

Liturgy of the Word with Children

# Children Celebrate!



**SUMMER 2020 (YEAR A)**

**MAY 31, 2020** Pentecost Sunday  
*through*

**AUGUST 23, 2020** Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

# Children Celebrate!

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Leader's Guide

Summer 2020

Year A

May 31, 2020

Pentecost Sunday

through

August 23, 2020

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

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# Additional Resources at Pflaum.com

## Sunday Readings

For your convenience, each Sunday's Lectionary readings for the Liturgy of the Word with Children can be downloaded from pflaum.com. It's as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Go to pflaum.com/readings for a list of Sunday readings (updated at the end of each month).
2. Click on the date you want. That Sunday's readings will open in a PDF.
3. Print or download the file.

*For more about the Sunday Readings, see the Introduction to this Leader's Guide.*

## Children Celebrate! Director's Manual

For an easy-to-follow Director's Manual, go to pflaum.com/liturgy-of-the-word and click on "Bonus Resources" and then "Program Directors." There you will find a manual that outlines practical steps for establishing a program, recruiting and training volunteers, and creating the proper environment and liturgical flow.

In addition, you will learn how to most effectively incorporate *Children Celebrate!* materials into your program. Additional resources are also suggested.

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# This Issue's Themes

Date	Sunday	Theme
May 31, 2020	Pentecost Sunday	Come, Holy Spirit!
June 7, 2020	Most Holy Trinity	Jesus Is God's Only Son
June 14, 2020	The Body and Blood of Christ	Jesus Is the Bread of Life
June 21, 2020	Twelfth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Do Not Be Afraid
June 28, 2020	Thirteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Helping Others
July 5, 2020	Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	We Trust in Jesus
July 12, 2020	Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jesus Tells Us to Listen to Him
July 19, 2020	Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	We Love God
July 26, 2020	Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jesus Taught about Heaven
August 2, 2020	Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jesus Feeds Many People
August 9, 2020	Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time	We Have Faith in Jesus
August 16, 2020	Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jesus Can Heal Us
August 23, 2020	Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jesus Is the Messiah

# Using *Children Celebrate!*

*Children Celebrate!* is a complete step-by-step resource for celebrating the Liturgy of the Word with Children. The two components of *Children Celebrate!* are this Leader's Guide and the Children's Leaflets, a book of tear-out, take-home sheets.

**Leader's Guide** (each week has two parts)

**I. Preparation** provides the leader with information about the week's Scripture readings and how they relate to children today. Its elements are the following:

- **Today's Readings** cites the exact Scripture readings you will be using that day. (Remember, these readings do not always match the readings chosen for the adults. See more about the readings on page 6.) A theme sets the tone of that day's liturgy.
- **Prepare with Prayer** helps center you on the task at hand, which is not only helping children hear and understand God's Word but also hearing and understanding God's Word *through* the children.
- **Scripture Background** helps you understand the readings and prepare to break open the Word.
- **Prepare the Meeting Space** gives you suggestions for enhancing the environment for that day's celebration. Review this section a few days before the liturgy.
- **Suggested Music** provides suggestions for appropriate songs during the liturgy. Information on where to find each piece of suggested music is on page 62.
- **Children's Connections** explains each week's theme and Scripture message as it applies to children today.
- **More About...** provides Church teaching about a topic that is related to this week's liturgy.
- **Using the Children's Leaflet** provides brief background information about the take-home sheet.
- **Activity** provides a reproduction of the take-home sheet. Solutions to puzzles are shown as needed.

**II. The Liturgy of the Word** is a ready-made liturgy specifically written for that week's readings and theme. Its elements are the following:

- **Gathering** helps the children settle into their places. Playing appropriate background music or singing a song provides a transition into an attitude of prayer.
- **Collect** sets the tone for the worship experience.
- **Focus Statements** for each of the readings help you give the children a key idea to listen for and to help them better understand the theme of the readings.
- **Responsorial Psalm and Gospel Acclamation** provide liturgically appropriate responses for the children to use.
- **Homily** gives you starter ideas for interesting, creative, and relevant reflections on the Gospel.
- **Profession of Faith** is a simple and interactive declaration of what we believe as Catholics.
- **Prayer of the Faithful** are the prayers for the needs of the world, the Church, and the community. These are often a common first step for children into spontaneous prayer and can be powerful moments for children.
- **Return to Assembly** provides the leader with a cue to prepare the children to rejoin the main assembly and to remind them to take home a Children's Leaflet.

**Children's Leaflets** (each leaflet is two-sided)

**Front Side**

- **Today's Readings** gives the Scripture citations for that Sunday's liturgy.
- **We Pray** is a short prayer for children based on the week's theme.
- **The Word of God This Week** is a summary of the day's Gospel story.

**Back Side**

- **Activity** provides an entertaining way to reinforce the Gospel message.
- **Faith Focus** highlights how the Gospel message can pertain to the family.
- **Family Activity** provides practical suggestions to families on how to put the Gospel into action at home.

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

May 31, 2020

Pentecost Sunday

## Today's Readings

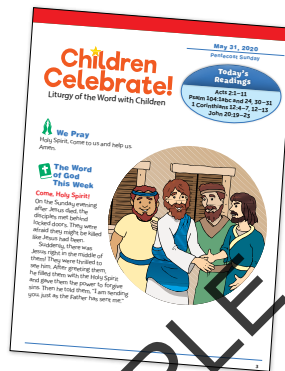
Acts 2:1–11  
Psalm 104:1abc and 24, 30–31  
1 Corinthians 12:4–7, 12–13  
John 20:19–23

Come, Holy Spirit!

## Preparation

### Children's Leaflet

Have on hand copies of the Children's Leaflet for this Sunday. Distribute copies either at the start of the session or before the children return to the assembly.



## Prepare with Prayer

As long as I live, I will sing and praise you, the Lord God.  
With all my heart I praise you, LORD I praise you!  
(Psalm 104:33, 35)

## Scripture Background

Today's First Reading is set in Jerusalem as pilgrims are gathering at the temple for the Jewish harvest festival of Pentecost, sometimes called the Feast of Weeks. It always occurred 50 days after Passover.

For Christianity, however, this particular Jewish feast day was destined to become a new occasion for celebration, a time to mark a harvest of souls, not grain, through an outpouring of the Spirit on Jesus' disciples.

The Holy Spirit's presence in the upper room manifested in three ways—wind, fire, and the gift of tongues. The ancients associated wind and fire with Heavenly origins, probably because of the violent movements of air and the dangerous flashes of lightning that occur in the sky during a severe storm.

Especially symbolic in the Christian Pentecost story is the fact that one single fire breaks up into smaller tongues of fire over each disciple's head, suggesting the sublime truth that wherever the Spirit moves, diversity is blessed even as unity is created.

In a similar way, the disciples' sudden ability to speak in the languages of the various foreigners in Jerusalem that

## Prepare the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a red cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a green plant or bouquet of fresh flowers

For use during the Gathering activity, obtain one of the following items (or something similar) for the dancer in the center of the circle:

- ▶ a red streamer
- ▶ a red scarf
- ▶ a tamborine
- ▶ a maraca

For use during the Homily, affix to poster board the following images either cut from magazines or newspapers or downloaded and printed from the internet. For example, you can Google the phrase, "Egyptian family image." Then do the same for Iranian, Greek, Ethiopian, Iraqi, Italian, Indian.

## Suggested Music

See page 62 for more information.

**Gathering:** "The Spirit Song" (Seeds CD-1, Track #15) or "The Holy Spirit" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #8)

**Gospel Acclamation:** "Alleluia" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #24)

day reinforces the Christian message that Christ came to save all people of all nations. From many different members, God forms one Church.

In today's reading from 1 Corinthians, we find Paul addressing a problem specific to the Christians he knew in Corinth, yet it's one that remains familiar today. The problem was that an exaggerated sense of self-importance on the part of some members of the Corinthian Church was destroying the unity of the whole congregation.

Paul told those individuals, in short, to get over themselves! Many spiritual gifts are needed in the Church; no single person possesses them all, and no single person can claim to have a gift more important than anyone else's.

The Gospel shifts our attention to the first Easter Sunday, when Jesus confers the Holy Spirit on everyone present in the upper room.

## Children's Connections

Probably the most important part of today's Homily will be showing the children photos of families from other countries. While it is good to talk with children about diversity, letting them see it in (almost) living color accomplishes much more.

This is especially true for children who may be accustomed to associating their Catholic faith only with persons of European origin. Centuries of painting and sculpture, along with decades of TV and film, have created the impression that Jesus, for instance, was fair-haired, fair-skinned, and fine-featured. Current-day photographs of Lebanese people or Palestinians probably come closer to representing what he really looked like.

Giving young children a more accurate picture of the world's first Christians will help them gain a greater appreciation of the diversity in today's Church and world. Even as toddlers, children begin noticing differences among people's dress, skin color, hairstyles, and so forth. They make no value judgments on these differences, although they may mimic the denigrating language of adults who do.

How you present the photographs from around the globe therefore will be important. If children ask about a family's clothing, respond in a relaxed way and satisfy their innocent curiosity with simple statements like, "People from other

## More About ...

### The Spirit Given in Baptism

Easy to miss are references to Baptism in today's readings. This should not surprise us; while Confirmation strengthens the Holy Spirit in us, it is Baptism that first gives us the Holy Spirit.

When Paul says in the Second Reading that all drink of the same Spirit, he is actually referring to the waters of Baptism, not the wine of the Eucharist. Contemporary scientific knowledge gives us even more to consider in this analogy, for something all human bodies have in common is the water that makes up approximately 60 percent of their total weight. In a similar fashion, something all Christian souls have in common is a substantial share in the life of the Holy Spirit.

When today's Gospel tells of Jesus conferring the Holy Spirit upon a large group of disciples—not just the Twelve—assembled in the upper room, this, too, is a baptismal reference. With Baptism always comes the gift of the Spirit and the forgiveness of sins.

countries don't wear the same clothes we do." Make no jokes about anyone's appearance, even if you consider the humor good-natured, and avoid all forms of stereotyping. Your own modeling will encourage children to develop tolerance and respect for those different from themselves.

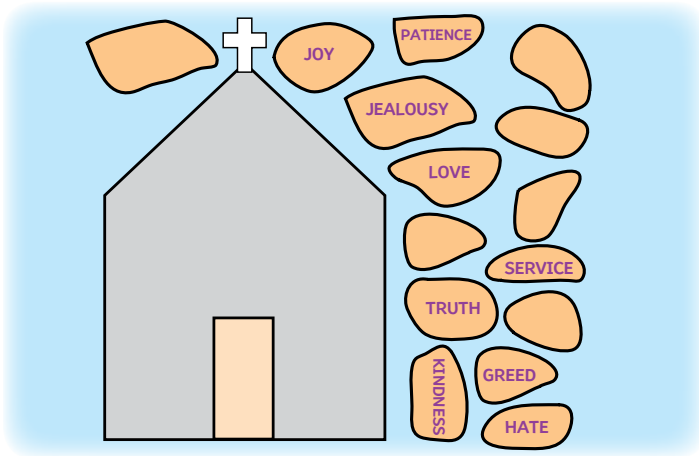
### The Children's Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps children learn about the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, through a prayer, a summary of the Gospel, and a creative activity.

Distribute copies of the leaflet. If time permits, read with the children the summary of this week's Gospel. Point out the artwork and ask the children what is happening in the picture.

## Leaflet Activity

The activity in this week's leaflet asks children to help build the Church with various gifts. Families are encouraged to celebrate this day by calling to mind the diverse talents of each family member.



## The Liturgy of the Word

### Gathering

Have the children join hands and stand in a circle to symbolize our unity as Church. Mention that while all the people in the Church are held together by the Holy Spirit, God made each person different and special. Our unity doesn't depend on being exact copies of each other. That's why today we are going to celebrate our differences by taking turns doing some freestyle dancing in the center of the circle. While enjoying each person's own unique style of dance, the rest of the group will keep time by clapping and singing along with the words of the Gathering song.

Ask for a volunteer to be the first dancer, and give that person an object to shake or wave while dancing. After hearing the words "make us truly wise," the dancer should hand off the item to another child who wants to dance, then take that person's place in the circle. In this manner, dancers should keep taking turns until the hymn ends. After the song is finished, have the children stay in the circle and bow their heads for the Collect.

### Collect

**Leader:** Let us pray. Heavenly Father, you call us to love what is special and different about everyone we meet, but sometimes we fail. Help us do better by strengthening your Spirit within us.

Our response to each prayer will be, "Lord, have mercy." Lord, send the wind of the Holy Spirit to blow through our hearts and cleanse them of all sin. Lord, have mercy.

**Children:** Lord, have mercy.

**Leader:** Lord, send the fire of the Holy Spirit to burn away our selfishness. Lord, have mercy.

**Children:** Lord, have mercy.

**Leader:** Lord, fill us with the goodness of the Holy Spirit, so that our every word and deed will proclaim your praise. Lord, have mercy.

**Children:** Lord, have mercy.

*Light the candle and begin the First Reading.*

### First Reading

**Leader:** In today's First Reading, we learn that signs of the Holy Spirit's presence at the first Pentecost were wind, fire, and the disciples' sudden ability to preach God's word in many different languages. .

*Read Acts 2:1-11.* Then say, "The word of the Lord."

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm

The psalm may be sung or spoken. Before beginning the psalm, sing or announce this response.

**Leader:** Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

**Children:** Lord, send out your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.

**Leader:** *Read Psalm 104:1abc and 24, 30-31.*

### Second Reading

**Leader:** In today's Second Reading, Paul reminds us to celebrate our differences while always remaining one in the Spirit.

*Read 1 Corinthians 12:4-7, 12-13.* Then say, "The word of the Lord."

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

### Gospel Acclamation

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Acclamation, proceed to the proclamation of the Gospel.

## Proclaim the Gospel

**Leader:** While our First Reading told what happened when the Holy Spirit gave the Apostles the gift of tongues, today's Gospel tells what happened when they first saw Jesus risen from the dead.

The Lord be with you.

**Children:** And with your spirit.

**Leader:** A reading from the Gospel of John.

**Children:** † Glory to you, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Read John 20:19–23. Then say,*  
“The Gospel of the Lord.”

**Children:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.  
*Ask the children to be seated.*

## Homily

Begin by repeating these words from the Second Reading: “There are different ways to serve the same Lord, and we can each do different things. Yet the same God works in all of us.”

Point out that many of the Apostles later served the Lord in different ways and went to other countries to live and preach. Some of those countries were Egypt, Iraq, Iran, Italy, Greece, and Ethiopia. Next, show the children the poster you have prepared. Ask if anyone can identify which modern-day family comes from Egypt. After someone successfully guesses, give the name of the Apostle who took the Gospel to that country: Simon the Zealot. Continue until every country and Apostle has been named:

- ▶ Egypt — Simon the Zealot
- ▶ Iraq and Iran — Thaddeus (also known as Jude)
- ▶ Italy — Peter
- ▶ Greece — Philip
- ▶ India — Thomas
- ▶ Ethiopia — Bartholomew (also known as Nathaniel)

Wrap up by reminding the children that the Apostles learned to celebrate differences as they traveled the world. Welcoming and celebrating differences is our call, too, because Jesus told us to treat all human beings like members of our own families.

## Profession of Faith

**Leader:** Please stand for the Profession of Faith. Respond to each question with the words, “I do.”  
Do you believe in God, who is Father of all the world's different races and nations?

**Children:** I do.

**Leader:** Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, whom the Father sent to redeem all people?

**Children:** I do.

**Leader:** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, who lives in people of all different races and nations?

**Children:** I do.

## Prayer of the Faithful

**Leader:** As people created, redeemed, and blessed with gifts by a loving God, let us approach him with our prayers. Our response to each petition will be, “Hear us, O Lord.”

Strengthen the power of your Spirit in our Holy Father, Pope \_\_\_, our bishop, Bishop \_\_\_; our pastor, Father \_\_; and all who serve the Church in faith, we pray.

**Children:** Hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** Strengthen the power of your Spirit in the people of every race and nation, we pray.

**Children:** Hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** Strengthen the power of your Spirit in all the people of our parish, we pray.

**Children:** Hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Invite the children to pray their own petitions. Then pray:*

Heavenly Father, thank you for pouring out all different kinds of spiritual gifts on us, your people. Thank you for giving each of us a different way to serve others. May we use our gifts for your greater glory, our own greater joy, and the betterment of all people. This we ask through Christ our Lord.

**Children:** Amen.

## Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. If you haven't already done so, distribute the leaflets. Remind the children to take the leaflets home and share them with their families. Encourage them to complete the Family Corner activities as a family.

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

June 7, 2020

Most Holy Trinity

## Today's Readings

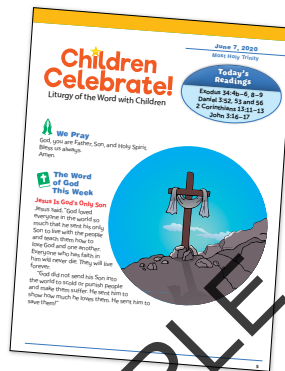
Exodus 34:4b–6, 8–9  
Daniel 3:52, 53 and 56  
2 Corinthians 13:11–13  
John 3:16–17

Jesus Is God's Only Son

## Preparation

### Children's Leaflet

Have on hand copies of the Children's Leaflet for this Sunday. Distribute copies either at the start of the session or before the children return to the assembly.



## Prepare with Prayer

“God controls the stars in the sky and everyone on this earth. When God does something, we cannot change it or even ask why. (Daniel 4:35)

## Scripture Background

The concept of divine mercy is at least as old as the Book of Exodus, as today's First Reading proves. The people God has called into a covenant relationship have just finished making and worshipping a golden calf while Moses was on the mountaintop receiving the Ten Commandments—and what does God do? After expressing displeasure with their sin, he repeats the covenant offer!

The concept of a triune God came much later in the history of our faith, and in fact nowhere in the Bible, not even in the New Testament, is it the refined dogma that we know today. Nevertheless, passages like the final line of today's second reading do provide glimpses into future doctrinal developments.

In verse 13, Paul seems to name “the Lord Jesus Christ” and “God” and “the Holy Spirit” as separate but related sources of blessing for humankind. Because he has written his letter about divisions within the Corinthian community, he is particularly intent on helping his readers see the Holy Spirit as the source of Christian unity.

The Gospel is part of a larger conversation between Jesus and Nicodemus. Because Nicodemus has come to Jesus in faith, the Lord is plunging him deeper into divine mysteries.

## Prepare the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a white cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a green plant or bouquet of fresh flowers.

Have the following ready for the Gathering and the Homily:

- ▶ a green paper shamrock
- ▶ a black-and-white image of Borromean rings (Google the phrase “Borromean rings image”)
- ▶ three water-based broad-tipped felt markers in light shades of yellow, blue, and red (or three crayons in these colors)

## Suggested Music

See page 62 for more information.

**Gathering:** “The Trinity” (Seeds CD-2, Track #22 or Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #19)

**Gospel Acclamation:** “Alleluia” (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #24)

What Jesus says about being the Father's only Son recalls Abraham's willingness to show *his* love for God by sacrificing his only son, Isaac. In the end, of course, Isaac was spared, and in the end Jesus will be, too—but not without first proving the depth of God's love for his people.

## Children's Connections

Today's Homily puts into terms accessible to children some sophisticated ideas about the Holy Trinity. First, you will use a shamrock to show that God is both one and three. God is one Being in Three Divine Persons, or, as the Eleventh Council of Toledo (675) put it, "one substance and three persons."



The early Christian writer Tertullian (c. 160–c. 220 AD) was first to give us precise terminology in this area of theology. In fact, he coined the term *Trinity*. He also was first to speak of Father, Son, and Spirit as *person*; person being a term with a specific meaning in the Latin language in which he wrote—one, unfortunately, that translates imperfectly into modern English.

It referred mostly to the Trinity's key roles in salvation history—those of Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier. (Nevertheless, it must be remembered that *Father, Son, and Spirit* existed before anything was ever made, saved, or graced. Thus, their relationship to one another is of prior importance, and the words Father, Son, and Spirit more perfectly identify them than do the terms *Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier*.)

Finally, when Tertullian spoke of the Trinity as being one in substance, he meant "what the three persons of the Trinity have in common...their common foundational unity, despite the outward appearance of diversity" (Alister E. McGrath, *Christian Theology: An Introduction*, 2001, p. 322).

An image of Borromean rings shows three interlocking circles. The diagram is a good way to illustrate the quality of *perichoresis* associated with the Trinity. McGrath says, "The basic notion is that all three persons of the Trinity mutually share in the life of the others, so that none is isolated or detached from the actions of the others" (p. 586). No circle in the diagram is greater or lesser than any other. Even one circle



## More About ...

### An Ancient Meditation on the Holy Trinity

The Athanasian Creed, which dates back to the sixth century, was written in the spirit of the great fourth-century theologian Athanasius. It "stands alone in its detailed and beautiful description of the Holy Trinity," according to [beginningcatholic.com](http://beginningcatholic.com). Here are some key excerpts:

- "Thus the Father is God, the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God. However, there are not three gods, but one God."
- "The Father was not made, nor created, nor generated by anyone. The Son is not made, nor created, but begotten by the Father alone. The Holy Spirit is not made, nor created, nor generated, but proceeds from the Father and the Son."
- "There is, then, one Father, not three Fathers; one Son, not three sons; one Holy Spirit, not three holy spirits."
- "In this Trinity, there is nothing before or after, nothing greater or less. The entire three Persons are coeternal and coequal with one another."

that might appear to be "on top" no longer is if you simply rotate the image. And no circle can be removed without completely changing the image.

## The Children's Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps children learn about the mystery of the Holy Trinity, through a prayer, a summary of the Gospel, and a creative activity.

If you distribute the leaflet now and time permits, you may wish to read with the children the summary of the Gospel in "The Word of God This Week" after you have read the Gospel. Point out the artwork and ask the children what is happening in the picture.

## Leaflet Activity

Families are asked to consider how they can establish a peaceful kingdom within their own homes. The children decipher a prayer of praise.



## The Liturgy of the Word

### Gathering

Tell the children that because today is Trinity Sunday, the Collect will be a hymn to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

### Collect

**Leader:** Invite the children to stand and face south. Mention that to the left of them is east, where the sun rises, and to the right is west, where it sets. While singing today's hymn, you will use hand movements to trace the movement of the sun across the sky from sunrise to noon to sunset. The hymn reminds us that the Holy Trinity is always with us, during every part of every day. Then lead the children in prayer.

**Leader:** Lord God, you are Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. God our Father, thank for loving us always.

**Children:** Thank you, God the Father.

**Leader:** Jesus, you came to live with us and save us.

**Children:** Thank you, God the Son.

**Leader:** God the Holy Spirit, you are always with us to guide us.

**Children:** Thank you, God the Holy Spirit.

*Light the candle and begin the First Reading.*

## First Reading

**Leader:** In today's First Reading, we see that Moses is not afraid to ask God the Father to forgive his people even after they have committed a great sin.

*Read Exodus 34:4b-6, 8-9.* Then say, "The word of the Lord."

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

## Responsorial Psalm

The psalm may be either sung or spoken. Before beginning, sing or announce the response.

**Leader:** Glory and praise for ever!

**Children:** Glory and praise for ever!

**Leader:** *Read Daniel 3:52, 53 and 56.*

## Second Reading

**Leader:** In today's Second Reading, Paul ends a letter to his friends in Corinth by asking God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit to bless them.

*Read 2 Corinthians 13:11-13.* Then say, "The word of the Lord."

**Children:** Thanks be to God.

## Gospel Acclamation

Invite the children to stand. Sing the suggested Acclamation or another familiar one. If you choose not to sing the Acclamation, proceed to the proclamation of the Gospel.

## Proclaim the Gospel

**Leader:** In today's Gospel, Jesus reminds us why God the Father sent him into the world.

The Lord be with you.

**Children:** And with your spirit.

**Leader:** A reading from the Gospel of John.

**Children:** † Glory to you, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Read John 3:16-17.* Then say, "The Gospel of the Lord."

**Children:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

## Homily

Hold up the shamrock and ask the children the same question Saint Patrick once asked a crowd: "Am I holding up one leaf or three?" Continue by noting that there is no easy answer. *The Collins*

*Dictionary* says a shamrock is “a plant having leaves divided into three leaflets.” So, in a sense, both answers are true: you are holding up one leaf, yet also three.

In a similar way, it is hard to say who God is. God is one, yet also three. Then show the children the black-and-white diagram of the three interlocked circles, and say, “This is as close as we can get to showing what the Holy Trinity is like.” Then announce that you are going to add some color to the picture:

- ▶ Color the top circle yellow to represent the Father. Yellow is the color of sunshine and it was God the Father who said, “Let there be light.”
- ▶ Color the bottom left circle red to represent the Son. Jesus shed his Blood to prove God’s love for his people.
- ▶ Color the bottom right circle blue to represent the Holy Spirit. Wind was one sign of the Holy Spirit’s presence at the first Pentecost, and artists often use blue to show wind and clouds.

Note that while each circle is distinct, each also is a part of the other two circles:

- ▶ Point to the center area where all three circles share their colors and say, “All Three Persons are God.”
- ▶ Point to parts of the yellow circle overlapping with the red and blue while saying, “The Father is in the Son—and in the Holy Spirit.”
- ▶ Repeat the above step with the red and blue circles.

Conclude by saying, “Whenever one Person of the Trinity acts, all take part in the action.” So we can truly say:

- ▶ When the Father created the world, the Son and the Spirit were part of the action.
- ▶ When the Son redeemed the world, the Father and the Spirit were there, too.”
- ▶ When the Holy Spirit descended on the Apostles on Pentecost, the Father and the Son were there, too.

## Profession of Faith

**Leader:** Please stand for the Profession of Faith. Respond to each question with the words, “I do.” Do you believe in God the Father, creator of Heaven and earth?

**Children:** I do.

**Leader:** Do you believe in God the Son, redeemer of the world?

**Children:** I do.

**Leader:** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, sanctifier of the world?

**Children:** I do.

## Prayer of the Faithful

**Leader:** As a people created, redeemed, and sanctified by our God, let us go to him in prayer with all our needs. Our response to each petition will be, “Hear us, O Lord.”

That Jesus Christ will bless and be kind to all the leaders of the Church, we pray.

**Children:** Hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** That the Holy Spirit will join together the hearts of all the people of the Church, we pray.

**Children:** Hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** That God the Father will bless with his love all the people of the world, we pray.

**Children:** Hear us, O Lord.

**Leader:** *Invite the children to pray their own petitions. Then pray:*

God our Father, thank you for sending Jesus into the world to love us and save us. Thank you for sending the Holy Spirit to make us holy and to lead us to life everlasting. May you be praised, Holy Trinity, one God, forever and ever!

**Children:** Amen.

## Return to Assembly

The Liturgy of the Word ends with the Prayer of the Faithful. Prepare the children to return to the assembly in a respectful manner. If you haven’t already done so, distribute the leaflets. Remind the children to take the leaflets home and share them with their families. Encourage them to complete the Family Corner activities as a family.

Liturgy of the Word with Children

# Children Celebrate!



**SUMMER 2020 (YEAR A)**

**MAY 31, 2020** Pentecost Sunday  
through

**AUGUST 23, 2020** Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time



## The Readings

The readings cited are the readings contained in the *Lectionary for Masses with Children*. These readings may differ at times from those heard by the adults. They may be shorter, or there may be only a First Reading, followed by the Psalm and the Gospel. The First Reading may be altogether different from the one the adults hear, whereas the Gospel is almost always the same, but may be the shorter form. The *Directory for Masses with Children* allows for these differences to accommodate the children's level of comprehension.



## Activites

The last three pages of this book offer bonus activities intended for use by children who are pre-readers. Here are some suggestions, but all three activities could be used at any time. The first two activities could be used just before or after Pentecost Sunday on May 31. The third bonus is an activity most appropriate for the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time on August 9.

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All Gospel summaries are based on the *Contemporary English Version, Bible for Today's Family: New Testament* (© 1991, American Bible Society). This is the translation used in the *Lectionary for Masses with Children* (© 1992, United States Catholic Conference), which is approved for use in all dioceses of the United States.



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May 31, 2020

Pentecost Sunday

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

Acts 2:1–11

Psalms 104:1abc and 24, 30–31

1 Corinthians 12:4–7, 12–13

John 20:19–23



## We Pray

Holy Spirit, come to us and help us.  
Amen.

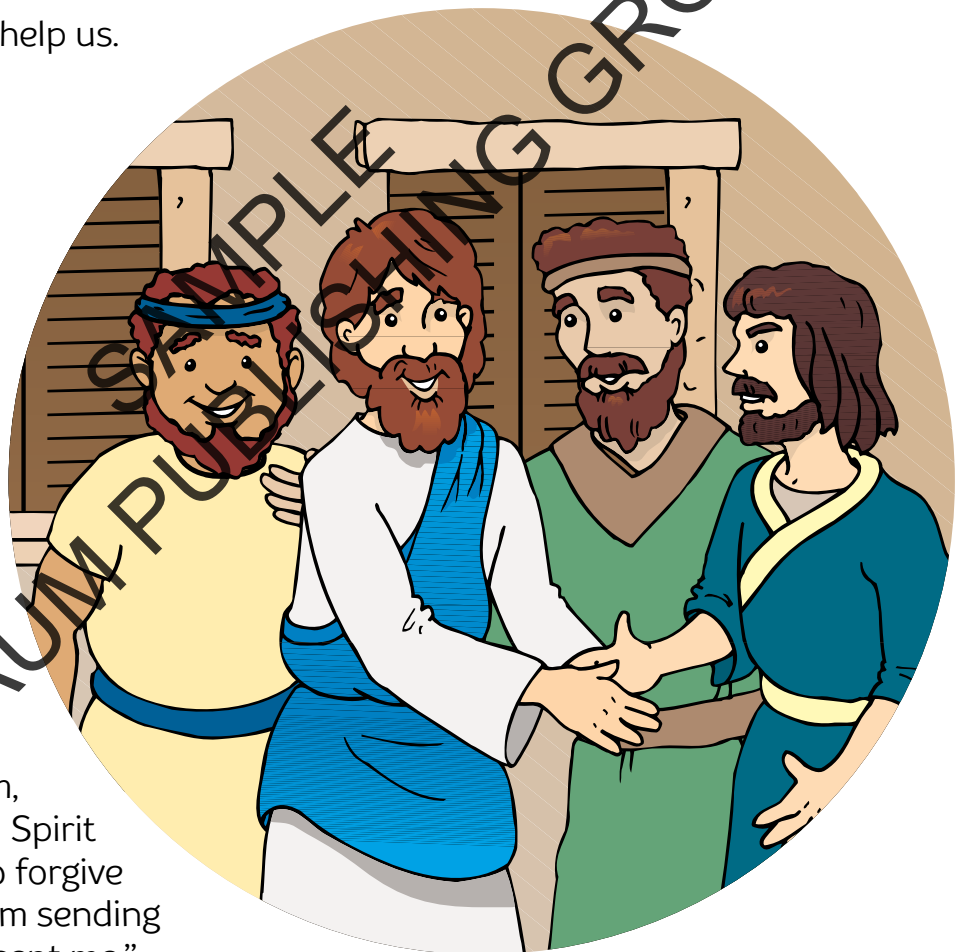


## The Word of God This Week

### Come, Holy Spirit!

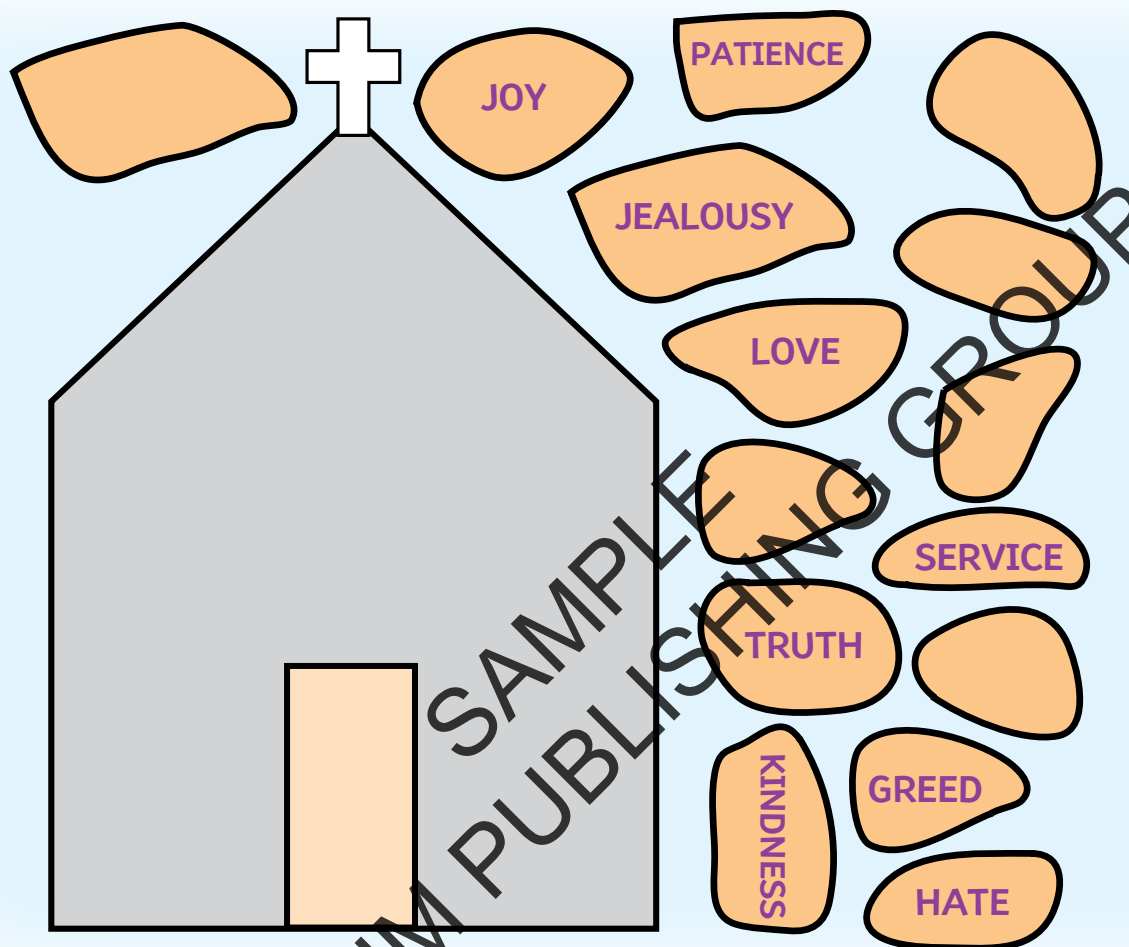
On the Sunday evening after Jesus died, the disciples met behind locked doors. They were afraid they might be killed like Jesus had been.

Suddenly, there was Jesus right in the middle of them! They were thrilled to see him. After greeting them, he filled them with the Holy Spirit and gave them the power to forgive sins. Then he told them, "I am sending you, just as the Father has sent me."



## Activity

We are the living stones of the Church. We all have gifts that build up the Church. Use the gift stones to build this Church. Add some gifts of your own in the empty stones. Construct your Church to show the gifts we must share in order to make the Church strong.



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## Family Corner

### Faith Focus

Pentecost was the day that the early Christian community received the courage, wisdom, and understanding to begin sharing the Good News of Jesus. Each person's talents contributed to the building up of the Church.

God has blessed each family member with a particular talent also. How welcoming are your family members to the gifts of one another? In what ways does your family reflect the Spirit in the world?

### Family Activity

To celebrate the diversity of people in your family, make a cake and put the names of all your family members on it. Use streamers and balloons to decorate your house to express that this is a day of celebration.

Spend time together taking a walk or going on an outing or playing games together at home. At the meal-time prayer, ask each person to mention specific gifts for which he or she is grateful.

June 7, 2020

Most Holy Trinity

# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

Exodus 34:4b–6, 8–9

Daniel 3:52, 53 and 56

2 Corinthians 13:11–13

John 3:16–17



## We Pray

God, you are Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
Bless us always.  
Amen.



## The Word of God This Week

### Jesus Is God's Only Son

Jesus said, "God loved everyone in the world so much that he sent his only Son to live with the people and teach them how to love God and one another. Everyone who has faith in him will never die. They will live forever."

"God did not send his Son into the world to scold or punish people and make them suffer. He sent him to show how much he loves them. He sent him to save them!"



Beginning with the G, write every other letter on the lines until you've used all of the letters. You will create a special prayer you can say to God.

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## Faith Focus

What must you and your family do in order to be able to say “as for us and our house, we will serve the Lord”?

In what ways can your family show that Christ is its center? Ask each family member to commit to an action of Christian witness for the coming week. Here are a few suggestions:

- Do the dishes without complaining.
- Take the trash out without being asked.
- Clean one's room.
- Write a letter to someone who has been neglected.
- Help with chores a neighbor who is elderly or sick.
- Offer to help out around the parish.