

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

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: white

Song suggestions: Christ be beside me (910, Laudate)

One more step along the world I go (901, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

Welcome: Today we hear how two of the disciples went on a journey to a village called Emmaus. Along the way, they met someone really special, although they didn't recognise him at first. Who do you think it was? Let's find out if you are right...

Opening prayer: Christ Jesus, our light and our guide, as we travel through life open our eyes to recognise you in everyone that we meet. Open our hearts to share generously with each other. Amen.

First reading (optional): Acts 2:14, 22-33

Psalm: Psalm 15:1-2, 5, 7-11 r 11

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

Gospel: Luke 24:13-35

On that same day two of Jesus' followers were going to a village named Emmaus, about eleven kilometres from Jerusalem, and they were talking to each other about all the things that had happened. As they talked and discussed, Jesus himself drew near and walked along with them; they saw him, but somehow did not recognize him. Jesus said to them, "What are you talking about to each other, as you walk along?"

They stood still, with sad faces. One of them, named Cleopas, asked him, "Are you the only visitor in Jerusalem who doesn't know the things that have been happening there these last few days?"

"What things?" he asked.

"The things that happened to Jesus of Nazareth," they answered. "This man was a prophet and was considered by God and by all the people to be powerful in everything he said and did. Our chief priests and rulers handed him over to be sentenced to death, and he was crucified. And we had hoped that he would be the one who was going to set Israel free! Besides all that, this is now the third day since it happened. Some of the women of our group surprised us; they went at dawn to the tomb, but could not find his body. They came back saying they had seen a vision of angels who told them that he is alive. Some of our group went to the tomb and found it exactly as the women had said, but they did not see him."

Then Jesus said to them, “How foolish you are, how slow you are to believe everything the prophets said! Was it not necessary for the Messiah to suffer these things and then to enter his glory?” And Jesus explained to them what was said about himself in all the Scriptures, beginning with the books of Moses and the writings of all the prophets.

As they came near the village to which they were going, Jesus acted as if he were going farther; but they held him back, saying, “Stay with us; the day is almost over and it is getting dark.” So he went in to stay with them. He sat down to eat with them, took the bread, and said the blessing; then he broke the bread and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they recognized him, but he disappeared from their sight. They said to each other, “Wasn't it like a fire burning in us when he talked to us on the road and explained the Scriptures to us?”

They got up at once and went back to Jerusalem, where they found the eleven disciples gathered together with the others and saying, “The Lord is risen indeed! He has appeared to Simon!”

The two then explained to them what had happened on the road, and how they had recognized the Lord when he broke the bread.

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

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

Two disciples are walking along, on their way to a place called Emmaus. Jesus was crucified two days before and the disciples are confused because the women have just come back from Jesus' tomb saying that it is empty.

Why was Jesus' tomb empty?

The two disciples meet another man along the road and they walk with him. Who do you think this was? But did the disciples recognise him?

The man explains the Scriptures to the disciples so that they can understand that Jesus is risen from the dead.

Do the disciples recognise him now?

Finally the disciples persuade the man to come and eat with them. What happens at the meal?

The man takes the bread, blesses it, breaks it and shares it with the disciples. Suddenly they realise who it is. Why do you think the disciples recognise Jesus now?

Can you think of another time that Jesus broke, blessed and shared the bread?

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

CAFOD is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of Caritas International. Charity no 1160384 and a company limited by guarantee no 09387398

We are all made in the image of God and Jesus is in each and every person, but often we forget this. We do not take the time to recognise how important and special each person is.

But our eyes can be opened just like the disciples in this story. If we take the time to get to know others, to share food with them, perhaps we will come to see Christ in these people, our brothers and sisters, who are all part of God's family around the world.

How would you behave if you were eating with Jesus? What would you say? How would you treat him?

And so, if Christ is in each of us, how do you think we should treat each other? The same as we would treat Jesus?

It doesn't matter how different we are to someone else, whether someone is tall or short, has brown skin or white skin, is rich or poor, quiet or loud, Jesus is in us all. And so we are called to love one another as we love Jesus.

When you are eating this week, take the time to talk to the people you are with and to think about how Christ is in each and every one of us.

After the meal, the disciples rushed back to tell people what had happened. Let us also by our actions, show that we believe that Jesus is risen and is always with us.

We can do this by treating others as we would wish to be treated, by loving our neighbour as Jesus has asked us and by making the right choices in our lives.

What will you do to show that you believe in Jesus this week?

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

We look for Christ in all people we meet as we pray together:

We pray for world leaders: that they may do all that they can to make sure everyone has enough. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may look for Christ in all people and be a welcoming place for all. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may see Christ in all people around the world. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: Living God, we look for you in all people. May we be inspired to treat each other with respect, sharing generously and reaching out to help those who are in need. Amen.

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

CAFOD is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of Caritas International. Charity no 1160384 and a company limited by guarantee no 09387398

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration of a group of people sharing food together and to write or draw on the back how they will treat others in the coming week.

Encourage the children to write a grace to be used before meals, so that each time they eat or share food they remember to look for Jesus in the people around them and in those who prepared, grew and produced the food.

Remind the children to tell their grown-ups about all that they have heard and thought about in the liturgy today. If the children have written a grace, encourage them to say it in the coming week before each meal and to try to do at least one thing in the coming week to show that they are looking for Jesus in all people.

*Gospel passage taken from:

Good News Translation® (Today's English Version, Second Edition)
© 1992 American Bible Society. All rights reserved.

Anglicisation © The British and Foreign Bible Society 1976, 1994, 2004. The copyright for the derivative work of Anglicisation pertains only to the text within the Good News Translation (GNT) that British and Foreign Bible Society adapted for British literary usage, consistent with Section 103(b) of the United States Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 103(b).

Bible text from the Good News Translation (GNT) is not to be reproduced in copies or otherwise by any means except as permitted in writing by American Bible Society, 101 North Independence Mall East, FL 8, Philadelphia, PA 19106 (www.americanbible.org).



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

CAFOD is the official aid agency of the Catholic Church in England and Wales and part of Caritas International. Charity no 1160384 and a company limited by guarantee no 09387398