

Thirty-third Sunday of the Year

Believe in me

INTRODUCTION

Jesus expects each one of us to share his message and the gift of our faith with other people. He will send the Holy Spirit to give us strength and courage, and will remember our goodness when he returns at the end of time.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and read (*cf John 8:12*):

Jesus said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will have the light of life and will never walk in darkness.'

SORRY

Jesus taught us how we should lead our lives and treat other people. In this reading from St Luke, he reminds us that God will forgive us as easily as we forgive others. (*cf Luke 6:37-38*):

Do not always believe that you are right and others are wrong, but treat people the way you would want to be treated. If you are full of forgiveness for others, then God will be full of forgiveness for you.

(Sit quietly for a few moments of reflection.)

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 6:
Jesus here we are.

GOSPEL (*cf Luke 21:5-7, 12-19*)

Jesus was at the temple in Jerusalem when he overheard some of the crowd talking.

'This temple was built to last forever!' they said.

But Jesus told them, 'One day, everything, including this temple will be destroyed.'

'When will this happen?' they asked him.

'Do not be afraid,' said Jesus, 'the time for all this to happen is still a long way off. Before then many will suffer because they are my followers. I will give them courage and strength, and they will be rewarded for their faith and goodness by my heavenly Father.'

DISCUSSION

What did Jesus mean when he said that one day everything, including the temple would be destroyed? – Jesus was talking about the end of the world, when he will return in power and glory.

Buildings and possessions will not last forever, but love and goodness can never be destroyed.

Did Jesus tell the people when this would happen? – Jesus did not tell them an exact day or time, but that the end of the world would not come until many people had suffered because they believed in him.

Why is being a Christian not always easy? – As Christians we believe in Jesus and everything he taught us. We share one faith which is a gift from God. Jesus expects us to share that faith with others, through our words and by the lives we lead. Many of the early Christians suffered and died for their faith, because others would not believe in Jesus. Today it is not always easy to follow Christ's way of love, and to build our lives around his teachings, but Jesus promised to give us the strength and courage that we need.

How will Christians be rewarded for their faith? – If we choose to follow Jesus and to live as he taught us, then we will be rewarded for our goodness by sharing everlasting happiness with God at the end of time.

ACTIVITY

Cut an oval shape from card for each child, and punch two holes opposite each other at the ends of the oval. Write 'Believe in' on the top half of one side above the holes. Turn the oval over so that the words are upside down and face down. Write 'Jesus' above the holes as before. Loop elastic bands or pieces of wool through the holes. After colouring in the letters and decorating the ovals, the children can wind the ovals to twist the bands. Then pull apart and see the message they have written.

CREED

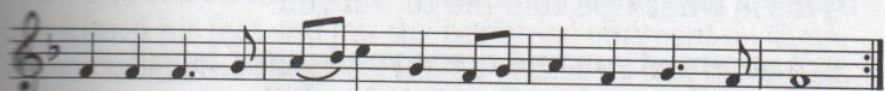
CLOSING PRAYER

Heavenly Father,
thank you for the gift of faith
which each of us has been given.
Help us to share it
with whoever we meet.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



Je-sus said for all_ to hear: "Young_ man, get up, I tell you."



Al - le - lu - ia, praise_the Lord, al - le - lu - ia, praise the Lord!

GOSPEL: *Luke 7:11-17*

A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

Jesus went to a town called Nain.

His disciples and a large group of people were with him.

As they were coming into the town, they saw some people carrying a stretcher with the body of a young man who had died.

This man was an only child, and his mother was a widow.

Many people from the town had come to be with her.

When Jesus saw the young man's mother, he felt very sorry for her, and he said to her,

"Don't cry."

Then he went over and touched the stretcher.

The people carrying it stopped. Jesus said,

"Young man, I say to you, get up!"

And the dead man sat up and began to speak.

Jesus took the boy over to his mother.

All the people were amazed and began to praise God, saying,

"This man is a great prophet!

God has truly come to us!"

Soon people all over Judea

and all the neighboring countries

heard about this wonderful thing that Jesus did.

The Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

Both of these stories will appeal to children.

After the first reading, ask the children to recall what they heard. Ask them then to retell the story. Two aspects should be highlighted:

1) The power of God acting through Elijah.

2) Gratitude for life that leads to the psalm refrain.

The psalm prayer is truly ours as well because God has given us life, continually gives us life, and promises us life forever. *After the Gospel*, ask the children to recall the story. Take time to be aware of the feelings of the boy's mother and how Jesus treats her. What did Jesus do and say? And again we highlight:

1) The power of God in Jesus, "I say to you, get up."

2) Gratitude for life, "Soon people all over . . . heard about this wonderful thing Jesus did."