

Children's liturgy – Fourth Sunday of Easter (Year C)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: white

Props: paper or card, colouring pens or pencils

Song suggestions: Love is his word, love is his way (803, Laudate)

Welcome: Today Jesus talks about how important it is to listen to him. And how he knows us and cares about each and every one of us, no matter who we are. Let's think some more about this today.

Opening prayer: God of all, help us to listen to your voice and to care for each other as you care for all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

First reading (optional): Acts 13:14, 43-52

Psalm: Psalm 99:1-3, 5 r 3

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

Gospel: John 10:27-30

My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never die. No one can snatch them away from me. What my Father has given me is greater than everything, and no one can snatch them away from the Father's care. The Father and I are one."

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

Gospel reflection: Today Jesus talks about sheep. Jesus didn't spend his time looking after sheep out in the fields, so who do you think Jesus' sheep are? Who is he talking about?

Jesus is a shepherd of people. He shows us the way to live our lives. He looks after us and cares for us, just as a shepherd looks after their sheep.

What does Jesus say about his sheep in the gospel reading today?

Jesus says that his sheep listen to his voice.

How do we listen to Jesus in our lives? (*Through hearing his word in the readings, through prayer etc*)

Jesus also says that he knows his sheep, and that they will never be lost. What do you think this means?

Jesus cares for each and every one of us. No matter who we are or from where we come.

Ruben lives in Bolivia with his parents and his little brother. They grow lots of yummy food to eat in their greenhouse. Ruben's favourite vegetable is lettuce because it is tasty and he likes eating it in salad.

Zin Thu Thu lives in Myanmar with her parents, her brother and her sisters. They live in a village where they grow food and catch fish to eat. At school Zin Thu Thu is learning how to keep herself safe if there is a big storm. She loves playing with her friends.

Lombeh lives in Sierra Leone with her parents and her older brother and sister. When she was a baby Lombeh was very ill because she did not have enough to eat. But now she is a bold and lively girl who loves to play with her dolls. Her mum hopes that Lombeh will be a doctor when she grows up.

These three children live in very different places around the world. Can you tell us some things that are different about each of the children? And can you tell us some thing that is the same? Are these children the same or different to you? How?

We are all different from each other, but we are also very alike. We all need enough food and water to live. We all like to have fun with our friends. We are all part of the same global family and so we are all very special and important. Jesus loves and cares for us all.

How does it make you feel to know that Jesus loves and cares for all of us, no matter who or where we are? What do you think this means for how we should treat each other?

This week, let's try to listen to what Jesus is saying to us, and share the love that he has for us all with others.

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

We know that we are loved by God, and so we try to listen to Jesus in our lives, as we pray together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may welcome and care for everyone as Jesus did – like a shepherd cares for his sheep. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our world: that all people may love and respect one another as members of the same global family. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may listen to Jesus in our lives and treat all people as our brothers and sisters, no matter who they are or where they live. Lord, in your mercy...

For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy

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Closing prayer: Lord Jesus, help us to listen to and follow you and to care for each other, so that all members of our global family may live together in peace. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to write their name and the names of some of their friends, family members and the children they've heard about today on the sheep. On the back they could write or draw either how they will show that they are listening to Jesus this week, or how they will care for their brothers and sisters around the world.

Give the children a cut-out of a sheep. Encourage them to write their name on it and to decorate it. You could also get them to decorate a sheep for some of the children that they have heard about from around the world. When they have finished display all the sheep on a large board, saying "I know my sheep".

Remind the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today with their grown ups. Encourage them to remember that all people are loved by God, and to try to care for others as Jesus cares for us, his sheep, during the week.

*Gospel passage taken from:

Good News Translation® (Today's English Version, Second Edition)

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