



# DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

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

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

### Overview

Today's readings invite us to see the inseparable link between loving God and caring for the poor.

The prophet Amos confronts us with a harsh picture: the dishonest who crush the needy, and God's anger at such injustice, which shows that exploitation of the vulnerable is a grave offence against Him.

Psalms 113 reminds us that the Lord lifts us up. When God raises the poor, He reveals His own face; to serve the poor is to serve Christ Himself.

St. Paul urges us to pray for all people, especially those in authority. Prayer prepares our hearts to act justly and to intercede for those who suffer, opening the way for concrete service.

Jesus tells the parable of the dishonest steward. Although the steward's methods were wrong, the Master praised his shrewdness because he acted wisely for his future. The more profound lesson is Jesus' warning: "Whoever is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much." Our daily choices—sharing a snack, telling the truth, helping another—are where God tests our love for the poor.

The Gospel concludes, "You cannot serve God and wealth." When we let the love of money dominate, we turn away from the poor, who are Christ's image. True discipleship demands that we place God first and serve the poor with generosity.

Today's Scriptures form a compelling picture: justice, prayer, faithful stewardship, and the rejection of selfish wealth are the pathways to serving God. Let us answer God's call by:

- charitably speaking out against injustice,
- praying for those in power and for the needy,
- being faithful in the small acts of love, and
- choosing God over material gain.

In doing so, we become Christ's hands and feet, lifting the poor from the dust and sharing in the glory of the Holy One. May the Holy Spirit give us the courage to live this Gospel daily.

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## LITURGY OF THE WORD

### FIRST READING

Amos 8.4-7

*The Lord's word against those who buy the poor for silver.*

A reading from the book of the prophet Amos.

Hear this, you that trample on people in need,  
and bring to ruin the poor of the land,  
saying, "When will the new moon be over so that we may sell grain;  
and the sabbath, so that we may offer wheat for sale?  
We will measure out less and charge more,  
and tamper with the scales,  
buying the poor for silver  
and the needy for a pair of sandals,  
and selling the sweepings of the wheat."  
The Lord has sworn by the pride of Jacob:  
"Surely I will never forget any of their deeds."

A period of silence is observed after the reading..

The word of the Lord.

**R. Praise the Lord who lifts up the needy.**

Praise, O servants of the Lord;  
praise the name of the Lord.  
Blessed be the name of the Lord  
from this time on and forevermore. **R.**

The Lord is high above all nations,  
and his glory above the heavens.  
Who is like the Lord our God, who is seated on high,  
who looks far down on the heavens and the earth? **R.**

The Lord raises the poor from the dust,  
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,  
to make them sit with princes,  
with the princes of his people. **R.**

1 Timothy 2.1-7++

*Let prayer be offered to God for all,  
for God wishes everyone to be saved.*

A reading from the first letter of Paul to Timothy.

My dearly beloved,  
I urge that supplications, prayers,  
intercessions, and thanksgivings be made for everyone,  
for kings and all who are in high positions,  
so that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life  
in all godliness and dignity.  
This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour,  
who desires everyone to be saved  
and to come to the knowledge of the truth.  
For there is one God;  
there is also one mediator between God and the human race,  
Christ Jesus, himself human,  
who gave himself a ransom for all;  
this was attested at the right time.  
For this, I was appointed a herald and an apostle,  
a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.  
I am telling the truth, I am not lying.

A period of silence is observed after the reading..

The word of the Lord.

A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke.

Jesus said to the disciples,

"Whoever is faithful in a very little

is faithful also in much;

and whoever is dishonest in a very little

is dishonest also in much.

If then you have not been faithful with the dishonest wealth,

who will entrust to you the true riches?

And if you have not been faithful with what belongs to another,

who will give you what is your own?

"No servant can serve two masters;

for a servant will either hate the one and love the other,

or be devoted to the one and despise the other.

You cannot serve God and wealth."

The gospel of the Lord.

### Objectives:

- To help children understand honesty and caring for those in need.
- To help children understand choosing God over money.

Key Words and Concepts for Children

### Key Words

Fairness – Prayer – Stewardship - Honesty - Generosity

### Concepts for Children

Care for the Poor - Pray for Everyone - Be Honest

### Self-Reflection Questions

- † In what small, everyday decisions do I practice honesty?
- † How faithfully do I manage the "little things" (time, talent, resources) entrusted to me?
- † When faced with the temptation to "serve two masters," do I find myself placing wealth or personal ambition above my relationship with God? How can I reorient my priorities?



## Background

**Amos 8:4-7** is a classic biblical indictment of social sin: structures that exploit the vulnerable for profit. The Church teaches that the dignity of every human person must be protected, and that economic activity must serve the common good (Catechism of the Catholic Church §§ 2419-2421). Catholics are called to defend the poor, promote honest trade, and keep worship free from commercial pressure.

**Psalms 113** reflects the Church's conviction that God preferentially cares for the marginalized and that true worship lifts them to dignity. It resonates with the first reading's call to justice and the Gospel's concern for the poor. We are invited to join the heavenly chorus by working for the uplift of the downtrodden.

**1 Timothy 2:1-7** tells us that the Church has always taught the importance of praying for civil authorities (Catechism of the Catholic Church, § 2235) to foster the common good and social peace. Catholics are encouraged to include leaders in their prayers, seeking God's guidance for just governance.

**Luke 16:10-13** The parable teaches that temporal goods must be used wisely to serve others and store "treasures in heaven." It warns against serving "two masters"—God and wealth (v. 13). We are called to manage material possessions with generosity, seeing them as instruments for the kingdom of God rather than ends in themselves.

## 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, the Word of God helps us discover how we can help people less fortunate than we are and be faithful with the little things God gives us." Go with your teachers 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:

Pause for 5 – 10 seconds

**Dear God, help us understand your Word today. Open our minds and hearts to follow Jesus, even when it is difficult.**

**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 FOR CHILDREN

### FIRST READING

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Hear this, you that trample on the needy,  
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A period of silence is observed after the reading..

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This is right and is acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour,  
who desires everyone to be saved  
and to come to the knowledge of the truth.  
For there is one God;  
there is also one mediator between God and the human race,  
Christ Jesus, himself human,  
who gave himself a ransom for all;  
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who will give you what is your own?

"No servant can serve two masters;

for a servant will either hate the one and love the other,

or be devoted to the one and despise the other.

You cannot serve God and wealth."

The gospel of the 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 the children a few minutes to respond.

In our first reading, the prophet Amos speaks on God's behalf. He warns that the leaders are unfair to people who have little. God sees when we ignore or hurt people who have little. Even a tiny lie or a selfish act matters to Him.

**Can you think of a time when someone needed help at school or home?**

**What could you have done to show kindness?**

God wants us to praise Him to lift those who are low. When we sing or say "thank you" to God, we join the angels who celebrate His love for the poor.

**What is one thing you can thank God for today?**

Do you know that praying isn't just for ourselves; it's a way to ask God to help the whole world. When we pray for a friend, a neighbour, or even a faraway country, we share God's love with them.

**Who will you pray for right now?** (Maybe a friend who is sad, a teacher, or a family member.)

Jesus tells us that even the tiniest actions—keeping a promise, sharing a toy, telling the truth—show whether we belong to God or to "money" (the desire to have more than we need).

**What is one small thing you can do today to show that you belong to God?**

Our readings today tell us to:

- Care for the poor - Amos warns us not to ignore them.
- Psalm 113 reminds us to lift our voices in thanks to God
- We should pray for everybody, especially our leaders.
- And lastly, Jesus tells us that small honesty builds enormous trust.

When we practice these four habits, we become little helpers of God, making the world brighter for everyone.

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 bring our prayers to God, who loves us and wants us to care for one another.

The response is: Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For the Holy Church – that the Pope, bishops, priests, deacons and all the faithful may grow in love and be true witnesses of Jesus, we pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

2. For the poor, the hungry, and the lonely – that they may receive food, shelter, and the friendship of caring people, we pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

3. For our families and friends – that they may be healthy, safe, and filled with God's love, we pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

4. For our leaders and all who make important decisions – that they may choose what is right, work for peace, and protect the earth, we pray to the Lord:

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

5. For the sick, the elderly, and those who are suffering – that they may feel God's comforting presence and receive the care they need, we pray to the Lord: All: Lord, hear our prayer.

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

Leader: Lord Jesus, you taught us to love one another as you love us. Hear the prayers of our hearts, help us live the words we have heard today, and fill us with the joy of sharing your love with everyone we meet.

We ask this through Christ 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.

## DID YOU KNOW?

### Objectives for Children's Liturgy of the Word

<b>Objective</b>	<b>What it means for the child</b>
<b>Introduce the child to the life of the Church.</b>	Children experience the Church as a community and begin to see themselves as members.
<b>Cultivate a personal relationship with God.</b>	Through prayers and Scripture, children encounter God as a loving who listens and responds to their needs.
<b>Develop an understanding of the Gospel and Scripture.</b>	The readings are presented child-friendly so they can grasp the main message and see its relevance for their own lives.
<b>Foster a sense of belonging and participation.</b>	Children are invited to sing, respond, and participate in the liturgy, learning that they are valued members of the Church.
<b>Teach moral values and Christian virtues.</b>	The liturgy and reflection invite honesty, charity, prayer, and service lessons.
<b>Encourage a prayerful life.</b>	Children learn to pray for themselves, their families, and the world, developing a habit of continual prayer.
<b>Build a foundation for lifelong faith formation.</b>	Early liturgical participation creates a pattern that can be deepened through catechesis, the sacraments, and adult worship, leading to mature Christian discipleship.

Liturgy adapted for Children.

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Acknowledgments:

LECTIONARY SUNDAYS AND SOLEMNITIES

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