

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Sixth Sunday of Easter, Year C
25 May 2025
John 14:23-29

Catechist Background

Although we are in the season of Easter in Year C (which is when we generally have Gospel readings from Luke), this Sunday's Gospel reading is a continuation of the 'Last Supper Discourses' from John's Gospel that we heard last Sunday.

As Jesus prepared for his Crucifixion he told his disciples things which would sustain them over the difficult days to come. However, his disciples did not fully grasp what he was saying and what was to come. They were still hoping Jesus would set up an earthly kingdom, kicking out the occupying Roman forces and bringing prosperity especially to themselves, Jesus' closest comrades. Consequently, Jesus' Passion and Death must have been deeply shocking to them, causing them to question their expectations of 'the Messiah' and of Jesus. Jesus knew this in advance, and tried to help them by giving them things to consider in their own time and in the light of his Death and Resurrection. In this way, he enabled their faith as individuals and as a community to develop meaningfully and deeply, and thus to stick with them/

Setting the Scene

For the activity described below you will need sticky labels and writing/drawing materials.

We Say Sorry

Leader: You call us to trust in you, Lord have mercy

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Leader: You lead us in truth, Christ have mercy.

All: **Christ, have mercy.**

Leader: You open your arms to all of us, Lord have mercy.

All: **Lord, have mercy.**

Gloria

We Pray (1)

God, help us to show the joy in our lives that comes from Jesus' resurrection. Amen.

Gospel Intro

Some of the children will have experience of someone they love being far away - perhaps a friend who has moved house, or an aunt in another country, or grandparents in another town, and will know how it feels when someone you love is far away.

Explain to the children that in this reading, Jesus knew he didn't have much time left with his friends and wanted to tell them some things that they would be able to remember later, to make them feel stronger when he was gone.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel John 14:23-29

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- When Jesus spoke these words to his friends, he was about to be arrested and killed.
- Later, after he had come back to life, Jesus left his friends again so that he could go to be with his Father in Heaven.

- Jesus told his friends that the Father would send someone or something to them.
 - What did he say God the Father would send them?
- What did Jesus say he was leaving with them?
 - Why do you think he might have said that?
 - Do you think his friends felt full of peace over the events of the next few days?
- What kind of things remind us of Jesus' peace?
- What kind of things make it hard to feel Jesus' peace?

Response

- Give each child a sticky label (with the backing paper still on);
- Tell them to write the word 'PEACE' on the sticky label, and to decorate it.
 - For younger children, have the word already written on the label.
- When they have finished decorating the labels, ask the children to stick their label to their clothing as a reminder for them to spread Jesus' peace throughout the day.
- Tell them that their friends and family who see them and their label today will be reminded of peace as well.

We Believe

Relate the Creed to what you have shared with the children by asking these questions and inviting them to reply, 'I do, Alleluia, Alleluia!' [*Explain that we say 'Alleluia' – the happiest word – because it is Easter and Jesus has come back to life.*]

- Do you believe in God, the Father of us all?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ, who leaves us his peace?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who teaches and reminds us what Jesus said and did?

We Pray (2)

Again, relate the Prayer of the Faithful to the Gospel reading by saying 'God has left us to be peacemakers in this world, and so we pray...'

Leader: We pray for leaders in our church, especially those who have made mistakes in leading people to you. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for all newly elected officials to work together to promote Christ's peace. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for people who don't have safe places to live. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for people we know who don't feel very peaceable today. Lord in your mercy,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, we know you are always with us, even when we cannot see you. Help us to feel your peace and spread it to others. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

