

Liturgy of the Word with Children
26th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year C
28 September, 2025
Luke 16:19-31

Catechist Background

In antiquity (and sometimes today, if we are honest), people looked on the wealthy as favoured by God. If God allows them to be blessed with good things, surely (we think) they must deserve it! Of course, at the other end of this belief is the unchristian idea that the Poor do not deserve God's blessing, perhaps because of their own laziness or uselessness. Today's Gospel reading challenges both those assumptions and reminds us what will happen if we become uncaring.

The rich man may have been a model citizen in many ways but his real crime seems to have been the fact that his eyes were closed to the suffering around him. He was wealthy but he did nothing to alleviate the suffering of others. In a sense, Jesus' message in this Gospel reading is not a new one. Today's first reading (Amos 6:1, 4-7) affirms the idea that being well-off does not mean that you are superior to others. That concept was lost on the rich man in today's Gospel reading. Even in death he still saw Lazarus as his errand boy, unaware (or unbelieving) that his previous status was gone.

Setting the scene

For the activity below, have a large piece of paper or card (maybe stick some together in advance to make it big) for the children to write and draw upon. You will need pens, crayons and/or pencils too.

We Say Sorry

Leader: Lord Jesus, you welcome everybody, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You lead us to do the same, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Your love reaches even the smallest person, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

We Pray (1)

God, fill us with your love and forgiveness so we can share in your joy. Amen.

Gospel Intro

Remind the children that last week's Gospel reading was about how to use money in the right way. This week we will hear about someone who did *not* use his money wisely.

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Luke 16:19-31

Reflecting on the Gospel reading with Children

- Today's Gospel reading is a story Jesus told about a rich man and a poor man, and what happened when they were alive and what happened when they died.
- We don't know the rich man's name, but what was the name of the poor man? (Lazarus)
- The rich man, when he was alive: did he have a nice house? (Yes, and lots of food);
- What about the poor man: where did he live and what did he eat?
- When they were alive, do you think other people thought that God loved the rich man, with all his fine clothes and nice house? (Yes, they probably thought God was rewarding him)

- Do you think they thought that God loved Lazarus, with dogs licking his sores? (No)
- After he died, did the rich man go to heaven? (No)
- When he died, did the poor man go to heaven? (Yes)
- The rich man spoke to Abraham after he died, as he was worried about his family.
 - What did the rich man ask for his family? (that someone would go and warn them to change the way they lived)
 - What did Abraham say? (they wouldn't listen to anyone, not even if that person came back to them from the dead)
- Who was Abraham talking about when he said someone who has risen from the dead? (Jesus)

Response

There is more than one way to understand the world. Our normal way of doing so is not always what Jesus wants. We need to try to see things the way Jesus would.

- Ask the children to pretend to take out their 'normal eyes' and to put in 'new eyes,'
- These new eyes will help them see the world as Jesus sees it.
- Invite them to look at each other and to practise seeing with 'Jesus' eyes' for a few moments.
- Encourage them to think about places they will go to and people they will see on their way home, at home, and during the week ahead. How would Jesus see these people and places?

Put a large piece of paper in the middle of the room on a hard floor or large table.

- Ask for suggestions of what we can do to make sure we notice the needs of people around us.
- Invite children to draw/write how they will respond if they see a particular need (someone alone on the playground, a parent with a headache, a sibling feeling upset).
- If they don't know what they would do in a situation, ask: What would Jesus want me to do?

We Believe

Relate the Creed to what you have shared with the children, by asking these questions and inviting the children to reply: 'I do'.

- Do you believe in God the Father almighty who created us to love?
- Do you believe in Jesus the Son who teaches us how to treat one another?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who guides us in serving others?

We Pray (2)

Again, relate the Prayer of the Faithful to the Gospel reading by saying: "'We know the world we live in has needs and so we now pray...'

Leader: We pray for leaders in our Church who respond to people in need. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for people who hold powerful positions in our world, like the rich man we heard about today. May they use their wealth for good. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for people who are homeless, like Lazarus. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for anyone in our parish community who is ill or anxious. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, help us to see the needs of the people around us, and how we can help them. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.