



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

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

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Trusting in God and Spreading Hope

Overview

As we enter Ordinary Time during the Jubilee of Hope, we will focus on Hope in the Scriptures.

What is Christian Hope? Christian hope trusts that Jesus loves us and will always care for us. It's about believing that, even when things are hard, God has a plan for something good to happen. Hope helps us stay happy and strong because we know God is with us.

Today's Gospel story comes from the story of the Wedding at Cana. The wine ran out at the wedding, upsetting people because wine was necessary for their celebration. Mary told Jesus about the problem and she believed he could help. Then, Jesus turned the water into wine. Everyone was amazed and happy again. The transformation of water into wine at Cana was Jesus' first recorded miracle, marking the beginning of his public ministry. It revealed his divine power and affirmed his identity as the Son of God.

This event demonstrated that Jesus could bring about transformation and abundance in our lives, laying the foundation for his future works. The overflowing wine at Cana foreshadows the abundant blessings brought through Christ. This miracle showed the people that Jesus cared about them and could bring joy and hope, even in difficult situations.

Christian hope means trusting Jesus to help us, even when things seem complicated. Just like Mary trusted Jesus at the wedding, we believe he will always care for us. Let's try to share hope with others by being kind, praying for them, and reminding them that God is always with them.

Leaders Reflections Question:

- † How does the miracle at Cana give you hope?
- † How can you help others see hope in Christ?

Suggested Focus

Prepare a focus for the children's Liturgy of the Word area:
Green cloth, a Lectionary, a candle, and a jug of water.

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Background

Isaiah 62:1-3 This passage speaks of hope in God's promises. The imagery represents a future where God restores justice. Receiving a new name shows transformation and renewal. The passage highlights the new identity God offers, emphasizing the special relationship between God and God's people. Zion is described as precious and glorious, like a royal crown, showing God's love for the people. The main message is that God's unfailing love and power will bring restoration and joy to them.

Psalms 96 expresses profound hope by focusing on God's greatness, glory, and worship.

1 Cor 12:4-11 focuses on the spiritual gifts given to believers by the Holy Spirit and their role in building up the body of Christ. The diversity of spiritual gifts reflects God's intention to equip all believers uniquely, showing that everyone has a role and purpose in God's plan. This gives hope that no one is excluded or insignificant in the body of Christ. This unity fosters a sense of belonging and shared purpose among believers, assuring them they are all part of one divine plan.

John 2:1-12 The story of Jesus turning water into wine at the wedding in Cana is a powerful example of hope. It shows Jesus' ability to care for people and share God's blessings abundantly. Jesus' presence at the wedding highlights his willingness to join in ordinary life and bring his divine help into daily situations. This teaches us that God is close to us and involved in our lives. When Jesus sees the need for wine, he responds, showing he understands our human needs. This gives us hope that he cares about our everyday concerns. Mary's faith in Jesus offers a model of trust in his ability to help us. It encourages us to have confidence in Jesus' guidance and timing. The miracle of changing water into wine symbolizes Jesus' power to bring renewal and transformation in ordinary or hopeless situations. It reveals Jesus' divine nature and strengthens the faith of his disciples, pointing to the hope of his future works and his mission of salvation. Jesus remains present with his followers, building relationships and deepening their faith. His presence reassures us of his ongoing care and guidance.

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: (in these or similar words)

Good morning, children. Today, we hear about Jesus' first miracle at Cana in Galilee. Go with your leaders.

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.

Let us pray:

Dear Jesus, thank you for bringing us together today. Help us to listen to your Word with open hearts. Teach us about hope and how we can trust you. 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 Isaiah.

Jerusalem, I will speak up for your good. I will never be silent till you are safe and secure, sparkling like a flame.

Your great victory will be seen by every nation and king, and the Lord will give you a new name. You will be a glorious crown and a royal headband in the hands of the Lord your God.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

The word of the Lord.

Children: Thanks be to God.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

Responsorial Psalm

R. Proclaim God's marvellous deeds.

Sing a new song to the Lord!

Everyone on this earth,
sing praises to the Lord,
sing and praise God . **R**

Day after day announce,

The Lord has saved us!

Tell every nation on earth,

The Lord is wonderful and does marvellous things! **R**

Tell everyone,

Praise the glorious power of the Lord.

God is wonderful!

Praise God! **R**

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of Paul to Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters: There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but they all come from the same Spirit. There are different ways to serve the same Lord, and we can each do different things. Yet the same God works in all of us and helps us in everything we do.

The Spirit has given each of us a special way of serving others. Some can speak with wisdom, while others can speak with knowledge, but these gifts come from the same Spirit. To others, the Spirit has given great faith, the power to heal the sick, or the power to work mighty miracles.

Some of us are prophets, and some of us recognize when God's Spirit is present. Others can speak different kinds of languages, and still others can tell what these languages mean.

But the Spirit does all this and decides which gifts to give to each of us.

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. They sign themselves on the forehead, lips, and chest.

✠ A reading from the holy Gospel, according to John.

Mary, the mother of Jesus, was at a wedding feast in the village of Cana in Galilee. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited and were there.

When the wine was all gone, Mary said to Jesus, "They don't have any more wine."

Jesus replied, "Mother, my time has not yet come! You must not tell me what to do." Mary then said to the servants, "Do whatever Jesus tells you to do." At the feast, there were six stone water jars that were used by the people for washing themselves in the way that their religion said they must. Each jar held about 100 litres. Jesus told the servants to fill them to the top with water. Then, after the jars had been filled, he said,

"Now take some water and give it to the man in charge of the feast." The servants did as Jesus told them, and the man in charge drank some of the water that had now turned into wine. He did not know where the wine had come from, but the servants did. He called the bridegroom over and said, "The best wine is always served first. Then, after the guests have had plenty, the other wine is served. But you have kept the best until last!"

This was Jesus' first miracle, and he did it in the village of Cana in Galilee. There, Jesus showed his glory, and his disciples put their faith in him. After this, he went with his mother, his brothers, and his disciples to the town of Capernaum, where they stayed for a few days.

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:

Leader:

- **What did we hear?**

Leader:

One day, Jesus and his mother, Mary, went to a wedding. They ran out of wine during the party, which was a big problem. (Perhaps use an analogy of a birthday party without a cake to connect with the children.) Mary told Jesus, 'They have no wine,' and asked him to help. Jesus told the servants to fill six jars with water. Then, when they poured the water, it turned into wine! Everyone was amazed, and they were so happy. This was Jesus' first miracle, showing everyone the power of Jesus.

- **What happened at the wedding?**
- **Do you know the reason running out of wine was a problem?** (Wine symbolizes joy, celebration and God's blessings.)
- **What did Mary do?** (Mary asked for Jesus' intercession and is a model for us.)
- **Who did she trust to help?**
- **What did Jesus do?**
- **How did Jesus bring hope to the people at the wedding?** (Jesus gives us hope because Jesus cares about our problems; we can trust Jesus, and Jesus can do amazing things.)

Leader:

Jesus brings hope even when things seem difficult or impossible. Mary trusted Jesus, and we can trust him, too. When we pray and believe, Jesus can bring joy and hope to our lives and those of others.

Hope means trusting that God has a plan even when something unfortunate happens to us, even when we can't see the reason for it. Just like Mary trusted Jesus at the wedding, we can trust Him to help us. We may not always understand God's plan. However, we can rely on it.

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. The leader may need 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:

1. Let us pray to God, who always listens to us and fills our hearts with hope.
After each prayer, we will say, **Lord, fill us with hope. (R:)**
2. For the Church: That all the people in the Church may share the message of Jesus' love and bring hope to those who feel sad or alone. We pray to the Lord.
R:
3. For the World: That all people in the world may work together to make our world a better place filled with hope. We pray to the Lord. **R:**
4. For Families: That families everywhere will grow in love and kindness, helping each other and showing God's hope to the world. We pray to the Lord. **R:**
5. For Those Who Are Sad or Sick: That anyone who is feeling sad, sick, or worried will feel Jesus' love and have hope that better days will come. We pray to the Lord. **R:**
6. For Ourselves: That we will always trust in God's promises, knowing that He is with us and will help us when we need Him. We pray to the Lord. **R:**
7. *The leader may invite other intercessions from the children.*

Leader:

Loving God, thank You for always hearing our prayers. Fill our hearts with hope, and help us to share Your love with everyone we meet.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Return to the church.

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 for Masses with Children

USCCB

Adapted for children.

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