

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Children Celebrate!



Fall 2022 (Year C)

AUGUST 28, 2022 | TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
through **NOVEMBER 20, 2022** | SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING

Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Leader's Guide

Fall 2022

Year C

August 28, 2022

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

through

November 20, 2022

Solemnity of Christ the King

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.

Available to subscribers of Children Celebrate!

Visit <https://bit.ly/3GhrWYv> 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.

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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
August 28, 2022	Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time	Give the Best to Others
September 4, 2022	Twenty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Love Jesus Most of All
September 11, 2022	Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time	The Forgiving Father
September 18, 2022	Twenty-fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Be Truthful in All Things
September 25, 2022	Twenty-sixth Sunday in Ordinary Time	The Rich Man and Lazarus
October 2, 2022	Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time	Faith Makes All Things Possible
October 9, 2022	Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Remember to Thank God
October 16, 2022	Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Always Ask God for Help
October 23, 2022	Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jesus Tells Us to Be Humble
October 30, 2022	Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time	Zacchaeus Promises to Change
November 6, 2022	Thirty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time	Jesus Teaches about Heaven
November 13, 2022	Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time	Remain Faithful to Jesus Always
November 20, 2022	Solemnity of Christ the King	Jesus Is Our King

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.

Weekly Gospel Reflection Videos

- **How to access the videos:** Visit <https://bit.ly/3GhrWYv> to view the videos for this quarter (loaded monthly).
- **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 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 to 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.

August 28, 2022

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Today's Readings

Sirach 3:17–18, 20
Psalm 68:3–4acdef,
5–6abcd, 9–10
Luke 14:1, 7–14

Give the Best to Others

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

You kingdoms of the earth, sing to God; chant the praises of the LORD, Who rides the heights of the ancient heavens. Who sends forth his voice as a mighty voice? Confess the power of God, whose majesty protects Israel, whose power is in the sky. (Psalm 68:33–35)

Scripture Background

God's ways in the world are very different from the ways of people. The First Reading presents the wisdom of God to us in the context of a parent giving advice to a child. In God's eyes, love flows from true humility. Humility involves coming to realize who we are because of all that God has done for us, rather than because of our own accomplishments or popularity. Psalm 68 reinforces God's love for the poor. All are invited and made to feel at home with God.

Today's Gospel refers to the strict social norms for a dinner party during Jesus' day. Sharing food and drink went beyond simple nourishment. A meal shared was a way of communicating the importance of the relationships shared by all those participating.

Those at the head of the table were the most important (and they knew it). Additionally, invited guests were expected to reciprocate with a payback—a return invitation to dine. In the parable presented in today's Gospel, Jesus upsets the socially

Prepare the Meeting Space

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

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a large glass bowl filled with holy water
- ▶ a small evergreen branch

Suggested Music

See page 62 for more information.

Gathering: "God's Family" (Seeds CD-2, Track #16) or "You've Got to Love Them" (Promise & Good News CD-2, Track #20)

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

accepted norms by encouraging humility and by elevating the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind—outcasts of the day—to greatness. In the Kingdom of God, all are loved. Greatness in the eyes of God is the result of our attention to the poor and those who are considered unproductive in our society.

Children's Connections

“Me first!” is a phrase descriptive of the self-sense of a young child. As children grow, they learn through experience that they don’t always come first. When a new brother or sister comes into the family, children often feel left out, even when the parents have done everything advised to avoid having the child feel that way.

As children move into the community of playmates, they become aware of those who have more or less than they do, both materially and emotionally. Children begin to want what others have and their longings to be satisfied increase, or they realize they have more and they want to hoard it or lord it over others. The same kinds of experiences face children in school. They notice that some classmates are better or worse than they are at schoolwork or at making friends or in sports.

The message in today’s Scriptures speaks to both groups of children. To those who think and feel that their possessions or skills or talents are what really makes them number one, today’s readings are a challenge. And to those who think or feel they will never have what it takes to be number one, today’s readings give a hope-filled message: In God’s eyes, each of us is number one.

As the leader of this Sunday’s liturgy, take time to listen with and to the children. Approach the reflection knowing that members of both groups are in your gathering. Allow the immediate responses of the children to guide your conversation with them.

More About ...

The Catechism on Humility

- “He who humbles himself will be exalted; humility is the foundation of prayer, only when we humbly acknowledge that ‘we do not know how to pray as we ought,’ are we ready to receive freely the gift of prayer.” (#2559)
- “A trusting humility brings us back into the light of communion between the Father and his Son Jesus Christ and with one another, so that ‘we receive from him whatever we ask.’” (#2631)
- “Contemplative prayer is the simplest expression of the mystery of prayer. It is a gift, a grace; it can be accepted only in humility and poverty.” (#2713)
- “The baptized person combats envy through goodwill, humility, and abandonment to the providence of God.” (#2554)
- “Christ’s faithful ‘have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires’ (Gal. 5:24); they are led by the Spirit and follow his desires.” (#2555)
- “Detachment from riches is necessary for entering the Kingdom of heaven. ‘Blessed are the poor in spirit.’” (#2556)

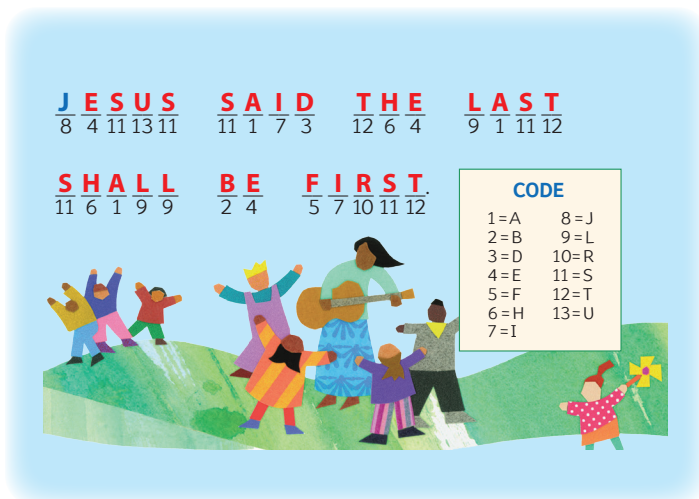
The Children's Leaflet

The leaflet for this week helps the children learn Jesus’ teaching about goodness, 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

In this week's leaflet, the suggested family activity helps demonstrate the feeling of being important. The children solve a coded message that reinforces today's Gospel.



The Liturgy of the Word

Gathering

Provide or sing the suggested music or other appropriate music. When the children are settled in the worship space, ask them to be silent while you light the candle and open the lectionary.

Collect

Leader: Ask the children to stand, raise their arms in a prayerful posture, and repeat each line after you. Loving God,

Children: Loving God,

Leader: Help us listen

Children: Help us listen

Leader: To your word today. Amen.

Children: To your word today. Amen.

Light the candle and begin the First Reading.

First Reading

Leader: In our First Reading today, we hear about how we can be God's favorites. Listen carefully. Read Sirach 3:17–18, 20. 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: God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

Children: God, in your goodness, you have made a home for the poor.

Leader: Read Psalm 68:3–4acdef, 5–6abcd, 9–10.

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: Listen now for what Jesus is saying about how his friends are to act when they go to a party and when they invite people to a party.

The Lord be with you.

Children: And with your spirit.

Leader: A reading from the Gospel of Luke.

Children: † Glory to you, O Lord.

Leader: Read Luke 14:1, 7–14. Then say, "The Gospel of the Lord."

Children: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Ask the children to be seated.

Homily

Ask the children what they heard Jesus saying in the reading of the Gospel. Allow them a few minutes to share their ideas.

Center in on any observations they may make about either the feelings or experiences of being left out or embarrassed at a gathering, or of inviting people to a party who might not be their first choices.

Point out that Jesus is reminding us that what is really important is how God sees us. And in God's eyes we are each "number one." Every person belongs at the party.

Invite the children to be very quiet and to think about one way they can reach out to someone to help them know God loves them.

Profession of Faith

If space allows, gather the children around the water bowl. If not, invite one of the older children to hold the bowl up for all to see.

Leader: Today, as we say our prayers of faith, I am going to sprinkle you with holy water to remind you of your baptism. Please respond “Yes” to the prayer questions.

Do you believe in God the Father?

Children: Yes.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus, God’s son?

Children: Yes.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

Children: Yes.

Place the branch in the bowl and lightly sprinkle the children with water.



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.

Prayer of the Faithful

Leader: Let us gather our prayers and respond by saying, “Lord, hear our prayer” after each petition. For all the Church leaders, especially [name parish leaders], that they may always act to spread God’s love, let us pray to the Lord.

Children: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For our families and all families in our parish, that they will grow in love and in helping others, let us pray to the Lord.

Children: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For the poor and homeless in our town, that they will find hope because others are able to love them and care for them, let us pray to the Lord.

Children: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: For those who have no one, that they will find friendship, let us pray to the Lord.

Children: Lord, hear our prayer.

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

God, you sent your son, Jesus, to teach us how to care for one another. Help us to follow Jesus’ way. Send your Holy Spirit to guide us.

Children: Amen.

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NEW! WEEKLY GOSPEL
REFLECTION VIDEOS

CHILDREN'S LEAFLETS

Liturgy of the Word with Children

Children Celebrate!



Fall 2022 (Year C)

AUGUST 28, 2022 | TWENTY-SECOND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
through **NOVEMBER 20, 2022** | SOLEMNITY OF CHRIST THE KING



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, 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.



Activities

The last three pages of this book offer bonus activities intended for use by children who are pre-readers or beginning readers. Here are some suggestions, but all three activities could be used at any time. The first bonus activity depicts the story of the prodigal son and his forgiving father, which is the Gospel for the Twenty-fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time on September 11. The second bonus can be used on any Sunday. The third bonus is a coloring activity most appropriate for the celebration of Christ the King on November 20.



Weekly Gospel Reflection Videos!

Available to subscribers of *Children Celebrate!* Visit <https://bit.ly/3GhrWYv> 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.

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August 28, 2022

Twenty-second Sunday in Ordinary Time

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Today's Readings

Sirach 3:17–18, 20
Psalm 68:3–4acdef,
5–6abcd, 9–10
Luke 14:1, 7–14



We Pray

Jesus, help us to be giving and humble.
Amen.



The Word of God This Week

Give the Best to Others

At a dinner party, Jesus told the guests that when they are invited to a feast, they should sit in the worst place. Then the one who invited them may say, “My friend, take a better seat!” and they will be honored.

And Jesus told the man who had invited him: “When you give a feast, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, and the blind. For this, God will bless you and reward you.”



Visit <https://bit.ly/3GhrWYv> for this week's Gospel Reflection, Saint Spotlight, and more.

Activity

In today's Gospel, you heard an important message from Jesus. Using the code below, find the correct letter to put on each line. When you finish, you will have the words from Jesus' message. The first letter has been done for you.

Scan here
for family
resources.



J
8 4 11 13 11 11 1 7 3 12 6 4 9 1 11 12

11 6 1 9 9 2 4 5 7 10 11 12

CODE

1=A	8=J
2=B	9=L
3=D	10=R
4=E	11=S
5=F	12=T
6=H	13=U
7=I	



Family Corner

Faith Focus

Who is number one in God's eyes? We often hold the view that it is the rich, the famous, the most talented! They sit in the places of honor. The poor, the oppressed, the uneducated aren't invited to the table.

Yet, Jesus said to seek out the poor, the forgotten, those on the fringes of society. Invite them to move to the places of honor. How would it feel to be moved to the head of the table?

Family Activity

In most families, the father or mother is seated at the head of the table. For at least one family meal this week, place the children in the honored spots. Discuss the following questions.

- Who feels like they have the most important seat? the least important?
- How do you feel different from when you sit in your regular chair?
- How does this help us understand what Jesus meant about honoring the poor?

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