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Leader's Guide

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH CHILDREN

# Children Celebrate!



**Summer 2024** (Year B)

**MAY 26, 2024** | THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

through **AUGUST 18, 2024** | TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



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Liturgy of the Word with Children

LEADER'S GUIDE

**Summer 2024**

YEAR B

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THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

*through*

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TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

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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](http://pflaum.com). It's as easy as 1-2-3!

1. Go to [pflaum.com/readings](http://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.

### Weekly Gospel Reflection Videos!

Available to subscribers of *Children Celebrate!*

Visit <http://bit.ly/40Jp5mj> for weekly Gospel Reflection videos.

These videos can be used within your Children's Liturgy of the Word program, or shared with parents and families to view at home.

### Children Celebrate! Director's Manual

For an easy-to-follow Director's Manual, go to [pflaum.com/liturgy-of-the-word](http://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.

### Children Celebrate! Children's Liturgy of the Word – MP3 Album

With joyful melodies, call-and-response segments, and child-friendly lyrics, John Burland's inviting liturgical pieces are perfect for Children's Liturgy of the Word programs. For example, "Go Now and Listen to God's Word" can be sung as children are dismissed from the assembly, and "Yes, Lord, I Believe" is a jubilant option for singing the Creed, helping little ones to profess their faith.

Visit [giamusic.com](http://giamusic.com) and search "Children Celebrate" to order.

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# This Issue's Themes

DATE	SUNDAY	THEME
May 26, 2024	THE MOST HOLY TRINITY	Jesus Sends Us on a Mission
June 2, 2024	THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST	Jesus Gives Us the Eucharist
June 9, 2024	10TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	We Are Jesus' Family
June 16, 2024	11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	God's Kingdom Takes Root in Our Heart
June 23, 2024	12TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Jesus Gives Us Faith
June 30, 2024	13TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Jesus Gives Us New Life
July 7, 2024	14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Some People Reject Jesus
July 14, 2024	15TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Jesus Sends Out the Apostles
July 21, 2024	16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Jesus Teaches a Crowd
July 28, 2024	17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Jesus Feeds a Large Crowd
August 4, 2024	18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Jesus Gives Us Eternal Life
August 11, 2024	19TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	Jesus Is the Bread of Life
August 18, 2024	20TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME	The Father Sent Jesus

## 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 additional background 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)*

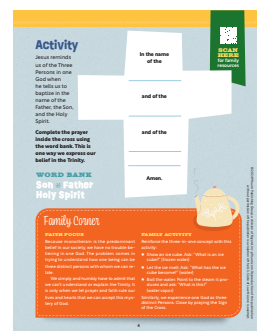
### Front Side

- **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.



## WEEKLY GOSPEL REFLECTION VIDEOS

- **How to access the videos:** Visit <http://bit.ly/40Jp5mj> to view the videos for this quarter.
- **What's included?** Each weekly video includes a Gospel Reflection, Saint Spotlight, Closing Prayer, and Reflection Question.
- **Promote:** Share these videos with those assisting with Children's Liturgy of the Word for use during your program, as well as with parents and families.

# Introduction

## What Is Liturgy of the Word with Children?

Liturgy of the Word with Children is a worship experience geared especially for children. It mirrors the worship experience of the larger community, with a style that is engaging and interactive. Jesus himself recognized that children have a pure spirituality, and he made them the primary spiritual model for all believers.

Liturgy of the Word with Children is not formal religious education, nor is it intended to be a substitute for attendance at religious education sessions. Rather, it should be considered a partner to religious education programs. Both are important for a child's spiritual development, just as continuing faith formation and growth in spirituality are important for adults.

The Word of God has a message that is as relevant and fitting for children as it is for adults. The children, however, often fail to hear the message simply because the adult vocabulary is beyond their comprehension. Liturgy of the Word with Children offers an experience for the children to hear Scripture in words they understand and to share their own understanding of God's Word.

Celebrating the Liturgy of the Word in this way is an empowering experience, giving children a foundation for understanding and appreciating Scripture. Over several years, the children not only become comfortable with hearing and discussing God's Word but also gain an understanding of and appreciation for their liturgical heritage as Catholics.

## When and How Do the Children Leave the Assembly?

The celebration of the Liturgy of the Word with Children follows the same structure as the Liturgy of the Word for the entire assembly. In fact, it begins with the Introductory Rites, which are celebrated in the large assembly, where the children are seated with their families.

After the Introductory Rites, the presider invites any children wishing to participate to join the leader and proceed to the worship space set aside for them. They return after the Prayer of the Faithful to celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist with the entire community.

## What About the Readings?

**The readings in the children's Lectionary sometimes differ from those used in the adult Lectionary.** When planning liturgies to be used with children, the Church allows some flexibility in the number and choice of readings on Sundays and feast days.

**According to the *Directory for Masses with Children*, "If three or even two readings appointed on Sundays or weekdays can be understood by children only with difficulty, it is permissible to read two or only one of them, but the reading of the Gospel should never be omitted" (Chapter III, No. 42). In addition, because of the difficulty some children may have in understanding certain verses, it is sometimes possible to omit one or another verse from the reading. (For a complete reading of the directives regarding selection of readings, see the *Directory for Masses with Children*, Chapter III, Nos. 41-47.)**

In *Children Celebrate!* we follow the readings from the *Lectionary for Masses with Children*, which is approved for use in all dioceses of the United States by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops. We determine themes and make suggestions for each Sunday's liturgy based on these readings. For this reason, it is important that you check each week's citations as listed in this Leader's Guide before finalizing your plans for that Sunday's celebration.

## Preview the Readings

If you do not have access to a children's Lectionary while you prepare your liturgy, you have three other options for previewing the readings for each Sunday.

- 1 Go to our website ([pflaum.com/readings](http://pflaum.com/readings)), click on the date you need, and print or download the readings.
- 2 The *Lectionary for Masses with Children* uses readings from the Old Testament and Book of Psalms. A select number of the refrains for the Responsorial Psalms are taken from the *Contemporary English Version* © 1991 by the American Bible Society. Readings from the New Testament are taken from the *Contemporary English Version, Bible for Today's Family: New Testament* © 1991 by the American Bible Society. The CEV can be purchased at stores and at [americanbible.org](http://americanbible.org).
- 3 Go to [americanbible.org](http://americanbible.org). Scroll over BIBLE RESOURCES. Scroll down and click on BIBLE SEARCH. Under the search box, click on Search Options. Select CEV Contemporary English Version (US Version). Enter the book, chapter, and verses that you need, such as Luke 15:11–32.

## Where Do I Begin?

Your first step to prepare a Sunday session should be to pray for guidance. "Prepare with Prayer" opens each week's background material. It will help you begin to focus your mind and open your heart to God's message. Remain in prayer as long as you like.

Read the Scripture and background material in their entirety. Although the story may be familiar, you may see it with new eyes when challenged to lead a reflection on it. The background material will give you an idea of the social and historical context behind the Scripture.

Gather and write down your thoughts for the reflection. Look at them and meditate on them for a while. Certain themes or ideas will come through. Create an outline for your reflection based on these ideas.

Be sure to read through the Prepare the Meeting Space and The Liturgy of the Word sections well in advance so that you are not taken by surprise by any preparations you should have made or items you will need on hand. Allow plenty of time to set up and prepare before the session.

## What Else Should I Know?

### LITURGICAL COLORS

This edition of *Children Celebrate!* covers the Most Holy Trinity through the Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time. We celebrate the Most Holy Trinity and the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi) with the color white or gold. Green is the color for Ordinary Time to indicate this period for growing in faith. Use the liturgical colors on the table where you place the Lectionary or in other elements you use in your worship area.

### MOVEMENT

Introduce movement wherever you feel it could be appropriate in the liturgy. Young muscles cry out to be used often, and this physical need causes the restlessness that some adults find irritating. Even the simple act of lifting their arms in prayer or carrying some small object to the front of the room can give children a refreshing but orderly break from being in one position for too long.

## Trust Yourself

Finally, remember that *Children Celebrate!* is a complete resource that you can trust to be liturgically sound while also being creative. Nevertheless, you are the leader and you must be comfortable with what you want to do each week. Feel free to use (and trust) your own ideas as well.

There is no limit to what God can work through each of us. Your time with these children will have God's blessing and will be immeasurably fruitful. Enjoy!



## Today's Readings

Jeremiah 23:3–6  
 Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 6  
 Mark 6:30–34

## Prepare the Meeting Space

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

- a Lectionary
- a battery-operated candle
- a flower

Have ready:

- a music player
- a recording of a song about works of mercy, such as “I’ll Help You” (See **Music**.) The more visual the song’s images, the better.

## Suggested Music

See page 64 for more information.

GATHERING:

“**This Little Light of Mine**” (*Seeds CD-1, Track #11*) or “**The Beatitudes**” (*Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #17*)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

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



# Jesus Teaches a Crowd

## 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

*Everyone on this earth will remember you, LORD. People all over the world will turn and worship you, because you are in control, the ruler of all nations.* (PSALM 22:27–28)

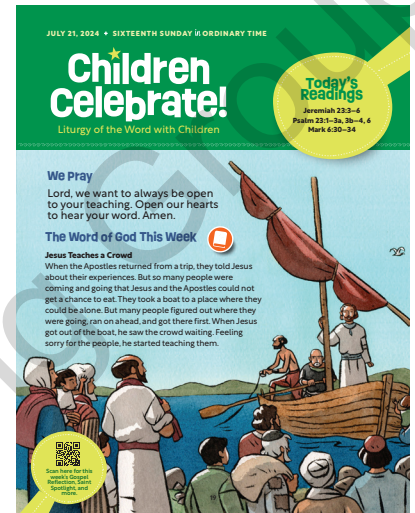
## Scripture Background

Have you heard this stranger-than-fiction true story? It was winter. A man who thought his dog was getting too old for a quality life took it to a pond to drown it. Instead, the man himself nearly drowned after falling through thin ice. The only reason he didn’t die was that his loyal dog saved his life! In the end, the man realized that his dog was of value.

In today’s world we may have trouble understanding why shepherds of biblical times were willing to risk their lives for their sheep. Being among society’s poor, shepherds sold sheep’s wool for a livelihood. The fact is, they really valued those animals because their lives depended on them.

In Jeremiah’s time, Judah’s kings did not value God’s people as they should have—as God did. Instead of protecting them as a shepherd protects his sheep, the kings plundered the people. So God promised an end to their reign and the arrival of a king who would rule with justice and love.

Jesus’ coming fulfilled God’s promise, and today’s Gospel offers a powerful glimpse into the kind of leader that Jesus was. Long before he gave his life for his people in a final dramatic sacrifice on the Cross, he performed small acts of kindness day by day, even as hunger, thirst, and fatigue tore away at his mortal flesh. This king gave his all. He even became the servant of all. He loved his people as if his own life depended on them.



## CHILDREN'S CONNECTIONS

Today's Gathering activity will get the children up and moving before settling down to listen to the liturgical readings. Although the suggested variation on "Follow the Leader" is quite simple in concept, in practice it will take a little preparation.

Do take time to listen, to practice in advance, and to decide on some simple pantomimes that can illustrate the words of the song. In a game like this one, children may have trouble following any leader who seems hesitant or uncertain; therefore, trying to make up all the actions and gestures on the spot might be taking an unwise gamble.

The Homily makes use of the proven tactic of moving children from the old and familiar to the new and unfamiliar. What is more ordinary than those times when some of us, regardless of age, cry out, "Leave me alone!" to those who are making demands on us? This familiar experience can lead to a fruitful meditation on how Jesus handled the same pressures that everyone faces from time to time.

Jesus' keen sense of priorities—God comes first,

other people come second, and self comes last—helped him keep his cool in tense situations. What if everyone had the same priorities Jesus had? What if everyone behaved as Jesus did when under pressure?

Using "what if" questions like these can be an effective way to help children imagine a different world—a better world—created by behaviors patterned on the life of Christ.

## THE CHILDREN'S LEAFLET

The Children's Leaflet for this week helps the children learn about Jesus as a compassionate leader through a summary of the Gospel, prayer, and a creative activity.

You may distribute the leaflet now, for use during the session, or before the children return to the assembly. 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.

## More About ...

### The Church Speaks of Love

The *Catechism of the Catholic Church* says that love lies at the heart of the Christian life because it lies at the heart of God's life:

- "Love is the fundamental and innate vocation of every human being" (No. 2392).
- Loving Christians enjoy a unique kind of personal freedom, for they no longer stand before God as slaves, in servile fear, or as mercenaries, looking for wages, but as children of the One who first loved them. (No. 1828)
- God's love for humanity is greater than a father's for a son, a mother's for her children, a bridegroom's for his bride. (No. 219)
- More important, "God's very being is love. By sending his only Son and the Spirit of Love in the fullness of time, God has revealed his innermost secret: God himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and he has destined us to share in that exchange." (No. 221)

### Leaflet Activity

Spending time with those close to him was a problem for Jesus in today's Gospel. This week's topic for families relates to Jesus' problem. The children's activity reveals the meaning of words that Jesus taught his Apostles.



promise to pay close attention as you speak, through Christ our Lord.

**CHILDREN:** Amen.

*Invite the children to be seated. Light the candle and begin the First Reading.*

### First Reading

**LEADER:** In today's First Reading, God is speaking to the chosen people a long time ago, after another country has conquered them and sent them out of their homeland. Let's listen to what God tells the people after all these terrible things have happened.

*Read Jeremiah 23:3-6. Then say, "The word of the Lord."*

**CHILDREN:** Thanks be to God.

### Responsorial Psalm

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

**LEADER:** The Lord in my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

**CHILDREN:** The Lord in my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

**LEADER:** *Read Psalm 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 6.*

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

### Gathering

Tell the children that today you will be the leader in a game that is a little like "Follow the Leader." Instead of walking around in single file and doing everything the leader does, the children will stand together in a group with the leader facing them, and all will march in place while a song plays. Every so often, the leader will stop marching and do motions that match the words of the song. Then everyone does whatever motions the leader does.

### Collect

**LEADER:** *Invite the children to bow their heads. Then pray:*

Loving God, our world is full of leaders, who lead our Church and our country, our cities, our schools, and our neighborhoods. But what makes a really good leader? In today's liturgy, you will tell us. We

### 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:** Who was the honest and wise king that God promised to send in our First Reading? It was Jesus. In the Gospel, we will see that Jesus cared for his people the way a good shepherd cares for his sheep.

**LEADER:** The Lord be with you.

**CHILDREN:** And with your Spirit.

**LEADER:** A reading from the Gospel of Mark.

**CHILDREN:** † Glory to you, O Lord.

**LEADER:** *Read Mark 6:30-34. Then say,*

“The Gospel of the Lord.”

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

## Homily

Base a talk on the following ideas and questions.

### 1 “Leave me alone!”

- When have you heard these words? (Let children share experiences and/or share your own.)
- When have you said, “Leave me alone”? (Again, take time for sharing.)

### 2 Now let’s look at Jesus.

- So many people were coming to see him that he didn’t have time to eat or sleep.
- What do most people do when they are hungry and tired? Naturally, they try to get some food and take a nap.
- But what happened to Jesus when he tried to do this? (If children can’t answer, reread verses 32-33.)
- Probably, Jesus felt like telling the crowd, “Leave me alone!”
- But what did Jesus say and do instead? (If children can’t remember, reread verse 34.)

### 3 Today’s Gospel shows us what kind of leader Jesus was—and what kind of leader God wants everyone to be.

- A real leader is a servant.
- He or she puts other people first.

## Profession of Faith

**LEADER:** Please stand for the Profession of Faith and respond to each question, “I do believe.” Do you believe in God almighty and all-loving, who sent us Jesus to lead us and to shepherd us?

**CHILDREN:** I do believe.

**LEADER:** Do you believe in Jesus the Lord, the good shepherd who guards us with his life?

**CHILDREN:** I do believe.

**LEADER:** Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, who lives in us and leads us to the Kingdom?

**CHILDREN:** I do believe.

## Prayer of the Faithful

**LEADER:** When Jesus saw how much the people needed him, he dropped everything and gave them his full attention. Because he is always ready to answer our prayers, let us call upon him now. Our response to each petition will be the same response we used earlier: “My shepherd is the Lord, nothing indeed shall I want.”

**CHILDREN:** My shepherd is the Lord, nothing indeed shall I want.

**LEADER:** For the leaders of the Church, that they will be good shepherds for the people of God, let us pray to the Lord.

**CHILDREN:** My shepherd is the Lord, nothing indeed shall I want.

**LEADER:** For the leaders of our country, that they will be good servants of the people, let us pray to the Lord.

**CHILDREN:** My shepherd is the Lord, nothing indeed shall I want.

**LEADER:** For all people who suffer under bad leaders, that God will send them help, let us pray to the Lord.

**CHILDREN:** My shepherd is the Lord, nothing indeed shall I want.

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

Loving God, you so much wanted us to have good leaders that you sent us your only Son, Jesus the Lord, to lead us to eternal life. May we be his faithful followers 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 watch this week’s Gospel Reflection video and complete the Family Corner activities as a family.



# Leader's Checklist

MAY							JUNE							JULY							AUGUST							
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	
			1	2	3	4						1			1	2	3	4	5	6						1	2	3
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	
26	27	28	29	30	31	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	28	29	30	31	25	26	27	28	29	30	31					
							30																					

SUNDAY	PREPARATIONS /PROPS	MUSIC	LECTOR	SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND	HOMILY PREP	CHILDREN'S LEAFLETS	OTHER
<b>5/26/24</b> Holy Trinity							
<b>6/2/24</b> Body and Blood of Christ							
<b>6/9/24</b> 10th OT							
<b>6/16/24</b> 11th OT							
<b>6/23/24</b> 12th OT							
<b>6/30/24</b> 13th OT							
<b>7/7/24</b> 14th OT							
<b>7/14/24</b> 15th OT							
<b>7/21/24</b> 16th OT							
<b>7/28/24</b> 17th OT							
<b>8/4/24</b> 18th OT							
<b>8/11/24</b> 19th OT							
<b>8/18/24</b> 20th OT							

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NEW! WEEKLY GOSPEL  
REFLECTION VIDEOS

LITURGY OF THE WORD WITH CHILDREN

# Children celebrate!



**Summer 2024** (Year B)

**MAY 26, 2024** | THE MOST HOLY TRINITY  
through **AUGUST 18, 2024** | TWENTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME





# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

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Marcelino Truong © Bayard Presse

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## The Readings

The readings cited are the readings that the children heard at the Sunday Liturgy. These readings may differ at times from those heard by the adults. They may be shorter, there may be only one reading, plus the Psalm and the Gospel, or the First Readings may be different altogether from those the adults hear. The Gospel most always is 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.



## Bonus Activities

Starting on page 31, you'll find three bonus activities. The first bonus activity is about the Eucharist. It can be used with the reading about Jesus as the Bread of Life (Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time). The second bonus activity is about God's love. This can be used anytime. The third bonus activity features a game a Tic-Tac-Toe game with loaves and fishes. This can be used with the Gospel of the multiplication of the loaves and fish (Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time).

## Weekly Gospel Reflection Videos

Available to subscribers of *Children Celebrate!* Visit <http://bit.ly/40Jp5mj> for weekly Gospel Reflection videos. These videos can be used within your Children's Liturgy of the Word program or shared with parents and families to view at home.



# Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

## Today's Readings

Jeremiah 23:3–6  
Psalm 23:1–3a, 3b–4, 6  
Mark 6:30–34

### We Pray

Lord, we want to always be open to your teaching. Open our hearts to hear your word. Amen.

### The Word of God This Week



#### Jesus Teaches a Crowd

When the Apostles returned from a trip, they told Jesus about their experiences. But so many people were coming and going that Jesus and the Apostles could not get a chance to eat. They took a boat to a place where they could be alone. But many people figured out where they were going, ran on ahead, and got there first. When Jesus got out of the boat, he saw the crowd waiting. Feeling sorry for the people, he started teaching them.



Scan here for this week's Gospel Reflection, Saint Spotlight, and more.





**SCAN  
HERE**  
for family  
resources

# Activity

Jesus showed the Apostles how a real leader acts. To find out some of the many things Jesus taught his Apostles and us, solve the word search below.

**CARE  
LOVE  
SHARE  
KINDNESS  
TRUST  
FAITH**



## Family Corner

### FAITH FOCUS

In today's Gospel a crowd of people follows Jesus. Jesus and the Apostles are seeking solitude and rest, but the people were not attuned to that. They wanted Jesus' attention on their own time. Perhaps we are the same sometimes. We talk to Jesus in prayer and want him to respond on our own time. Jesus is merciful and will not forget us, but his timing may not be our timing.

### FAMILY ACTIVITY

Play "Getting to Know the Real You" this week. Write questions like these on index cards:

- If you could have one wish granted, what would it be?
- What is your favorite thing to do as a family?

Have at least one card/question for each family member; take turns answering the questions. Allow comments (no criticisms) before the turn passes to the next person. Use this as a time of honest and open sharing.

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