

Children's liturgy – Third Sunday of Easter (Year A)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: white

Song suggestions: Christ be beside me (106, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

One more step along the world I go (901, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

Welcome: Today we hear how two of the disciples went on a journey to a village called Emmaus. Along the way, they met someone really special, although they didn't recognise him at first. Who do you think it was? Let's find out if you are right...

Opening prayer: Christ Jesus, our light and our guide, as we travel through life open our eyes to recognise you in everyone that we meet, and open our hearts to share generously with each other. Amen.

First reading (optional): Acts 2:14, 22-33

Psalm: Psalm 15:1-2, 5, 7-11 r 11

Gospel acclamation: everyone stands and sings the acclamation together. Suggestions include: 'Halle, halle, halle' (Caribbean) from 'Sing With the World', Alison Adam & John Bell; 'Alleluia' (Zimbabwe), Abraham Maraire Publications, WCC & GIA; 'Celtic Alleluia' (traditional); 'Alleluia! Raise the Gospel' from 'Go Before Us', Bernadette Farrell, OCP Publications.

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from today's reading?

Two disciples are walking along, on their way to a place called Emmaus. Jesus was crucified two days before and the disciples are confused because the women have just come back from Jesus' tomb saying that it is empty.

Why was Jesus' tomb empty?

The two disciples meet another man along the road and they walk with him. Who do you think this was? But did the disciples recognise him?

The man explains the Scriptures to the disciples so that they can understand that Jesus is risen from the dead.

Do the disciples recognise him now?

Finally the disciples persuade the man to come and eat with them. What happens at the meal?

The man takes the bread, blesses it, breaks it and shares it with the disciples. Suddenly they realise who it is. Why do you think the disciples recognise Jesus now?

Can you think of another time that Jesus broke, blessed and shared the bread?

We are all made in the image of God and Jesus is in each and every person, but often we do not see him. We do not take the time to look for him in each other.

But our eyes can be opened just like the disciples in this story. If we take the time to get to know others, to share food with them, perhaps we will come to see Christ in these people, our brothers and sisters, who are all part of God's family around the world.

Could you share food with someone new this week? Perhaps you could sit with someone at lunchtime who you don't normally sit with, or who doesn't have many friends? Perhaps you could take some food down to a local food bank to share with those who don't have enough?

Who will you share food with this week and how? While you are eating, take the time to talk to the people you are with and to think about how Christ is in each and every one of us.

How would you behave if you were eating with Jesus? What would you say? How would you treat him?

And so, if Christ is in each of us, how do you think we should treat each other? The same as we would treat Jesus?

The disciples rushed back to tell people what had happened. Let us also by our actions, show that we believe that Jesus is risen and is always with us.

What will you do to show that you see Jesus in all people in the coming week?

Intercessions *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

We look for Christ in all people we meet as we pray together:

We pray for world leaders: that they may do all that they can to make sure everyone has enough. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may look for Christ in all people and be a welcoming place for all. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may see Christ in all people we meet and those we never meet but whose stories touch us from around the world. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Living God, we look for you in all people. May we be inspired to treat each other with respect, sharing generously and reaching out to help those who are in need. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to write or draw on the back how they will treat others in the coming week.

Ask the children to write a grace to be used before meals, so that each time they eat or share food they remember to look for Jesus in the people around them and in those who prepared, grew and produced the food.

Ask the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. If they have written a grace, ask them to say it in the coming week before each meal. And ask them to try to do at least one thing in the coming week to show that they are looking for Jesus in all people.