



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

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

Children's Liturgy of the Word

Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Finding Hope in Following Jesus

Overview

In today's readings, Isaiah and Simon are asked, "Who will go for me?" (paraphrased). Both Isaiah and Simon Peter see themselves in a new light when they see God. They feel fear but God encourages them not to be afraid. Ultimately, both respond to the call of discipleship. We are disciples of Jesus.

The second reading helps us to see the truth and hope of the Paschal Mystery.

In the gospel, Jesus likely already knew Simon, as he had previously healed his mother-in-law. Jesus had spent time in Capernaum, preaching and healing the sick, and the large crowd following him had witnessed these events.

Despite his doubts, Simon's willingness to follow Jesus leads to a miraculous catch of fish. In response, Simon Peter confesses his sinfulness and addresses Jesus as 'Lord.' It is after this acknowledgment that Jesus reveals the mission for his disciples. Several of Simon Peter's companions also accept Jesus' call. The imagery in the readings is symbolic: the Church is depicted as a boat and as a net.

Leaders Reflection

Reflect on what it meant for Simon Peter and his companions to 'put out into the deep.' Just as Jesus urged Simon Peter to venture into deep waters, he invites us to embrace him too. Our deep waters may seem overwhelming, yet Jesus calls us to have faith. With courage and boldness, we are empowered to say 'yes' to the call of being Christian in today's world.

- † What is our response to the call of God and follow him?
- † In what ways are you being asked to put out into deep water today?

Suggested Focus

Prepare a focus for the Children's Liturgy of the Word area:
Green cloth, a Lectionary, a candle, a deep bowl of water, and a (fishing) net.

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Background

Isaiah 6.1-2a, 3-8 The prophet Isaiah's vision occurs in the year King Uzziah died, who had violated the laws of the Temple, which allowed the Israelites to reconnect with God and find new hope. Isaiah sees the Lord on a throne in the temple¹, surrounded by Seraphim² who proclaim God's holiness. Isaiah then recognizes God's greatness and glory. In response, Isaiah recognizes his own sinfulness, similar to Peter in the Gospel, and a Seraph cleanses him with a lump of burning coal, symbolizing forgiveness and foreshadowing Christ's work of salvation when the Lord obtains forgiveness of our sins.

Psalms 138 reminds us to have hope in God's greater plan beyond our circumstances. The psalmist wants to worship the Lord because of God's unwavering love and greatness. It encourages all on earth to praise God, emphasizing God's care for the lowly and attention to the faithful.

1 Corinthians 15.3-8, 11 presents a foundational teaching of the Christian faith, focusing on Jesus Christ's death and resurrection. It is one of the most powerful declarations of the Paschal Mystery³, reminding us of our hope as Christians. Christ died for sins, was buried, and was raised on the third day, all in accordance with the Scriptures. Death is not the end.

Luke 5:1-11 recounts Jesus calling his first disciples—Simon Peter, James, and John. Despite a long night of unsuccessful fishing, Jesus encouraged them to try again, teaching us that even in our failures, we should trust God and hold onto hope. Jesus transforms Peter's life from a fisherman to a fisher of people, giving his life true meaning and purpose. Ultimately, true fulfillment comes from following Christ rather than seeking earthly success.

¹ Heaven

² A class of heavenly Angels. Catholic theology traditionally ranks the Seraphim above the Cherubim as the highest of nine choirs or orders of Angels.

³ The term **paschal mystery** is best understood in connection with history. Humankind and the cosmos have been redeemed, and the mystery (the "secret") of this divine plan of salvation was revealed and brought to fulfillment in Christ, our Pasch.

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)

My dear children, Jesus calls you as he did his first disciples. Do not be afraid, as Jesus will always guide you. Now go and listen to his Word.

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 calling us to be your disciples. Help us to listen to your voice and follow you every day. 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.

In the year that King Uzziah died,
I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lofty;
and the hem of his robe filled the temple.
Seraphs were in attendance above him;
each had six wings.

And one called to another and said:
“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory.”
The pivots on the thresholds shook at the voices
of those who called,
and the house filled with smoke.

And I said:
“Woe is me! I am lost,
for I am a man of unclean lips,
and I live among a people of unclean lips;
yet my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

Then one of the seraphs flew to me,
holding a live coal that had been taken from the altar with a pair of tongs.
The seraph touched my mouth with it and said:
“Now that this has touched your lips,
your guilt has departed, and your sin is blotted out.”
Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying,
“Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?”
And I said, “Here am I; send me!”

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. Before the Angels I sing your praise, O Lord.

I give you thanks, O Lord, with my whole heart;
before the Angels I sing your praise;
I bow down toward your holy temple,
and I give thanks to your name
for your steadfast love and your faithfulness. **R.**

For you have exalted your name
and your word above everything.
On the day I called, you answered me,
you increased my strength of soul. **R.**

You stretch out your hand, and your right hand delivers me.
The Lord will fulfil his purpose for me;
your steadfast love, O Lord, endures forever.
Do not forsake the work of your hands. **R.**

Second Reading

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Corinthians.

My brothers and sisters,
I handed on to you as of first importance
what I, in turn, had received:
that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,
and that he was buried,
and that he was raised on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures,
and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.
Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers and sisters at one
time,
most of whom are still alive, though some have died.
Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.
Last of all, as to one untimely born, Christ appeared also to me.
Whether then it was I or they,
so we proclaim, and so you have come to believe.

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.

Gospel

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

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

While Jesus was standing beside the lake of Gennesaret⁴, and the crowd was pressing in on him to hear the word of God, he saw two boats there at the shore of the lake; the fishermen had gone out of them and were washing their nets.

Jesus got into one of the boats, the one belonging to Simon, and asked him to put out a little way from the shore. Then he sat down and taught the crowds from the boat.

When he had finished speaking, he said to Simon, "Put out into the deep water and let down your nets for a catch." Simon answered, "Master, we have worked all night long but have caught nothing. Yet if you say so, I will let down the nets." When they had done this, they caught so many fish that their nets were beginning to break. So they signalled their partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both boats so that they began to sink.

But when Simon Peter saw it, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Go away from me, Lord, for I am a sinful man!" For Simon Peter and all who were with him were amazed at the catch of fish that they had taken, and so also were James and John, sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon.

Then Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid; from now on, you will be catching people." When they had brought their boats to shore, they left everything and followed Jesus.

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.

⁴ Lake Gennesaret is another name for the Sea of Galilee.

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:

Who did Jesus call to follow him? (Peter, James, and John.)

What happened when Peter obeyed Jesus? (He caught so many fish that the nets almost broke.)

What did Jesus tell Peter? (Do not be afraid. You will now catch people instead of fish.)

What does this mean? (Jesus wants us to share His love and invite others to follow him.)

Have you ever tried something, like a sport or dancing, or maybe you felt nervous speaking in front of other people? Sometimes we may think we are too small, too weak, or too ordinary for God to use us. But today, our readings tell us something amazing—God chooses ordinary people to do great things!

Jesus calls us to follow him, just like he called Peter. Each time we say "yes" to Jesus, he gives us hope and a new purpose. Jesus sees something great in you. He wants you to share his love, be kind to others, and help people find him. Jesus never gives up on you.

Jesus calls you, strengthens you, and gives you hope! Just like Peter, Jesus calls each of us to follow him as a disciple. We might not fish for real fish, but we can "catch" people by being kind, sharing, and telling others about Jesus.

This week, be like Peter and say, "Here I am, Lord!"

- † Maybe it's helping a friend who is sad.
- † Maybe it's praying when you feel afraid.
- † Maybe it's telling someone about Jesus' love.

Always remember—Jesus has a great plan for your life!

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: Jesus calls us to follow him. Let us offer our prayers to God.
The response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For the Church, that we may always listen to Jesus and follow him. We pray to the Lord. All: Lord, hear our prayer.
2. For our families and friends, that we may love one another as Jesus loves us. We pray to the Lord. All: Lord, hear our prayer.
3. For people who feel sad or afraid, that they may know Jesus is always with them. We pray to the Lord. All: Lord, hear our prayer.
4. For ourselves, that we may say "Yes" to Jesus and follow him every day. We pray to the Lord. All: Lord, hear our prayer.
5. For the sick, that they may find hope in Jesus. We pray to the Lord.
6. *The leader may invite other intercessions from the children.*

Leader:

Jesus, thank you for calling us to be your followers. Help us to listen to your voice, trust in you, and share your love with others. 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 Sunday and Solemnities,
Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, Ottawa, ON, 2009
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