

**Liturgy of the Word with Children**  
**Ascension of the Lord, Year C**  
**8 May 2016**  
**Luke 24:46-53**

### **Catechist Background**

In the Acts of the Apostles, Luke tells us that the Ascension took place forty days after the resurrection; in his gospel, it seems to happen much closer to the resurrection, and possibly on the same day. Rather than think Luke was confused, it is possible that he used the number forty in a symbolic sense, calling to mind a sense of 'completeness' in his early readers: it rained for forty days and nights when Noah was on the ark, the Israelites wandered for forty years in the wilderness, Jesus fasted for forty days in the desert. More importantly than *when* it happened was *what Jesus tells us* through the fact that it has happened.

Interesting to note from a literary point of view, Luke begins his gospel in the Temple, with the people waiting for Zechariah to bless them. When Zechariah emerges, he has been struck mute and cannot bless them (ch.1). His gospel ends having come full circle; Jesus' disciples are in the Temple, having been blessed by him and filled with joy.

### **Setting the Scene**

For the activity below which illustrates one point of this gospel, you will need at least one mirror and some pictures or words. It would be good to practise the setup of the illustration beforehand!

### **We Say Sorry**

Lord Jesus, you show us the way to the Father, Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

You lead us to the truth, Christ, have mercy.

**All: Christ, have mercy.**

You promise us the gift of the Holy Spirit, Lord, have mercy.

**All: Lord, have mercy.**

### **Gloria**

### **We Pray (1)**

God, make us joyful as we celebrate Jesus' ascension into heaven. Help us to follow where he has led us.

Amen.

### **Gospel Intro**

Remind the children what Jesus told his disciples last week—that he said he would be leaving them, but he is leaving them with his peace. He also promised to send the Holy Spirit.

### **Gospel Acclamation**

**Gospel** Luke 24:46-53

## Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- How do you think you would feel if someone you cared about very much left you? How do Jesus' friends respond when Jesus ascends into heaven?
- Where has Jesus asked his friends to go and to wait? What are they waiting for?
- What did Jesus say his friends were witnesses to?

## Response

Even though Jesus was ascending into heaven and leaving this world, in a way he has never left. We don't see him in the same way as the first disciples did, that is true, but all of Jesus followers from then until now are instructed by Jesus to tell other people about him by both our words and our actions.

Select one child, and have him/her stand in a position so s/he cannot see you (perhaps around a corner or with his/her back to you, depending on where you are gathered). Ask if the child can see you. Give him/her a mirror to hold, and see if s/he can see you now. Depending on your setup and the number of mirrors available, you could arrange the mirrors more elaborately to help children see around corners, etc. Give each child the opportunity to look in the mirror and see a picture or a word that shows something about Jesus (a picture of healing, the word 'forgiveness,' a crucifix, etc).

If we live the way Jesus lived, we will be showing Jesus to others; when we see other people living the way Jesus lived, we are seeing him. Our challenge is to be like the mirror! The Holy Spirit helps us to do this, and we will hear more about the Holy Spirit next week.

## 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 makes all things and holds all things in love?
- Do you believe in God the Son, who was crucified, died, rose from the dead and ascended into heaven?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, who is sent to make God's power shown on earth still today?

## We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the reading by saying, 'God, even though you have ascended to heaven, we believe you are still with us on earth, and so we pray...'

Leader: We pray the Pope and the Bishops, that they will make good decisions about how to lead the people in their care. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for all world leaders, that they let God's power show in the way they lead their countries. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for people in countries where it is illegal to show that you believe in Jesus. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: We pray for our parish, that we may always show the joy that the first disciples showed in praising God. Lord in your mercy,

**All: Hear our prayer.**

Leader: Lord, we know you hear all of our prayers. Help us to see how to best shine you to the world. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

**All: Amen.**

