

Children's liturgy – Seventh Sunday of Easter (Year B)

Preparing the worship space

Colour: white

Song suggestions: Bind us together (80, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)
Here I am, Lord (285, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

Welcome: Today we hear how Jesus prayed for his disciples – asking God to protect them and to help them follow his word. Let us think a bit more about what this means for us today.

Opening prayer: Loving God, watch over us, keep us from harm and help us to follow your word. Lead us as we go out into the world to share your word with others through our actions. Amen.

First reading (optional): Acts 1:15-17, 20-26

Psalm: Ps 102:1-2, 11-12, 19-20 r 19

Gospel acclamation: *everyone stands and sings together.*

Gospel: John 17:11-19

Jesus looked up to heaven and said:

“And now I am coming to you; I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world. Holy Father! Keep them safe by the power of your name, the name you gave me, so that they may be one just as you and I are one. While I was with them, I kept them safe by the power of your name, the name you gave me. I protected them, and not one of them was lost, except the man who was bound to be lost – so that the scripture might come true. And now I am coming to you, and I say these things in the world so that they might have my joy in their hearts in all its fullness. I gave them your message, and the world hated them, because they do not belong to the world, just as I do not belong to the world. I do not ask you to take them out of the world, but I do ask you to keep them safe from the Evil One. Just as I do not belong to the world, they do not belong to the world. Dedicate them to yourself by means of the truth; your word is truth. I sent them into the world, just as you sent me into the world. And for their sake I dedicate myself to you, in order that they, too, may be truly dedicated to you.”

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

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from the reading you heard today?

In today's gospel Jesus is talking to God. He is praying.

Do you pray? What do you pray for or about?

Jesus is asking God to help his friends – the disciples – when he is gone.

Jesus knows it will be hard for them to be without him. But he has also given his disciples a very special job to do and he wants them to carry on doing this, even after he has gone away. So he wants God to keep them safe.

What job do you think Jesus wants his disciples to do?

Jesus wants his disciples to follow his teaching, to love everyone just like Jesus loves us and to encourage others to do the same.

Jesus prayed for us too. Do you think Jesus has a special job for us to do as his followers? What do you think that job might be?

He wants us to share God's love with others – near or far away – and care for the lovely world he has given us. How do you think we can do that?

We can share God's love by helping each other. This also means taking care of our world so that everyone has the chance of a happy life. For example, when we humans cut down forests, that is bad for all the people, animals and plants who live there.

Delio lives in the huge Amazon rainforest. Think of how big a football pitch is. Well, every minute an area of forest the size of a football pitch is being cut down or burnt!

Without the trees, the land can become very dry, making it hard for people to grow food or find water to drink. Delio works as a teacher, helping students to understand how to care for the planet.

Do you think Delio has a special job to do?

Let us remember this week to pray to God to help us as we try to live as Jesus asks us to. And let us pray for all our brothers and sisters around the world, asking God to bless them and keep them safe.

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

We know that it is not always easy to follow Jesus, and so we pray:

We pray for world leaders: that they may be inspired by Jesus and make the right decisions for the good of all people, even when it is hard. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may be a shining light in the darkest times, bringing help and comfort to all those in need. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our family, friends and parish: that we may always follow Jesus, respecting and caring for all people and for our planet. Lord, in your mercy...

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

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Closing prayer: Loving God, move us to follow your Son, to share your love with others and to work together to protect our beautiful world. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to complete the accompanying activity sheet.

Remind the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. Encourage them to do one thing over the coming week to show that they are doing a special job as Jesus asks us, by caring for others and the world around them.

*Gospel passage taken from:

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