

Children's liturgy – Sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: green

Song suggestions: When I needed a neighbour (888, Laudate)

Welcome: Today we hear about Jesus' special love for those who are poor, hungry, sad or badly treated. Let's think a bit more about this today.

Opening prayer: God of all, we give you thanks for your great love. Especially for those who are poor, those who hunger, those who are sad. Amen.

First reading (optional): Jeremiah 17:5-8

Psalm: Psalm 1:1-4, 6 r. Psalm 39:5

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

Gospel: Luke 6:17, 20-26

When Jesus had come down from the hill with the apostles, he stood on a level place with a large number of his disciples. A large crowd of people was there from all over Judea and from Jerusalem and from the coast cities of Tyre and Sidon;

Jesus looked at his disciples and said,

“Happy are you poor;
the Kingdom of God is yours!
“Happy are you who are hungry now;
you will be filled!
“Happy are you who weep now;
you will laugh!

Happy are you when people hate you, reject you, insult you, and say that you are evil, all because of the Son of Man! Be glad when that happens and dance for joy, because a great reward is kept for you in heaven. For their ancestors did the very same things to the prophets.

“But how terrible for you who are rich now;
you have had your easy life!
“How terrible for you who are full now;
you will go hungry!
“How terrible for you who laugh now;
you will mourn and weep!

How terrible when all people speak well of you; their ancestors said the very same things about the false prophets.”

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

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

Jesus talks to the disciples, saying that some of the people will end up happy, while people will not. Can you remember some of the people who he said would be happy?

Jesus says those who are poor will be happy, because the kingdom of God belongs to them.

Jesus says those who are hungry will be happy, they will have enough to eat.

Jesus says those who cry will be happy, their tears will change to laughter.

Jesus says those who are hated and badly treated for believing in him will be happy, because they will be rewarded in heaven.

Can you remember who Jesus says wouldn't be happy and why not?

Jesus says those who are rich have everything they need now, and so do not need the gifts of heaven.

Jesus says those who have more than enough food now, will go hungry, and that those who laugh will be filled with sadness.

It can seem strange to us that it is those who are poor, or hungry, or even those who are sad, that Jesus says will be happiest. And it can seem very strange that Jesus says that those who are rich and happy with lots to eat will end up sad. It seems a bit upside down, doesn't it?

So, why do you think Jesus said these things?

It's not Jesus' thinking that's upside down. It's ours. He doesn't want us to think that the only way we can be happy is to have lots of money and all the best toys and latest stuff.

Jesus loves all people, but he has a special love for people who are poor, hungry, sad or picked on. And he asks us to be the same.

We are called to do what we can to help all people in our world to be happy. What do you think we can do to help people who are poor, hungry, sad, or treated badly by others?

We can share what we have, we can comfort them. We can stick up for them and try to change the world to make it fairer for all people.

What will you do this week if you see someone who is sad, hungry or hurt?

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

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

We pray to God who loves us:

We pray for world leaders: that they may know and understand the challenges their people face and that they may be moved to do what they can to change things for the better. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all people who are poor, hungry, hurt or sad in our world. That they may know that they are loved and find happiness and hope for the future. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, our family and our friends: that we may reach out in love to all who are sad, so that they may laugh and feel joy again. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of love, open our hearts to others, that we may bring comfort to those who are sad, and share what we have with those who are in need. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to think about what they can do in the coming week to cheer up those who are sad, or what they can do to help people who are hungry around the world.

Encourage the children to role play what they would do to help someone who is poor, hungry, sad, or being badly treated for their beliefs.

Invite the children to write their own set of Beatitudes. Are there groups of people in the world today who Jesus would call us to show a special love for? For example, refugees, those affected by climate change or natural disaster, those who are on the edges of society.

Encourage the children to share all that they have heard and thought about today with the people at home, and to try to bring joy to others in the coming week, especially those who are poor, hungry, sad or hurt.

*Gospel passage taken from:
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