

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Second Sunday of Easter, Year B
7th April 2024
John 20: 19-31

Catechist Background

It is noteworthy that a large portion of today's Gospel (John 20:19-23) will be read on Pentecost Sunday in a few weeks' time.

Just as in the beginning of John's Gospel where 'the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,' Jesus with his resurrected body comes to stand among his followers.

Setting the Scene

For the activity described below, you will need a large poster to draw a big smiley face and write 'We believe Jesus has risen and we are HAPPY!' You may want to have this pre-prepared. You will also need drawing materials for the children.

We Say Sorry

Leader: You search for us when we lose our way, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You have hopes for us even when we are hope-less, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: You love us even when we lose our faith, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

We Pray (1)

Lord, Jesus is risen! Raise our hearts up so that we can become more like Jesus. Amen.

Gospel Intro

Although a week has passed since Easter Sunday, you may wish to remind the children that today's Gospel story starts on the first Easter Sunday evening.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel John 20: 19-31

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- Why were Jesus' friends together and why were the doors fastened?
- Who was missing?
- Why do you think Thomas did not believe that they really had seen Jesus?
- It was one whole week later that Jesus appeared to Thomas. How do you think Thomas would have felt during that week?
- Do you think Thomas did put his fingers in Jesus' wounds when he saw him again? Why do you think that mattered to Jesus? [because that proved Jesus was really there and really alive, not a ghost].
- Some people say they do not believe in Jesus or in God because they have not seen God directly. There are lots of things we probably believe that we do not know directly. What are some of these things? (e.g. Mount Everest is the tallest mountain in the world; oranges have vitamin C in them; the earth is round; that I am telling you the truth.)

- Jesus says that people who have not seen him but still believe in him are *happy*. Why does believing in Jesus make us happy?

Response

The last words of today's Gospel reading tell us that the stories about Jesus have been written down so that WE can believe in Jesus.

Invite the children to sign their names and/or draw their faces on the poster. You may wish to process with the poster when you return to the main body of the church.

We Believe

Relating to the Creed what you have shared with the children, ask this series of questions and invite the children to reply, 'I do, Alleluia, Alleluia!'

- Do you believe in God the Father who sent his Son to us?
- Do you believe in Jesus the Messiah who brought a new kind of peace to the world?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, given so that we may imitate Christ?

We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the bidding prayer to the Gospel reading by saying, 'Jesus, you brought your concerns to God the Father, and so we also pray...'

Leader: We pray for bishops and priests and deacons, that, like the first disciples, they may be faithful leaders. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for lawmakers, that they make laws that make keep people safe. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all people who are ill. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for anyone in our parish family who is finding it hard to trust in God's goodness. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, help us to be like your first followers in spreading joy to others. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

