

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

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: white

Props: coloured paper, pens and pencils

Song suggestions: Come to the feast (612, Laudate)

Bread for the world, a world of hunger (625, Laudate)

Welcome: Today we hear about how Jesus appeared to the disciples while they were fishing, helped them to catch more fish and ate with them on the beach afterwards. Let's think some more about this today

Opening prayer: Christ Jesus, you returned to give your disciples courage and strengthen their faith. Make us brave and help us to believe in you, so that we may care for all our brothers and sisters around the world. Amen.

First reading (optional): Acts 5:27-32, 40b-41

Psalm: Psalm 29:2, 4-6, 11-13 r. 2

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

Gospel: John 21:1-19

After this, Jesus appeared once more to his disciples at Lake Tiberias. This is how it happened. Simon Peter, Thomas (called the Twin), Nathanael (the one from Cana in Galilee), the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples of Jesus were all together. Simon Peter said to the others, "I am going fishing."

"We will come with you," they told him. So they went out in a boat, but all that night they did not catch a thing. As the sun was rising, Jesus stood at the water's edge, but the disciples did not know that it was Jesus. Then he asked them, "Young men, haven't you caught anything?"

"Not a thing," they answered.

He said to them, "Throw your net out on the right side of the boat, and you will catch some." So they threw the net out and could not pull it back in, because they had caught so many fish.

The disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Peter heard that it was the Lord, he wrapped his outer garment round him (for he had taken his clothes off) and jumped into the water. The other disciples came to shore in the boat, pulling the net full of fish. They were not very far from land, about a hundred metres away. When they stepped ashore, they saw a charcoal fire there with fish on it and some bread. Then Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish you have just caught."

Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net ashore full of big fish, 153 in all; even though there were so many, still the net did not tear. Jesus said to them, "Come and eat." None of the disciples dared ask him, "Who are you?" because they knew it was the Lord. So Jesus went over, took the bread, and gave it to them; he did the same with the fish.

This, then, was the third time Jesus appeared to the disciples after he was raised from death.

After they had eaten, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?"

"Yes, Lord," he answered, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said to him, "Take care of my lambs." A second time Jesus said to him, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

"Yes, Lord," he answered, "you know that I love you."

Jesus said to him, "Take care of my sheep." A third time Jesus said, "Simon son of John, do you love me?"

Peter became sad because Jesus asked him the third time, "Do you love me?" and so he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you!"

Jesus said to him, "Take care of my sheep. I am telling you the truth: when you were young, you used to get ready and go anywhere you wanted to; but when you are old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will bind you and take you where you don't want to go." (In saying this, Jesus was indicating the way in which Peter would die and bring glory to God.) Then Jesus said to him, "Follow me!"

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

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

After Jesus had died and risen again, the disciples were out fishing in their boat, when Jesus appeared on the beach. They hadn't managed to catch anything, so Jesus told them to throw out their net again. This time they managed to catch lots and lots of fish.

How do you think the disciples felt about catching so many fish?

The disciples headed back to the beach and they shared some breakfast with Jesus. How do you think the disciples felt about seeing Jesus again and spending time with him?

They must have been so happy and excited. But maybe a little nervous too?

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

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How do you feel when you see someone you haven't seen for ages? Perhaps you have friends or members of your family who live a long way away. What do you do and say when you see them?

Sitting together with others to eat is a great way to get to know or catch up with people and can be lots of fun. Can you think of a time when you have sat with others to eat a meal? Was it dinner at home? Or school lunch? Or at Easter or another special occasion?

Who was there? And what did you do? Did you eat in silence? Or did you spend time talking to each other? Did you share the same food?

All around the world people come together to eat and share food with each other.

But there are also lots of people who do not have enough food to eat. Do you think that is fair?

Even though there is enough food in the world for everyone to have what they need, it is not shared fairly.

So this week, as we sit together and eat with others, let's think about all the other people around the world who are doing the same thing.

And let's also think about all the people who do not have enough food to eat. Let's pray for them and do what we can to make sure that everyone has their fair share of food.

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

Let us pray together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may follow Jesus' example and be a place of welcome for everyone. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all people throughout the world: that they may have enough food to eat and find comfort and support as they share food with others. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, friends and family: that we may do what we can so all people may share in the food given by God to us all. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Creator God, you made a world of plenty with enough food for everyone. As we break bread together, fill us with your love and lead us to share whatever we are able. Amen.

Activity suggestions

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Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration of a group of people sharing food together. Encourage them to write a prayer for all people who do not have enough to eat or a prayer of thanksgiving to be said at a meal with others on the back.

Give the children each a fish-shaped piece of paper. Encourage them to write a prayer on it for all people who do not have enough to eat or a prayer of thanksgiving to be said at a meal with others. Get the children to add these to a net on a big piece of paper to display them.

Remind the children to tell the people they live with all they have heard and thought about in the liturgy today. If they sit down to share a meal with others in this coming week, can they think of all their brothers and sisters throughout the world who are doing the same thing? As well as all those who do not have enough to eat? Invite the children to think about what they can do to help others in their local community and around the world to have enough food.

*Gospel passage taken from:

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

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