

Children's liturgy – Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

Preparing the worship space

Colour: green

Props: a light, a bucket or blanket, modelling clay and tea-lights

Song suggestions: Christ be our light (883, Laudate)

Walk in the light (771, Laudate)

Welcome: Jesus tells us today that if we do what is good and right, others will see that we believe and will praise God. We can be an example for others, like a light shining to show the way. Let's think about that light as we listen to the readings.

Opening prayer: God of hope, may we be an example to others so that the light of Jesus shines brightly in the world. We ask this through Jesus Christ your Son, Amen.

First reading (optional): Isaiah 58:7-10

Psalm: Ps 111:4-9 r. 4

Gospel acclamation: *everyone stands and sings the acclamation together.*

Gospel: Matthew 5:13-16

"You are like salt for the whole human race. But if salt loses its saltiness, there is no way to make it salty again. It has become worthless, so it is thrown out and people trample on it.

"You are like light for the whole world. A city built on a hill cannot be hidden. No one lights a lamp and puts it under a bowl; instead he puts it on the lampstand, where it gives light for everyone in the house. In the same way your light must shine before people, so that they will see the good things you do and praise your Father in heaven."

(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission, see details below)*

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from that reading?

Make it as dark as possible in the room, turn the lights off, draw the curtains if there are any.

When it is dark, we switch the light on, like this. *(Switch a lamp or torch on)*

What would happen if we cover the light up with something? *(Cover the lamp with a bucket, or blanket etc to show what a difference it makes.)*

If we uncover the light we will be able to see much better and it won't be so dark anymore. *(Uncover the lamp)*

In the reading today Jesus tells us that we are light to the world. What do you think this means?

We are asked to let our light shine in people's sight, so that when they see our good works, they will praise God. Through the things that we do, other people will know how good God is.

God loves everybody, no matter where in the world they are from, whether they are rich or poor. God asks us to do the same because we are all members of the same global family. What do you think we can do to show other people that we care about them?

If we love other people and do what we can to help them, then other people will see how great God's love is. We will be like the light that shines and is not covered up, so that everyone can see.

How will you be like a shining light this week?

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

We are called to let God's light shine in the world and so we pray together:

We pray for people who are poor: that as we work together with them to build a better future they may feel hope in the light of God's love. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may show us how to share God's love in all that we do and to be a light to each other. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, families and friends: that we may be like a light shining in the sight of others and that through our good works, others may praise God. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of joy, may we share your light with all our sisters and brothers around the world, so that as members of one global family we can work together to build a brighter, fairer future for all people. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Look at the accompanying illustration; discuss with the children what is happening in all the images and how they show good works that can help the light to shine. Invite them to colour it in and draw what they will do this week to help others and to shine their own lights in the world.

Help the children to make a tea-light holder using modelling clay. Give them all some modelling clay and help them to shape the clay so that a single tea-light fits into it. The children can then decorate the holder with beads, buttons or glitter. Put the tea-

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light in but do not light it (unless it is an electric one!). They can carry this out with them into the church to symbolise the light that will shine through them.

Remind the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today with their grown-ups. Encourage them to help others both here and overseas as much as possible during the coming week, so that the light shines for all to see. If they have made tea-light holders, ask them to light the candle during the week and say a prayer together with the people at home.

*Gospel passage taken from:

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