

## **Children's liturgy – Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)**

### **Preparation of the worship space**

Colour: green

Props: coloured pens or pencils

**Song suggestions:** Christ be beside me,  
O Lord all the world belongs to you

**Welcome:** Today Jesus talks about how we have all done things that are wrong. Instead of picking on the tiny mistakes of others, we should change the things that are not so good about our own behaviour. Let's think a bit more about that today.

**Opening prayer:** Loving God, help us to see when we are doing something that hurts others and to make changes, to become the person you know that we can be. Fill our hearts with your love and goodness, so that we may do and say what is right. Amen.

**First reading (optional):** Ecclesiasticus 27:4-7

**Psalm:** Psalm 91:2-3, 13-16 R Cf v 2

**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 6:39-45

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

Jesus is talking to the disciples – he talks about seeing a tiny splinter in someone else's eye, but not seeing the great plank of wood in our own. What do you think Jesus means here?

Jesus is saying it is much easier to notice the tiniest mistake that someone else has made, rather than to see our own mistakes and what we have done wrong.

What does Jesus tell the disciples they must do?

He says they must take the plank out of their own eye before they can take the splinter out of someone else's. He is saying we must change the way we act before we can expect anyone else to change.

If we cannot be good and do what is right, how can we ask other people to do the same?

Think quietly for a moment about a way that you could change something you might be doing wrong. Could you share more, be kinder or more helpful to others, stop teasing your brother or sister, put things in the right bin for recycling, switch off lights?

It is not easy to make changes to the way that we act, but perhaps we can try this week?

Who do you think can help us to make this change?

God can help us. If we let him, God will fill our hearts with goodness and love, hope, courage and generosity.

Filled with these things we will not be able to stop ourselves from wanting to share them with others.

Jesus says in today's reading that good people have a store of goodness in their heart. That the words someone speaks come from what is in their heart.

So, if we let God fill our hearts with goodness and love, we will be able to speak words that share that goodness and love with others.

Lots of children around the world speak up for what they think is right. There are all kinds of problems in our world, like poverty and hunger and climate change, but we can all speak from what is in our heart and make our voices heard for change.

Dany lives in Peru. She thinks it's really important that children speak up for what they believe.

"I think our opinion is the most important thing of all. Our opinion is very important, as are our rights."

Dany was chosen to be the leader of her school council so that she could speak up for all the children in her school.

She says, "Sometimes I can feel afraid, but if I am speaking the truth, there is no need for me to be afraid. Don't be afraid. Get involved. Yes, we can make mistakes, but let's work for the good of everyone."

Dany is using the goodness in her heart to speak up and to work to make a change. She wants to make things better for the other children in her school and her community. Together they have cleaned up play areas so that they are no longer dangerous and dirty and she volunteers at a reading club to help younger children.

How will you use the store of goodness in your heart? How will you speak out and make changes to be the best person you can be and make the world a better place for others?

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

We pray for the Church: that she may be an example of the goodness and love of God in our world. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for world leaders: that the words that they speak and the things that they do may come from a heart filled with goodness. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, our family and friends: that we may all be willing to open our hearts to God, to admit our mistakes, to make a change, and to speak up for what is right. Lord, in your mercy...

**Closing prayer:** Generous and good God, lead us to be the people you know we can be. Fill us with courage and goodness. Help us to make a change so that the world may be a better place for all people. Amen.

### **Activity suggestions**

Ask the children to colour in the accompanying illustration of a person with a heart filled with love and goodness. Ask them to write or draw in the speech bubble what is they think the person is saying, or what they would most like to speak up about to make a change in our world.

Encourage the children to think about the one positive change that they could make to the way they act and the one change that they would like to see and speak out about in our world.

Encourage the children to pray to God to fill their hearts with goodness, love and courage to help them in these changes. You could use our special children's prayer video for global neighbours available at [cafod.org.uk/kidzzzone](http://cafod.org.uk/kidzzzone)

Ask the children to go home and tell their grown-ups about all the things that they have heard and thought about today. Ask them to make a change in the coming week and to speak out for the change that they would like to see in the world.