

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

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: white

Song suggestions: Trust is in the eyes of a tiny babe (789, Laudate)

Welcome: Today Jesus tells us that through him we will come to know God and that we should trust in him as we trust in God.

Opening prayer: Christ Jesus, open our hearts to trust in you, so that we may never be afraid to answer your call to love one another, and so that through you we may come closer to God. Amen.

First reading (optional): Acts 6:1-7

Psalm: Psalm 32:1-2, 4-5, 18-19. R. v.22

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

Gospel: John 14:1-12

“Do not be worried and upset,” Jesus told them. “Believe in God and believe also in me. There are many rooms in my Father's house, and I am going to prepare a place for you. I would not tell you this if it were not so. And after I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am. You know the way that leads to the place where I am going.”

Thomas said to him, “Lord, we do not know where you are going; so how can we know the way to get there?”

Jesus answered him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one goes to the Father except by me. Now that you have known me,” he said to them, “you will know my Father also, and from now on you do know him and you have seen him.”

Philip said to him, “Lord, show us the Father; that is all we need.”

Jesus answered, “For a long time I have been with you all; yet you do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. Why, then, do you say, ‘Show us the Father’? Do you not believe, Philip, that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words that I have spoken to you,” Jesus said to his disciples, “do not come from me. The Father, who remains in me, does his own work. Believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. If not, believe because of the things I do. I am telling you the truth: those who believe in me will do what I do — yes, they will do even greater things, because I am going to the Father.

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

Gospel reflection: In today's reading, Jesus is telling his disciples that he is the Son of God. But the disciples find it difficult to understand.

Right at the beginning of today's gospel, Jesus tells the disciples not to be worried and to believe in him.

He is asking them to trust him. What does it mean to trust someone?

Trusting someone means believing that they are always there for us, that they are always willing to help us, that they will comfort us when we are upset or frightened. When it comes to trusting someone, what they do is often more important than what they say.

Jesus also tells the disciples in this reading that if they find it hard to believe in his words, to believe in the things that he does.

Jesus did not only teach his disciples with words. Throughout his life he showed them (and us) how to love one another, to serve others and to care for and support people who were poor, sick, or sad. He showed us how to make sure that we treated all people well, even those who are usually ignored, or who are not well-liked.

We all need people in our lives that we trust. Who do you trust?

How does it feel when someone breaks your trust?

Do other people trust you? How can we help other people to trust in us?

People are more likely to trust us if we are kind, if we listen to what they are saying, if we are willing to help, and if we tell the truth.

We can also trust in God. We know that God is always there for us and wants what's best for us. God is always ready to listen.

How can we share our worries with God? How can we show our trust in God?

We can talk to God through prayer. When we pray we can share all our worries and fears and also all our joys and hopes with God.

And we can show our trust in God by listening to what Jesus asks of us and trying to follow him. By loving one another and by doing what is right, we are doing what God wants us to do.

This week how will you show your trust in God?

This week what will you do for the people who trust in you?

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

We share all our worries, fears, joys and hopes with God as we pray together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may be a place of safety and welcome, where all people can come to know the love of God for us all. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for world leaders: that they may do what is right and best for all people, especially those who are poor, so that their people may trust in them. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that through our actions we may show that we trust and believe in God. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of life, we thank you for being there for us always. Help us to do all that you ask of us and to love one another, so that all people may have someone to trust. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to write or draw on the back how they will show their trust in God and/or what they will do for the people who trust in them in the coming week.

Encourage the children to play some trust games, either during the liturgy or when they get home. Will your partner catch you as you fall? Could you safely guide a partner round an obstacle course while they are blindfolded?

Remind the children to share with their grown ups all that they have heard and thought about in the liturgy today. Encourage the children to think about who they trust and to do one thing to help or support those who trust them this week.

*Gospel passage taken from:

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