



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

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

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD

Twenty-Eighth Sunday of Ordinary Time

19 And my God will fully satisfy every
need of yours according to his riches in
glory in Christ Jesus.

20 To our God and Father be glory
forever and ever. Amen.

PHILIPPIANS 4:19-20

Overview

The readings for the twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time invite us into God's generous love, to trust that we are known, welcomed, and cared for. He wants to draw us into communion with himself and with one another. His love calls us to respond with gratitude, faithfulness, and generous service.

We all carry burdens: grief, loneliness, fear, illness, or uncertainty about the future. We can bring these struggles to God without pretending to be strong or having everything figured out. Prayer makes room for honesty. Sometimes we speak freely; sometimes we simply sit quietly in his presence, trusting that he understands what we cannot express.

God's care does not mean that every difficulty will disappear or that every desire will be fulfilled. His presence sustains us through hardship. He gives us courage to take the next step, patience when answers come slowly, and strength to remain faithful when life becomes difficult.

Often, this care reaches us through others. A listening ear, a shared meal, a visit, or practical help can remind us that we are not alone. Receiving such kindness teaches us gratitude and opens our eyes to the needs around us. We, too, can become instruments of God's love.

Welcoming God into our lives also means allowing him to change us. His grace invites us to forgive, become more compassionate, and make room for people we might otherwise overlook. Faith grows through these daily choices to love.

At the Eucharist, Christ gathers and nourishes us, then sends us to carry his love into our homes and communities.

Where do I need to trust God more deeply, and whose needs can I help meet?

Lord, give us grateful hearts. Sustain us in our struggles, open us to your transforming love, and help us offer your care to others. May our daily choices reflect the generosity we have received from you. Amen.

Background

Isaiah 25:6–10 uses an image of a feast to illustrate God's care for His people, promising to wipe away tears and conquer death. It encourages children to envision a joyful table where everyone is welcome, emphasizing the happiness and salvation God offers.

Psalms 23 illustrates that God is like a good shepherd who leads, feeds, and protects us, guiding us through frightening times. Help children understand that God knows and watches over them.

Philippians 4:12–14, 19–20 Paul shares his experiences of abundance and scarcity, learning to rely on Christ for strength. He thanks the Philippians for their support. Encourage children to understand that trusting God means receiving help and being able to help others, rather than always getting what they want.

Matthew 22:1–10 tells a story about a king who invites people to his son's wedding feast. Some guests ignore the invitation, but the king sends out servants to invite others. Help children see that God invites them to be part of his loving family. We answer "yes" by coming to him and showing our love through how we treat others.

Key Messages for Children

1. **God invites everyone to be part of his family.** We can say "yes" to God by coming to him and learning to love others.
2. **Jesus gives us strength in hard times.** Like Paul, we can trust Jesus to help us when things are difficult.

Key Messages for Leaders

1. **Help children trust God without suggesting that life will always be easy.** Paul knew both hunger and abundance, and spoke of finding strength in Christ through every circumstance.
2. **Make God's welcome visible through practical kindness.** The Philippians supported Paul in his need; leaders can help children see that accepting God's invitation means noticing and caring for others.

The Liturgy

Procession from the main Church

At the proper moment, the priest invites the children to come forward. The leaders may come forward and stand facing the altar with the children. The priest then addresses the children.

Today, we will hear about God's love: God guides us like a shepherd, welcomes us to his joy, gives us strength, and asks us to care for one another.

Go with your leaders, and we will welcome you back soon.

Once most of the children have formed a procession, the leader with the book proceeds to the celebration site. The second leader usually walks behind the children. Upon arrival at the CLoW space, the leader places the book on the prepared table.

Welcome

The leaders help the children sit and prepare. **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 offer the following prayer, in these or similar words.

Let us quiet our hearts and make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

(Silence for a few seconds.)

**Loving God,
thank you for bringing us together.
Help us listen to your Word,
trust your care,
and show your love to everyone we meet.
Amen.**

Invite the children to listen to the readings. Proclaiming all the readings is unnecessary; however, at a minimum, proclaim the Gospel.

Readings

A reader proclaims the approved readings below. The intent is to allow the children to listen to the original reading and help them better understand it (not replace it).

Read at least the Gospel, then ask the children to sit down. You can then explain the readings. Leaders may not have time to read all the reading.

A reader must always remain faithful to the original Scripture's intent, making it age-appropriate for children.

First Reading

Isaiah 25:6-10a

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah.

On this mountain, the Lord will make a feast for everyone, a feast that includes good food and drink. God will take away everything that makes his people afraid and sad, and bring them joy and new life.

On that day, the people will say, "This is our God! We trusted him to save us, and he has come to help us. Let us be happy and celebrate!" The Lord will care for his people on this mountain.

The word of the Lord.

Observe a period of silence after the reading.

After proclaiming the reading, you could further explain it to a child like this:

The Prophet Isaiah gives us a picture of God preparing a wonderful feast for everyone. He promises to take away sadness and even defeat death, so his people can be joyful with him. The message is that God loves us, saves us, and wants us to share in his joy. When we feel sad or worried, we can remember that God is with us and can bring hope.

R. The Lord is my shepherd.

The Lord cares for me as a shepherd cares for his sheep. He gives me what I need. He helps me rest in green fields and leads me beside quiet water. He gives me new strength. **R.**

God shows me the right way to go. Even when I am in a dark and frightening place, I do not need to be afraid, because you are with me, God. Like a shepherd, you guide me and help me feel safe. **R.**

Your goodness and love will be with me every day of my life, and your house will be my home all my life. **R.**

After proclaiming the reading, you could further explain it to a child like this:

God is like a good shepherd who looks after his sheep. He guides us, gives us what we need, and stays with us when we feel afraid or have a hard time. We can trust that God loves us and will always lead us toward what is good.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Philippians.

My friends, sometimes I have had very little, and sometimes I have had plenty. I have known what it is to have enough to eat and what it is to be hungry. Through all these times, Jesus gives me the strength to keep going.

God will give you what you need through the great love of Jesus. Let us praise God our Father forever and ever. Amen.

The word of the Lord.

Observe a period of silence after the reading.

After proclaiming the reading, you could further explain it to a child like this:

Saint Paul says he has sometimes had plenty to eat and sometimes gone hungry. Whatever happened, Jesus gave him the strength to keep trusting God. Paul is also thankful that his friends helped him when he was having a hard time. He reminds them that God cares for our needs, and that we can show God's love by helping one another.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Jesus used this story to teach the people: The kingdom of heaven may be compared to a king who gave a wedding banquet for his son. The king sent his servants to call those who had been invited to the wedding banquet, but they would not come.

Again, he sent other servants, saying, "Tell those who have been invited: Look, I have prepared my dinner; my oxen and my fat calves have been slaughtered, and everything is ready; come to the wedding banquet." But they made light of it and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, while the rest seized his servants, mistreated them, and killed them. The king was enraged. He sent his troops, destroyed those murderers, and burned their city.

Then he said to his servants, "The wedding is ready, but those invited were not worthy. Go therefore into the main streets and invite everyone you find to the wedding banquet. Those servants went out into the streets and gathered all whom they found, both good and bad; so, the wedding hall was filled with guests.

The Gospel of the Lord.

After proclaiming the reading, you could further explain it to a child like this:

Jesus tells a story about a king who invites people to a wonderful wedding feast. Some are too busy to come, but the king keeps inviting people until the hall is full. God welcomes everyone and wants us to share his joy. The wedding clothes remind us to live in a way that shows we have accepted God's invitation—by loving God and treating others with kindness.

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.

What did you hear?

In the first reading, we heard the Prophet Isaiah promise that God will prepare a feast for everyone, wipe away tears, and bring an end to death. God promises a future filled with joy and hope.

- **What are you thankful for today?**
- **What do you hope God will help you with?**

Now, let us imagine we are walking along a path together. We come to a green field with quiet water. Who might be caring for us? *(Invite the children to answer.)*

The psalm says, "The Lord is my shepherd." A shepherd guides and protects the sheep. God is like a shepherd who stays close to us, especially when we are afraid or having a tough time.

- **What helps you feel safe when you're worried?**
- **What might you say to God when you need help?**

At the feast, we notice someone who has very little to eat. Paul tells us that friends shared with him when he was in need. He says Jesus gives him strength in every situation. We can thank God for what we have and share with others.

Questions to choose from:

- **Who helps you when you have a hard day?**
- **What could you ask Jesus to help you do?**

Imagine you hear an announcement inviting you to a wonderful wedding feast! Jesus tells a story about a king who invites people to celebrate with his son. Some people are too busy to come, so the king invites everyone he can find. God welcomes us and wants us to share his joy.

- **How would you feel if you were invited to a special feast?**
- **What might make someone too busy to spend time with God?**

God guides us like a shepherd, welcomes us to his joy, gives us strength, and asks us to care for one another. Let's say together: "Thank you, God, for guiding us and helping us love others!"

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, concluding it with the cue for the response: 'We pray to the Lord.' All respond to each petition by saying, "Lord, hear our prayer." Sample intercessions are below.

The leader says:

Leader: Let's bring our prayers to God.

Our response is: **R:/** Lord, hear our prayer.

1. For the Church, that we may welcome everyone with kindness, we pray: **R:/**
2. For people who are hungry, lonely, or sad, that they may find help and comfort, we pray: **R:/**
3. For our families, friends, and everyone who cares for us, we pray: **R:/**
4. For the grace to share, forgive, and include others, we pray: **R:/**
5. For our families and friends, and for all those who have died, that God may keep them close to him, we pray: **R:/**

Invite the children to add their own intentions.

Leader: Loving God, thank you for hearing our prayers. Help us follow you and care for one another.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Return to the church

Ask the children to return to the main assembly. Ask them to return quietly and reflect on what they have heard and what they are now doing. Be mindful of children who may have difficulty finding their families.

Please note that the Handouts are available at:

Bulletin: TheKidsBulletin.com – Goodwill donation suggested
Quiz Handout provided by: thewordthisweek.net



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