



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

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

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

The Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C, offers a message of rejoicing, comfort, and the call to spread the Gospel. The readings emphasize God's promise of peace and prosperity, the importance of carrying the message of Christ, and the joy found in serving God.

Both the first reading and the responsorial psalm highlight themes of comfort and joy. The prophet Isaiah uses the imagery of a mother comforting her child to describe God's care for Jerusalem, promising prosperity and rejoicing. Similarly, the Psalmist calls on all the earth to make a joyful noise to God and sing praises to His name.

The Gospel reading focuses on the mission of spreading the message of the Kingdom of God. Jesus sends out the seventy to prepare the way, instructing them to heal the sick and proclaim the nearness of God's Kingdom. This act mirrors Jesus' own ministry of going from town to town, preaching the good news of the Kingdom. The call to proclaim the Gospel is a central theme, emphasizing the Church's role in evangelization and bearing witness to Christ. The Gospel is meant for all people, and the Church is called to share this message without hesitation.

The readings also emphasize the nature of discipleship and the importance of bearing witness to Christ. Paul's declaration in Galatians highlights the new creation brought about by Christ's cross, urging believers to follow this new way. The return of the seventy, rejoicing in their newfound authority over demons, underscores the power and responsibility that come with discipleship. Disciples of Christ are called to share the new life they have received, respecting the freedom and conscience of every individual.

In summary, the Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C, calls for rejoicing in God's comfort and provision, actively proclaiming the Gospel, and embracing the new creation offered through Jesus Christ.

Self-Reflection Questions

- † How can I approach the session with a prayerful attitude, seeking guidance from the Holy Spirit?
- † Do I clearly explain the main points of the readings in a way that children could grasp?

Background

Isaiah 66:10-14 offers deep comfort, depicting God's loving relationship with Jerusalem through maternal imagery. It speaks of restoration and joy, inviting those who love Jerusalem to rejoice in her renewal. This maternal care symbolizes spiritual nourishment and satisfaction, with God promising to provide abundance and prosperity. It emphasizes the importance of faithfulness to God, highlighting His protection for His servants and the consequences for opponents.

Psalms 66 is a hymn of praise and thanksgiving, calling all the earth to worship God for his mighty deeds and faithfulness. It reflects on God's power and deliverance and the importance of acknowledging his blessings.

Galatians 6:14-18 encapsulates the essence of Christian identity and the transformative power of the Cross. It emphasizes the rejection of worldly values and the embrace of a new creation in Christ Jesus.

Luke 10:1-9 recounts Jesus sending out seventy-two disciples to prepare the way for his coming, demonstrating themes of mission, simplicity, and reliance on God. This passage invites us to consider our role in spreading the Gospel. Like the seventy-two disciples, we are called to be messengers of Christ, bringing God's peace and healing to those around us. It also conveys a message of proactive evangelization, trusting in God's provision, offering peace and healing, and remaining focused on proclaiming the Kingdom of God. It calls believers to embrace a simple lifestyle, relying on God's grace as we share the Gospel with others.

Key Themes:

Joy and Comfort (Isaiah 66:10-14): God loves us like a caring mother and wants us to be happy and comforted in Jerusalem (the Church).

Sharing God's Love (Luke 10:1-12, 17-20): We are all called to share God's love with others, just like Jesus sent out the 72 disciples.

Boasting in the Cross (Galatians 6:14-18): Being proud of Jesus and what He did for us on the cross is most important.

Praising God (Psalm 66): We should joyfully praise God for His wonderful deeds and mighty power.

Points for Leaders:

God's Comfort: Explain how God's love is like a mother's love, always comforting and caring.

Being Helpers: Discuss how Jesus sent out the 72 disciples to spread God's message.

The Importance of the Cross: Explain that Jesus died on the cross for us because God loves us very much.

Praising God: Encourage the children to praise God through singing, prayer, and acts of kindness.

Connecting to Daily Life:

Encourage the children to look for ways to share God's love with others every day.

Remind them to be thankful for God's blessings and to praise God in their prayers.

Help them understand that even small acts of kindness can make a big difference in the world.

Focusing on these key themes and catechist points can help the children understand the message of the readings and how it applies to their lives.

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, go with your leaders and listen to a story about how Jesus sends his friends out to share his peace and love with others. He wants us to do the same!

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.

Lord God,

Thank you for sending us Jesus, who brings us peace and joy.

Help us to listen to his words and share his love with everyone.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

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.

The prophet Isaiah tells us to be happy with Jerusalem¹. God loves Jerusalem very much, like a mother loves her child. God wants everyone who loves Jerusalem to be happy and joyful with her.

God will make Jerusalem a happy place, full of joy. It will be like when a mommy comforts her little one. God will hold Jerusalem in his arms and bounce her on his knees. He will take care of Jerusalem and make her feel safe and loved.

God says he will give Jerusalem peace, like a river that never stops flowing. God will make Jerusalem rich and strong, and everyone will be happy. When you see this, your heart will be filled with joy. You will feel strong and healthy like grass growing in a field.

God loves Jerusalem very much, and he wants all of us to be happy with her. So let's all shout for joy and be glad because God is taking care of Jerusalem! God's love is like a bright light that shines everywhere. We can all share in God's love and be happy together."

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.

¹ In the NT, the city is seen as a type of the new or heavenly Jerusalem. Revered as a "holy city" by the world's three great monotheistic religions: Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. Jerusalem is one of the world's oldest cities. The importance of Jerusalem can scarcely be overestimated: it is central in many of the events related in the Old Testament, and it takes on new theological importance in the New Testament.).

Responsorial Psalm

R. Sing a Happy Song to God!

Clap your hands, everyone! Shout with joy to God!

Sing a happy song about how wonderful God is!

Tell God, "You do amazing things!

Everyone will bow down to you because you are so strong and great!" R.

All the people on Earth will sing to you and shout your name!

Come and see what God has done!

God does great things for all people! R.

Second Reading

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

St. Paul says he will only be proud of one thing: the cross of Jesus. Because Jesus died on the cross for us, the bad things of the world don't matter to Paul anymore, and Paul doesn't matter to the world either. It's like they're not even there.

What matters most is being a new creation. It doesn't matter if we have special marks on our bodies or not. What matters is that we are new inside because we love Jesus.

So, we should all follow this rule: be kind to each other, and God will give us peace and be kind to us.

Paul says that no one should make trouble for him because he has marks on his body that show he belongs to Jesus. These marks are like a brand that says, "I love Jesus!"

Paul wants God to be kind to everyone and give them his grace.

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 Luke.**

Children respond: Glory to you, O Lord.

Jesus chose seventy-two of His followers. He sent them out two by two to go to every town and place he planned to visit.

He told them, "There are many people who are ready to hear about God's love, but there aren't many workers to tell them. So, pray to God to send more helpers.

Go now, but be careful. It won't always be easy, like lambs going among wolves.

Don't take money or extra shoes. When you enter a house, say, 'Peace be with this house.' If the people there are kind, they will feel God's peace. If not, God's peace will come back to you.

Stay with the people who welcome you, eat what they give you, and tell them, 'The Kingdom of God is near!'"

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.

Let's talk about what we just heard.

How many people did Jesus send out? (72 - Jesus sent the 72 helpers because there were so many people who needed to hear about God's love.)

What were they supposed to say when they entered a house? (Say, "Peace to this house!" The first thing they were to do was offer a blessing of peace to the household.)

What do you think it means to share peace with others? (Invoking God's favour and goodwill. It's a prayer for their well-being and harmony.)

Key messages for children are:

Sharing is Caring: Jesus wants everyone to know about God's love, and we can help share that love with others.

Helpers are Important: Jesus needs helpers to spread His message, and we can all be helpers in our own way.

Be Kind to Others: When we visit or meet people, we should be kind and offer them peace.

God Takes Care of Us: Jesus tells his helpers not to worry about bringing lots of things because God will provide for them.

Sharing God's Love Makes Us Happy: Helping others and sharing God's love brings joy to us and to those we help.

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's now pray together and ask God to help us share His peace.
After each prayer, we will say: Lord, hear our prayer. **R./**

Lector: For all people in the world, that they may know God's love and peace, we pray: **R./**

Lector: For those who are sad or lonely, that we may be friends to them, we pray: **R./**

Lector: For our families, that we may show love and kindness to each other, we pray: **R./**

Lector: For ourselves, that we may be good messengers of Jesus by the way we live, we pray: **R./**

The leader may invite other intercessions from the children.

Leader: **Loving God, help us to share Your peace everywhere we go.
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.

Liturgy adapted for Children.

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