

Children's liturgy - Seventh Sunday of Easter (Year A)

Preparing the worship space

Colour: white

Song suggestions: Alleluia, Alleluia, give thanks to the risen Lord (268, *Laudate*).

Welcome: Today we hear about Jesus praying for his friends and for us. He wanted us to be one, to be united in love, as closely as Jesus and God the Father are united in love. So, let's think about how we can be more like that.

Opening prayer: God our Father, you sent your Son Jesus to show us how to love. Help us learn to work together in love, and to make the world a better place for everyone. Amen.

First reading (optional): Acts 1:12-14

Psalm: Ps 26:1, 4, 7-8 r. 13

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

Gospel: John 17:1-11

After Jesus finished saying this, he looked up to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come. Give glory to your Son, so that the Son may give glory to you. For you gave him authority over all humanity, so that he might give eternal life to all those you gave him. And eternal life means knowing you, the only true God, and knowing Jesus Christ, whom you sent. I have shown your glory on earth; I have finished the work you gave me to do. Father! Give me glory in your presence now, the same glory I had with you before the world was made.

"I have made you known to those you gave me out of the world. They belonged to you, and you gave them to me. They have obeyed your word, and now they know that everything you gave me comes from you. I gave them the message that you gave me, and they received it; they know that it is true that I came from you, and they believe that you sent me.

"I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those you gave me, for they belong to you. All I have is yours, and all you have is mine; and my glory is shown through them. 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."

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

Gospel reflection: What do you remember about this reading?

Jesus was praying for his friends during his Last Supper with them, on the night before he died.

Jesus prayed to his Father, that his friends “may be one just as you and I are one.”
What do you think he meant?

Jesus wanted his disciples to love one another, to be united with each other, to be together – just as closely as Jesus and God the Father are together.

Jesus prayed for us too. He wants us to be united, together, loving one another.

What sort of things might we do if we are united?

We might spend time together. And be at peace with each other, listening to each other and helping each other. We would want what is best for the other person – loving one another as much as we love ourselves.

What do you love to have, or to do? Would you be able to help someone else enjoy the same? Perhaps you have a favourite book and could read it to your little brother or sister. Perhaps you enjoy making music and you could invite a friend or family member to join you in singing or playing an instrument.

Do you have any other ideas? How else could we come together with others?

In a special letter called *Laudato Si'*, Pope Francis asked us all to join together to care for our earth and for each other. *Watch and share our animation to find out more about Laudato Si'*: <https://cafod.org.uk/education/primary-teaching-resources/laudato-si-for-children>

While Salina, a farmer in Bangladesh, would love it if you joined with her to write a letter to the World Bank asking them to protect the right of small farmers to use and share their own seeds. *See the activity suggestions for more information.*

What could you do in this special time after Easter to become more united - or 'at one' - with other people?

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

Jesus prayed for his disciples to be one, just as Jesus and God the Father are one.
So, we pray together...

We pray for all world leaders: that they may learn to work together and make decisions that will make the world a more peaceful place. Lord, hear us...

We pray for people who are poor around the world: that they may feel supported by us as they work to improve life in their communities. Lord, hear us...

We pray for our parish, families and friends: that we may love one another, and work together for the good of the earth and everyone who lives here. Lord, hear us...

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

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Closing prayer: God of love, help us to be like Jesus, and work together with others to build a better future for all people. Amen.

Activity suggestions:

Remind the children that Jesus prayed for all of us. On the accompanying illustration of Jesus praying, invite them to draw pictures or write names in the thought bubble of themselves and some of the other people Jesus was praying for. You could suggest their families and friends, as well as our brothers and sisters throughout the world.

Encourage the children to join together with Salina so that all small farmers can use and share their own seeds instead of being forced to buy more expensive seeds from large companies. There is a special activity linked to this campaign at **cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy**. You can find out more information about the campaign at **cafod.org.uk/food**

Remind the children to share with their grown ups all that they have heard and thought about in the liturgy today. Encourage the children to spend time this week doing something that they really enjoy together with a family member or friend, either in person or online.

***Gospel passage taken from:**

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