



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

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

Children's Liturgy of the Word Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Overview

The readings for the Twenty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time highlight important themes such as humility, generosity, and God's care for the humble and poor.

Humility is a Christian virtue. The readings encourage us to see how God wants us to live. Humility is not a weakness or failure. As Christians, we are invited to resist the common attitudes of pride and the drive for success at all costs. Instead, we are called to make genuine relationships, honest commitments, and care for one another.

Pope Francis pointed out that a person's true worth isn't determined by their status or achievements, but by their inner freedom. This freedom shines through when someone is humble, takes on challenges, or supports others. He stated that the true message of the Gospel is found in this kind of freedom, while a lack of this freedom can lead to selfishness and unfairness. Ultimately, finding salvation comes from embracing humility, which is the best cure for pride. Objectives:

- To help children gain some understanding of humility.
- To help children use the virtue of humility to help others.

Key Words and Concepts for Children

Humility is rooted in reality. Grounded in an awareness of our limitations and shortcomings in the presence of the Divine (God), it leads us to a profound sense of total dependence on God and to a desire to do God's will in all things. It means recognizing the truth about ourselves and about God.

Generosity is sharing what we have with others, especially those who might not have as much as we do. It's like sharing toys or snacks or inviting someone who might feel left out.

Mount Zion and Heavenly Jerusalem are special names for heaven, where God lives with all the angels and saints.

New Covenant is a new promise God made with us through Jesus. It's a way for us to be closer to God.

Self-Reflection Questions

- † What is my definition of humility?
- † How did I introduce the concept of humility to children?

Background

Sirach emphasizes the virtue of humility. It teaches that humility leads to greater love and favour with God. The passage states that the greater one is, the more one should humble oneself because God is glorified by the humble. The passage also warns against arrogance, describing it as an incurable disease.

Psalms 68 praises God's goodness and his special care for the vulnerable. It describes God as the "father of orphans and the defender of widows" who provides a home for the forsaken and leads prisoners to prosperity. The psalm celebrates God's bountiful provision for his inheritance and his people, particularly the poor.

Hebrews contrasts the old covenant experience at Mount Sinai with the new covenant experience at Mount Zion. It reminds the faithful that they have not approached a terrifying mountain filled with fire and storm, such as a volcano, but rather the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God, a majestic city where everyone wants to live. The reading characterizes the city by using countless angels praising God, the assembly of people who are the firstborn of Christ, God the judge, and Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, whose sprinkled blood speaks more eloquently than that of Abel.

Luke presents Jesus' teachings on humility and generosity at a dinner hosted by a leading Pharisee. Jesus observes guests choosing places of honour and advises them to take the lowest place instead. He explains that those who humble themselves will be exalted, while those who exalt themselves will be humbled. Furthermore, Jesus instructs the host to invite the poor, crippled, lame, and blind to his banquets, rather than friends or relatives who can repay him. He promises that those who invite the needy will be blessed and repaid at the resurrection of the righteous.

The Liturgy

Procession from the main Church

After the opening prayer, when all are seated, the leaders come forward and stand facing the altar.

Dismissal

Priest: Today, Jesus teaches us about humility. Listen to Jesus, who teaches you how to love as God loves.

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:

Pause for 5 – 10 seconds

God our Father, every good thing comes from you. Fill our hearts with love for you, and help us grow in goodness by the power of your Holy Spirit and by following Jesus' example. 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.

Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Sirach.

Sirach 3.17-20, 28-29

Work humbly, and you will find favour in the sight of the Lord.

My child, perform your tasks with humility;
then you will be loved by those whom God accepts.
The greater you are,
the more you must humble yourself;
so you will find favour in the sight of the Lord.
Many are lofty and renowned,
but to the humble the Lord reveals his secrets.
For great is the might of the Lord;
but by the humble he is glorified.
When calamity befalls the proud,
there is no healing,
for an evil plant has taken root in them.
The mind of the intelligent appreciates proverbs,
and an attentive ear is the desire of the wise.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 68.3-4, 5-6a, 9-10

R. God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

Let the righteous be joyful;
let them exult before God;
let them be jubilant with joy.
Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
his name is the Lord,
be exultant before him. **R.**

Father of orphans and protector of widows
is God in his holy habitation.
God gives the desolate a home to live in;
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity. **R.**

Rain in abundance, O God,
you showered abroad;
you restored your heritage when it languished;
your flock found a dwelling in it;
in your goodness, O God,
you provided for the needy. **R.**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 12.18-19, 22-24a

*You have come to Mount Zion,
to the dwelling place of the living God.*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

You have not come to something that can be touched,
a blazing fire, and darkness, and gloom,
and a tempest, and the sound of a trumpet,
and a voice whose words made the hearers beg
that not another word be spoken to them.

But you have come to Mount Zion
and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,
and to innumerable angels in festal gathering,
and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven,
and to God the judge of all,
and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,
and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

GOSPEL

Luke 14.1, 7-14

*All who exalt themselves will be humbled,
and those who humble themselves will be exalted.*

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

On one occasion, when Jesus was going to the house of a leader of the Pharisees to eat a meal on the sabbath,

the lawyers and Pharisees were watching him closely.

When Jesus noticed how the guests chose the places of honour, he told them a parable.

"When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet, do not sit down at the place of honour,

in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host; and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you,

'Give this person your place,'

and then in disgrace you would start to take the lowest place.

"But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he may say to you, 'Friend, move up higher'; then you will be honoured in the presence of all who sit at the table with you.

For all who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Jesus also said to the Pharisee who had invited him,

"When you give a luncheon or a dinner,

do not invite your friends or your brothers or sisters or your relatives or rich neighbours, in case they may invite you in return, and you would be repaid.

But when you give a banquet,

invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.

And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you, for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."

The gospel of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

Adapted Liturgy of the Word

FIRST READING

A reading from the book of Sirach.

Sirach 3.17-20, 28-29

Work humbly, and you will find favour in the sight of the Lord.

My child, perform your tasks with humility;
then you will be loved by those whom God accepts.
The greater you are,
the more you must humble yourself;
so you will find favour in the sight of the Lord.
For great is the might of the Lord;
but by the humble he is glorified.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

The word of the Lord.

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RESPONSORIAL PSALM

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R. God, you made a home for the poor.

Sing to God, sing praises to his name;
his name is the Lord. **R.**

God gives the desolate a home to live in;
he leads out the prisoners to prosperity. **R.**

In your goodness, O God,
you provided for the needy. **R.**

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You have come to Mount Zion
to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem,
to innumerable angels in festal gathering,
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to God the judge of all,
to the spirits of the righteous made perfect,
to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

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and those who humble themselves will be exalted.*

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

Jesus was going to eat a meal on the sabbath.

When he noticed how the guests chose the places of honour,
he told them a parable.

"When you are invited by someone to a wedding banquet,
do not sit down at the place of honour,
in case someone more distinguished than you has been invited by your host;
and the host who invited both of you may come and say to you,
'Give this person your place,'
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"But when you are invited, go and sit down at the lowest place,
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For all who exalt themselves will be humbled,
and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

"When you give a luncheon or a dinner,
invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind.
And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you."
The gospel of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

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 the children a few minutes to respond.

Have you ever been to a party? Maybe a birthday party or a family gathering?

When you arrive, where do you sit?

In today's Gospel, Jesus tells us a story about a wedding party. He noticed that some people were trying to get the very best seats, the places of honour.

Jesus teaches us something very important about humility. Humility means not thinking you are better than others and being happy to serve others.

What did Jesus say we should do instead?

Jesus tells us that instead of trying to get the best seat, we should choose the lowest place.

What is Jesus trying to teach us?

Why?

Because if the host wants you to move up, it will be a wonderful surprise! But if you choose the highest place and then have to move down, it can be embarrassing. Jesus says, "For everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exalted." This means that if we are proud and always want to be first, God might show us that we are not. But if we are humble and put others first, God will lift us up.

Jesus also tells the host of the party something special. He says that when we invite people to a meal, we shouldn't just invite our friends or family who can invite us back. Instead, we should invite those who cannot repay us, people who are less fortunate than we are.

Why?

When we help those who cannot help us back, God sees it, and God will reward us in heaven. This is what it means to be truly generous and loving, just like God is generous and loving to us.

So, what can we learn from this?

Be humble: Be happy to help others and let others shine. When you are at home, help your parents without being asked. When you play games, don't always insist on your own way.

Be generous: Share what you have with others, especially those who might not have as much as you. When you have extra toys or clothes, think about giving them to someone who needs them. When you have a snack, offer to share it with a friend.

Love everyone: Jesus wants us to love everyone, not just our friends. He wants us to be kind to everyone, even people we don't know very well or who are different from us.

When we are humble and generous, we show God's love to the world. And God promises to bless us for it!

Let us pray that we can all be more humble and generous, just like Jesus taught us.

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 us offer our prayers to God, who always listens to us. The response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For Pope Leo XIV, our bishops, priests and deacons, that they may lead us with humility and wisdom, we pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

2. For all leaders in the world, that they may work for justice and peace, especially for those who are in need, we pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

3. For all families, that they may learn to be humble and generous with one another, sharing their love and gifts, we pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

4. For all children, that we may learn to be kind, humble, and share with our friends and classmates, we pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

5. For those who are sick, lonely, or sad, especially people who need help, that God may comfort them and send people like us to help them, we pray to the Lord: All: Lord, hear our prayer.

6. The leader may invite other intercessions from the children.

Leader: God our Father, you know what is in our hearts. Hear our prayers and help us to live as your humble and loving children, we pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

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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Acknowledgments:

LECTIONARY SUNDAYS AND SOLEMNITIES

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