**Children’s liturgy - Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)**

**Preparation of the worship space**

Colour: green

Props: copies of the Grace cube sheet, coloured pens or pencils, children’s scissors, non-toxic glue. (Or let children take their cube sheets home to cut and glue).

**Song suggestions:** Gather us in (475, *Laudate*) Bread for the world (625, *Laudate*); Water of life, cleanse and refresh us (*512, Laudate*)

**Welcome:** Today we hear the story of two people - one who is rich and feasts every day on good food and one who is poor and longs for something to eat. This story helps us to see how to treat one another. Let’s think a bit more about this today.

**Opening prayer:** Loving God, every one of us is special and loved by you. Help us to treat each other as we would like to be treated and to do all that we can so that everyone in the world has enough to eat. Amen.

**First reading (optional):** Amos 6:1, 4-7

**Psalm:** Psalm 145:6-10. R. 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.

**Gospel:** Luke 16:19-31

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

The rich man wears fine clothes and feasts every day on the best food he can get. He has more than he needs. Lazarus sits outside the rich man’s gate. He is poor and he is hungry. He wishes that he could eat the leftovers from the rich man’s table.

Does the rich man do anything to help Lazarus?

How do you think Lazarus feels about being ignored while the rich man eats his tasty food?

What do you think the rich man should do? What would you do?

Why do you think Jesus told this story?

God created the world with enough food for everyone. But we are not sharing fairly. Some of us have more food than we can eat, like the rich man. Some of us go to bed hungry, like Lazarus. How does hearing this make you feel?

What do you think we can do to make sure everyone has enough to eat?

CAFOD is helping people around the world to make sure that they have enough to eat now and in the future.

People like Fabiano, a boy who lives in a country called Uganda. In Uganda, the weather is often too dry to grow plants and it can be hard to get water.

Fabiano needs water to grow vegetables to eat and to sell. He used to walk to the next village for water, because there were no taps in his own village. Fabiano had to carry the heavy buckets home.

Then CAFOD helped people to build a water pump in Fabiano’s community, powered by a solar panel that gets its energy from the sun. Now Fabiano can easily fill his watering can. His vegetables are growing very well!

Every person in the world is special and loved by God. And every person in our big global family has the right to enough food for a healthy life. People might be hungry because they aren’t able to grow food, or they don’t have enough money to buy food. Sometimes farmers cannot afford the seeds they need. Sometimes storms or floods destroy their harvest.

Hunger is a big problem. And it’s not easy to solve. Sometimes we ignore problems, hoping they will go away. The rich man in Jesus’ story is a bit like this. He ignores the fact that Lazarus is hungry, even though Lazarus is right outside his gate.

God asks us not to ignore each other, but to help one another. Together, we can solve problems.

How can we share what we have so that all our sisters and brothers have enough food?

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

We are all God’s children and so we pray together:

We pray for world leaders: that they may make wise decisions for the good of all people, so that everyone may have enough to eat. Lord, in your mercy…

We pray for our parish, families and friends: that we may be moved to share what we have with our brothers and sisters around the world. Lord, in your mercy…

We pray for the work of CAFOD: that it may continue to help people to get their fair share of the food that God gives for us all. Lord, in your mercy…

**Closing prayer:** Generous God, thank you for creating this world with enough food for all to share. Help us to play our part in making sure that all people can have their fair share of food to eat. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

**Activity suggestions**

Show the children an assembled Grace cube and demonstrate how to use it. Let the children colour in the pictures and add their own grace. Younger children can draw their favourite food in the space underneath: “Thank you God for:”

Ask the children to take their Grace cube home to use at meals this week, especially on Family Fast Day, Friday 4 October.

For more activities to support Family Fast Day with children see cafod.org.uk/primary