

Children's liturgy – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

Preparation of the worship space

Colour: green

Song suggestions: Go tell everyone (864, Laudate)

Welcome: Today we hear Jesus telling people what it is he has come to do. One of the things he says is that he has come to bring good news to people who are poor. Our faith calls us to do the same. Let's think a bit more about what this good news is and how we can share it with others today.

Opening prayer: Loving God, you sent your Son Jesus to share the good news of your love for everyone. May we also share this good news through our words and all that we do. Amen.

First reading (optional): Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10

Psalm: Psalm 18:8-10, 15 r. Jn 6:63

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

Gospel: Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

Dear Theophilus:

Many people have done their best to write a report of the things that have taken place among us. They wrote what we have been told by those who saw these things from the beginning and who proclaimed the message. And so, Your Excellency, because I have carefully studied all these matters from their beginning, I thought it would be good to write an orderly account for you. I do this so that you will know the full truth about everything which you have been taught.

Then Jesus returned to Galilee, and the power of the Holy Spirit was with him. The news about him spread throughout all that territory. He taught in the synagogues and was praised by everyone.

Then Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath he went as usual to the synagogue. He stood up to read the Scriptures and was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written,

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to set free the oppressed

and announce that the time has come
when the Lord will save his people.”

Jesus rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. All the people in the synagogue had their eyes fixed on him, as he said to them, “This passage of scripture has come true today, as you heard it being read.”

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

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from the reading today?

Jesus is teaching in the synagogue. He reads a passage from the Scriptures which is about himself (although the people listening don't know that until he explains it afterwards).

The Scripture passage talks about what Jesus has been sent to do. What does it say?

It says that he has come to bring good news to people who are poor. What do you think this means?

Can you remember a time when you heard some good news? What was it? Can you tell me about it?

Kulsum lives in Bangladesh, where the sea level is rising due to the climate crisis. This means that the water close to Kulsum's land has become too salty to grow vegetables. Through CAFOD's local farming experts, Kulsum has received seeds that can grow even where it is salty. She's been so successful she's also been able to sell extra vegetable at her local market. This is very good news.

Oum lives with her family in northern Sudan. There is no electricity in her village, so they used firewood, kerosene, and candles for lighting and cooking in their home. The smoke from these hurt their eyes and can make it hard to breathe. Oum also worried about the fire spreading.

But Oum received a solar lamp for her home. Now she can light her home without spending money on fuel and without worrying about smoke or fires. She is really pleased because it means that her children can do their homework at night without her worrying about their health. She hopes that this will help them to do better at school. This is very good news.

Good news means different things to different people. It can be confidence, peace, enough food, light in the darkness, doing well at school, getting to spend the day with friends.

We are all God's children. God loves us all. No matter where in the world we are, whether we are rich or poor, and we should all have the chance to live in a world of peace, dignity and fairness. This is the good news of Jesus.

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

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How do you think we can try to share this good news with our brothers and sisters around the world today?

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

Let us offer our prayers to God, who loves us and listens to us:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that we may follow the example of Jesus, bring good news to people who are poor and working to help all people live life to the full. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for people who are poor: that they may have their chance to share their good news stories and to build a better future. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, families and friends: that we may always do our best to help others, to share what we have and to share the good news with people who are poor. Lord, in your mercy...

Closing prayer: God of life, you call us all to share your good news. May we do all that we can to answer that call. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and on the back to write or draw one of the good news stories they have heard today, or how they will share the good news with people who are poor in the coming week.

Encourage the children to share all that they have heard and thought about today with the people at home. Remind them to try to do at least one thing this week to bring good news to others – by sharing, helping someone, or doing what is right.

*Gospel passage taken from:

Good News Translation® (Today's English Version, Second Edition)
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