

## Children's liturgy – Second Sunday after Christmas (Year B)

### Preparation of the worship space

Colour: white

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

**Welcome:** Today we hear a lot about the Word. The Word is another name for someone very special. Who do you think that might be? Let's find out together.

**Opening prayer:** God of life, you sent your Son Jesus to be with us and to shine a light in the darkness. Fill us with your love, your light and your joy. Amen.

**First reading (optional):** Eccl 24:1-2, 8-12

**Psalms:** Psalm 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20 r. John 1:14

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

**Gospel:** John 1:1-18 (*short version in bold John 1:1-5, 9-14*)

**In the beginning the Word already existed; the Word was with God, and the Word was God. From the very beginning the Word was with God. Through him God made all things; not one thing in all creation was made without him. The Word was the source of life, and this life brought light to people. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has never put it out.**

God sent his messenger, a man named John, who came to tell people about the light, so that all should hear the message and believe. He himself was not the light; he came to tell about the light. **This was the real light—the light that comes into the world and shines on everyone.**

**The Word was in the world, and though God made the world through him, yet the world did not recognize him. He came to his own country, but his own people did not receive him. Some, however, did receive him and believed in him; so he gave them the right to become God's children. They did not become God's children by natural means, that is, by being born as the children of a human father; God himself was their Father.**

**The Word became a human being and, full of grace and truth, lived among us. We saw his glory, the glory which he received as the Father's only Son.**

John spoke about him. He cried out, "This is the one I was talking about when I said, 'He comes after me, but he is greater than I am, because he existed before I was born.'"

Out of the fullness of his grace he has blessed us all, giving us one blessing after another. God gave the Law through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, who is the same as God and is at the Father's side, he has made him known.

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

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

This reading might sound a bit tricky, but it isn't really. There was lots of talk about the Word. From the very beginning of time the Word was with God and the Word was God. And the Word brought life and light to the world.

The Word is another name for someone very special. Other names that are sometimes used for this person are "the light of the world", or Emmanuel. Do you have any idea who it might be?

The Word is another name for Jesus. So throughout this gospel reading it is talking about Jesus, who is the Son of God.

The gospel reminds us that God sent his only Son, Jesus, into the world to be with us.

Why did God send Jesus into the world to be with us, do you think?

Jesus came to show us how to live and to help us to get to know God better. It can be difficult to understand what God is like, but the life of Jesus, which we hear about in the gospel stories, helps to show us. Through listening to him and following his example we can also learn to live our lives as God wants us to.

How can we listen to Jesus and to the Word of God?

We can listen to God when we pray. And we can listen to his words when we hear our gospel story in children's liturgy, or whenever we read the bible.

What can we do to show that we are following Jesus' example of how to live?

Jesus came to earth as one of us, as a human being, even though he was God's son. He lived an ordinary life in many ways and so he knows what it is like for us living our lives today.

He knows what it is to feel happy, excited, to laugh and to love. He knows what it is to feel sad, worried, frightened, or angry.

So, whenever we feel any of these things we can share them with Jesus in prayer. He loves us, especially those of us who are poor, or sick or who are finding things difficult in any way. We know that Jesus is always with us and that he understands.

And we try to remember to follow him, to love our neighbour, to treat others as we would wish to be treated and to share what we have so that everyone in the world has enough.

How will you follow Jesus in the coming week? How will you listen to God's Word?

**Intercessions** *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or*

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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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*you can use the suggestions below.*

Remembering that Jesus is like a light shining in the darkness, we have the courage to pray together:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may always follow God's word and be a place of welcome and love for all, especially for those who are poor. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for all those who feel sad, sick, lonely or afraid: that together we may reach out to support and comfort them, inspired by Jesus who lived among us and shares our pain. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, our family and friends: that we may follow Jesus and love our neighbour in all that we do. Lord, in your mercy...

**Closing prayer:** God of all, help us to listen to your word and to live our lives as you ask us to – with love and respect for all people. We ask this through Christ our Lord, the living Word. Amen.

### **Activity suggestions**

Encourage the children to colour in the accompanying illustration of Jesus, and to think about how they will follow his example of how to live in the coming week.

What other names can the children think of for Jesus? Discuss what they think these different names teach us about Jesus eg Emmanuel, the Word, Light of the World, Prince of Peace, etc.

Invite the children to think about and discuss with those at home how they can follow Jesus and get to know God better. What will they do together as a family in the coming week to show that they are following Jesus?

\*Gospel passage taken from:

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