



# DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

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

## Children's Liturgy of the Word

Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time

*Happiness is Hoping in God*

### Overview

The readings this week assure us that no matter our present circumstances, hope is found in trusting God, who provides, sustains, and ultimately leads us to eternal life.

Jeremiah contrasts those who rely on human strength (like a barren bush in the desert) with those who trust in God (like a tree planted by the waters). Hope comes from knowing that when we place our trust in God, we are sustained, nourished, and able to withstand hardships.

In the Gospel, Jesus proclaims blessings upon the poor, hungry, and sorrowful, assuring them of God's future justice. This reading challenges us to trust in God's promises rather than worldly security, offering hope that suffering and injustice are not permanent.

All of the readings offer a powerful contrast between trust in our human strength and trust in God, ultimately pointing us to a deeper hope rooted in God.

## Leaders Reflection

The Beatitudes confront us with choices concerning temporal or earthly possessions. They challenge us to purify our hearts and embrace the values of God that are completely opposed to those of the world. The things that we think we need to be happy and successful are exposed as being of no value at all in God's life. The Beatitudes provide us with the heart of the Christian way of life. It takes complete trust to live the Beatitudes. Jesus is asking us for that complete trust in God, no matter what our condition in life.

What does the church teach us about worldly wealth and the responsibilities required of those who have an abundance of it? Social justice teachings of the church have been consistent in the past hundred years – they remind us that the teachings of Jesus were not just for that time but for all time. Jesus is addressing us with the challenge of his teaching. Jesus did not say that it was wrong to own things, have enough to eat or have a comfortable home, but his sermon reminds us that this should not be our sole focus in life.

† What steps might you take this week to focus more attention on spiritual values?

## Background

**Jeremiah 17:5-8.** Jeremiah was a prophet during a turbulent time in Israel's history. The nation was under threat from Babylon, and political leaders often sought security in alliances with foreign powers rather than in God's protection. Jeremiah consistently warned against this misplaced trust. The passage presents two contrasting ways of life: one of cursedness, marked by reliance on human strength, and one of blessing, rooted in trust in God. The passage echoes Psalm 1 and anticipates Jesus' Beatitudes in Luke, reinforcing the theme that true security and life come from trusting in God rather than in fleeting worldly power.

**Psalm 1** is a wisdom psalm that introduces all of the psalms. It lays out the two paths of life: the righteous path, leading to divine blessing, and the wicked path, leading to destruction.

**1 Corinthians 15:12, 16-20** Paul writes to the Corinthians to correct misunderstandings about the resurrection. Some in the community doubted bodily resurrection, influenced by Greek thought that viewed the body as inferior to the soul. He reminds them that the resurrection is the foundation of the Christian faith. Without it, Christianity collapses. This passage offers ultimate hope—death does not have the final word. Jesus' resurrection is proof that life in God continues beyond the grave.

**Luke 6:17, 20-26** This passage is from Luke's version of the Beatitudes, often called the Sermon on the Plain (as opposed to Matthew's Sermon on the Mount). Luke's Beatitudes are more direct than Matthew's, emphasizing physical poverty and social justice rather than spiritual dispositions. Jesus contrasts blessings for the poor and suffering with woes for the rich and comfortable. His words reflect a great reversal: those who are poor, hungry, and sorrowful now will be rewarded, while those who are rich and satisfied now will face hardship. This teaching is consistent with Old Testament prophetic tradition, which condemns the exploitation of the poor and calls for justice. The Beatitudes are not just promises of future reward; they invite a present trust in God's kingdom, shifting focus away from worldly success. Jesus assures the suffering that God sees their struggles and will ultimately bring justice. Those who trust in God rather than material wealth already belong to God's kingdom.

## 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 tells us that our neighbours in need are special and important. God, who loves them, also loves you. Go now and listen to the Word of God.**

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:**

**Loving God, thank you for bringing us together today. Help us to listen to your Word and learn how to trust in you with all our hearts. 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 Jeremiah.**

The Lord blesses everyone who honestly trusts him.

They are like trees growing beside a stream,  
trees with roots that reach down to the water  
and have leaves that are always green.

They always bear fruit,  
and they don't worry about the lack of rain  
during the dry season.

*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** **Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord.**

I patiently waited, Lord,  
for you to hear my prayer.

You listened, and you let me stand on a rock  
with my feet firm. **R**

You gave me a new song,  
a song of praise to you.

Many will see this,  
and they will honour and trust you, the Lord God. **R**

I am poor and needy,  
but, Lord God, you care about me,  
and you come to my rescue.

Please hurry and help. **R**

Second Reading

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

Brothers and sisters:

If we preach that Christ was raised from death,  
how can some of you say  
that the dead will not be raised to life?  
If the dead won't be raised to life,  
Christ was not raised to life.

Unless Christ was raised to life,  
your faith is useless,  
and you are still living in your sins.  
And those people who died after putting their faith in him  
are completely lost.

If our hope in Christ is only for this life,  
we are worse off than anyone else.

But Christ has been raised to life!  
And he makes us certain  
that others will also be raised to life.

*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.

Jesus and his apostles went down from the mountain and came to some flat, level ground.

Many other disciples were there to meet him.

Large crowds of people from all over Judea, Jerusalem, and the coastal cities of Tyre and Sidon were there too.

Jesus looked at his disciples and said:

'God will bless you people who are poor.

His kingdom belongs to you!

God will bless you, hungry people.

You will have plenty to eat!

God will bless you people who are crying.

You will laugh!

'God will bless you when others hate you and won't have anything to do with you.

God will bless you when people insult you and say cruel things about you,

all because you are a follower of the Son of Man!

Long ago, your own people did these same things to the prophets.

'So when this happens to you,

be happy and jump for joy!

You will have a great reward in heaven.'

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:

In the first reading, Jeremiah talked about trees. Imagine two trees: one next to the water and the other in a very dry desert.

**What happens to a tree near water?** (It grows strong.)

**What happens to a tree in the desert?** (It dries up.)

That tree is like us! When we trust in God, we grow strong like a tree with deep roots. But when we forget God, we become like a dry bush. If you had to cross a big road, would you rather hold your parent's hand or go by yourself? (Hold a parent's hand.)

In the Gospel, Jesus tells the people what makes people truly happy. (Blessed) He tells them that people who trust in God are blessed and happy, even if they are poor or sad.

**Why do you think that is?** (Because God is always with us.)

Jesus cautions us that if we only care about money or fun things, we might forget about God.

**What are some ways we can remember to trust in God every day?** (Pray, go to Mass, be kind to others, share, help people in need.)

God wants us to take good care of each other, especially people who are hungry and not treated respectfully.

- † Trust in God, and you will be strong like a big tree.
- † Real happiness comes from God, not just things.

God's love lasts forever, but money and things do not.

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:** Let's pray to God, who loves us and takes care of us. After each prayer, we say, Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For our Church and leaders, that they may guide us to trust in God, we pray to the Lord. All: Lord, hear our prayer.
2. For our families, that we may always trust in God and love one another, we pray to the Lord. All: Lord, hear our prayer.
3. For those who are sick or sad, that they may feel God's love and be comforted, we pray to the Lord. All: Lord, hear our prayer.
4. For the poor and hungry, that we help them and share what we have, we pray to the Lord. All: Lord, hear our prayer.
5. *The leader may invite other intercessions from the children.*

**Leader:**

Loving God, we trust in you. Help us to always follow 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 for Masses with Children  
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