

## Children's liturgy – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year A)

### Preparing the worship space

Colour: green

Props: white and yellow paper for making paper candles

**Song suggestions:** Christ be our light (883, Laudate)

Walk in the light (771, Laudate)

**Welcome:** Today we are going to be talking about light. We are going to think about how we can bring light to the lives of other people.

**Opening prayer:** God of light, shine in our hearts so that we can bring joy and hope to other people, especially those who are frightened, sick, lonely or hungry. Amen.

**First reading (optional):** Isaiah 8:23b–9:3

**Psalm:** Psalm 26:1, 4, 13-14 r. 1

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

**Gospel:** Matthew 4:12-17

When Jesus heard that John had been put in prison, he went away to Galilee. He did not stay in Nazareth, but went to live in Capernaum, a town by Lake Galilee, in the territory of Zebulun and Naphtali. This was done to make what the prophet Isaiah had said come true:

“Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,  
on the road to the sea, on the other side of the Jordan,  
Galilee, land of the Gentiles!  
The people who live in darkness will see a great light.  
On those who live in the dark land of death  
the light will shine.”

From that time Jesus began to preach his message: “Turn away from your sins, because the Kingdom of heaven is near.”

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

**Gospel reflection:** What do you remember from this reading?

It talks about people who lived in darkness seeing a great light. Who do you think the people living in darkness were? Where do you think the light came from?

One way of thinking about this is that when we are sad or lonely, everything feels dark and gloomy. This is the dark. But then when someone does something nice for

us, like including us in their game or making us laugh, everything seems brighter again. This is the light. This is the light that Jesus brings into the world.

Some people in the world do not have enough food to eat, safe houses to live in, or clean water to drink. And so the world can feel like a very dark place.

We can try to bring light back into everyone's lives, by helping to make the world a fairer place so that every person has what they need to live a healthy and happy life.

We all live in one world, with the same sun shining down on us. We are all God's children and belong to one family. Jesus asks us to look after each other. If we do this we can help the light of Jesus to shine in the world.

What will you do this week to make the light of God's love shine for someone, either here or in another part of the world?

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

Together we pray that the light of Christ will shine brightly in our lives:

We pray for the Church in the world: that as it spreads the message of Jesus, the light of the world, it may work to bring comfort and help to those who are in need. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all people who are living in the darkness of poverty, fear or illness: that through our actions they may see light and have hope for a better future. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, families and friends: that we may know the light of Christ and bring that light to those we meet. Lord, in your mercy...

**Closing prayer:** God of hope, share your light with all your children, as we try to help others who are in need. Amen.

### **Activity suggestions**

Discuss the accompanying illustration with the children. The boy in the picture lives in South America. The houses are a little bit different from ours, the plants are a bit different from ours, and the animals are a bit different too. It is the same sun that he is watching rise though. Invite the children to colour in the picture and to write in the sun what they will do this week to share the light of Jesus with someone who needs help.

Encourage the children to write a short prayer for their brothers and sisters around the world on a piece of paper. Roll the paper up, tape it, and stick a yellow flame-shaped piece of paper to the top to make a candle. They could carry the paper

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For more children's liturgy resources and illustrations see [cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy](http://cafod.org.uk/childrensliturgy)

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candle out into church to show the light that they are going to spread in the world this week.

Remind the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. If they have written a prayer, encourage them to say it together at home during the week. Remind them to do one thing to help someone else, either here or overseas, and to share the light with them.

\*Gospel passage taken from:

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