

Liturgy of the Word with Children
Third Sunday of Easter, Year B
14 April 2024
Luke 24: 35-48

Catechist Background

Curiously for this liturgical year (Year B, which mainly uses Mark's Gospel), today's Gospel reading comes from Luke's Gospel. Luke's Gospel contains an account of this event which is only mentioned fleetingly in Mark's Gospel.

The scene is the evening of the first day of Jesus' resurrection, after he has appeared to the two disciples on the road to Emmaus. They have returned to the upper room in Jerusalem where the disciples are gathered and they have reported on their encounter to the other Apostles. In explaining the scriptures and then sharing in a meal, this event is a precursor to the Mass as we celebrate it in modern times.

Setting the Scene

For the activity described below you will need a bowl of water and enough pebbles for each person.

We Say Sorry

Leader: Lord, Jesus, You come to us when we are weak, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You show us your love when we need it, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: You are with us everywhere we go, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

We Pray (1)

God, we are your children and we look forward to eternal life with you. Amen.

Gospel Intro

Gospel Acclamation To highlight the significance of the Easter season, you may choose to sing 'Alleluia' after the completion of the Gospel reading as well as at the beginning.

Gospel: Luke 24: 35-48

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- If you were one of Jesus' friends and had seen him crucified, what would you think if you saw him again? Would you be worried? Would you think you were seeing things?
- What would you want Jesus to do?
- What did Jesus do to reassure his friends that it was really him that they were seeing? What did he do and say to show that he was really alive and not a ghost?
- What did Jesus say would be preached to all the nations?

Response

Show the children the bowl of water. Explain to the children that when we are forgiven or when we forgive someone, when we are kind and loving toward someone, that our actions don't just affect that person. We may cheer someone up and then they are kinder to others, and then those people are kinder to others, and then... Tell them that if everyone acted on God's love by loving others all the time, the world would be truly transformed, beginning from Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection in Jerusalem.

Show them this by dropping a pebble in the bowl of water and draw attention to the ripples going out from the stone. God's love can go out from us in the same way, if we let it. Give each child a pebble in turn and encourage them to drop it in the water with the others, thinking about how their actions can go out in the world to make it more like the world that God wants it to be.

We Believe

Relating to the Creed what you have shared with the children, ask this series of questions and invite the children to reply, 'I do, Alleluia, Alleluia!'

- Do you believe in God the Father who is revealed in the Hebrew Scriptures?
- Do you believe in Jesus Christ, risen from the dead for our forgiveness?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, helping all people to turn our lives towards God's love?

We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the Gospel reading by saying, 'You comforted your worried disciples, and so we bring our concerns to you...'

Leader: We pray for people who tell others who have not heard about God's love. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for all world leaders, that they may make it easier for people to follow God's ways. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for members of our parish family who are unable to be here this weekend because they are ill. Lord, in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, help us this Easter Season as we live out the joy of your Resurrection. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

