Catechist Background
Easter is the highpoint of our Liturgical year, the resurrection of Jesus Christ the central moment of our Christian faith. With a historical emphasis on Lent and fasting, it is sometimes missed that Easter does not take up one weekend, but is a season of fifty days of feasting, ending with Pentecost! So we have seven weeks in which to celebrate the joyous rising of Christ.

Setting the Scene
White is the colour for Easter, and if your Children’s Liturgy space allows, you may choose to incorporate that colour into a centrepiece. Often gold or yellow are incorporated. You might also have the word ‘Alleluia!’ visible around your worship space to emphasise the joy of this season.

We Say Sorry
In some parishes, Children’s Liturgy of the Word begins before the Introductory Rite has finished. If you have been in the main body of the church for the Penitential Rite, there is no need to repeat it in Children’s Liturgy.

Gloria
If you have been in the main body of the church for the Gloria, there is no need to repeat it in Children's Liturgy.

We Pray (1)
The Opening Prayer expresses the theme of the readings for the day. As above, if you have been in the main body of the church for the Opening Prayer, there is no need to repeat it in Children’s Liturgy.

Gospel Acclamation
After the weeks of Lent, our entering into the passion and death of Jesus in Holy Week we reach the moment when we can sing again ‘Alleluia’ (a Hebrew word meaning, ‘Praise the Lord!’). In the Easter season particularly ‘Alleluia!’ is our cry of joy.

For the Gospel Acclamation you might like to have a look at:

- *Music for Children’s Liturgy of the Word* by Christopher Walker (Oregon Catholic Press)
- ‘Halle, Halle, Halle’ by John Bell (Wild Goose Publications), also contained in *Laudate*, no. 178
- Some of the Gospel Acclamations used at your parish mass if suitable
- Try writing your own words using tunes familiar to children (see suggestions in *The Complete Children’s Liturgy* by Katie Thompson (Kevin Mayhew publishers)
Gospel
This year is year ‘C,’ and most of the Gospel readings for Sunday Mass this year come from the Gospel of Luke. Luke’s Gospel probably circulated first with Gentile Christians, and he takes care to point out that Jesus came for all humanity, Jews and Gentiles alike. He has a special concern for the needy, and takes care to point out that God is an upside-down God who is particularly care-full for the humble, poor, and oppressed, rather than on those whose high social standing thinks it buys them merit. Some favourite parables like the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan are found only in Luke’s Gospel. Luke himself admits that he was not an original follower of Jesus, but claims to have ‘investigated everything accurately.’

Reflecting on the Reading with Children
Questions are given as suggestions of how to draw out salient points of the gospel story with the children. Children may need to be guided back on track, but insofar as it is possible, it is helpful to let them explore ideas and thoughts of their own.

Response
An activity is suggested for each of the Sundays, although it may need to be adapted due to your space, size of group, etc. Sometimes very small children will need more assistance doing a particular activity. Responding to the gospel in a child-appropriate way helps solidify the particular message of the week’s gospel and plan how they will live it out in their own situations.

We Believe
If your Children’s Liturgy of the Word rejoins the main body of the church for the Creed, there is no need to go through its counterpart in question-form here.

We Pray (2)
If your Children’s Liturgy of the Word rejoins the main body of the church for the Prayers of the Faithful (‘Bidding Prayers’), there is no need to incorporate them into Children’s Liturgy.

‘All liturgy is prayer and it is right that a liturgy of the word with children should end with a time of intercession. The prayer may arise from the children’s reflection but it is always concerned with the needs of the whole Church and the world. It is important to remember that the petitions are invitations to pray not the prayers themselves, so a short phrase that invites the children to pray is better than a long or detailed list of concerns. This model of intercession is easily learned by children.’ (Liturgy of the Word with Children – Guidelines –Commentary ¶7)