector: For those who have died, we pray: **R.**

The leader may invite other intercessions from the children.

Leader: Loving God, you are the source of all hope; accept our prayers for whom we pray. 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.



St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus

THÉRÈSE OF Lisieux was so diminished by illness during her nine years in a Carmelite convent in Normandy, that she even signed some letters as the “completely little” Thérèse. Through meditating on the scripture, she came to realize that it was in her smallness that Jesus could lift her in his arms to heaven. This spiritual path bears some resemblance to the words of John the Baptist: “[Jesus] must increase; I must decrease” (John 3:30). Thérèse once called this view, “The Little Way.”

Upon entering religious life at the age of fifteen, she was given the title Thérèse of the Holy Face. Her contemplation of the suffering and glorious face of Jesus developed her spirituality.

In her brief twenty-four years of life, Thérèse left behind a trove of writings that have inspired many people to follow her path. *The Story of a Soul* collects her autobiographical works. Pope Pius XI canonized her less than thirty years after her death. Although she never traveled farther than Rome, she is a patron of the missions because of her concern for the salvation of every human. Although she had little formal education, she has been named a doctor of the Church.

The Collect for her memorial Mass acknowledges that God opens the Kingdom to those who are humble, and asks God to lead the faithful “trustingly in the little way of Saint Thérèse.” Perhaps in reference to her title “of the Holy Face,” the prayer also asks that “we may see your eternal glory revealed.”

Normally, the date of a saint’s death is the preferred date for his or her feast. Thérèse died on the feast of St. Jerome, September 30, so the Catholic Church observes her memorial on the next available day, October 1.

Bulletin Inserts for the Liturgical Life of the Parish: Mary, the Saints, and Angels
© 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