

# Children's Liturgy of the Word



14<sup>TH</sup> SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME MATTHEW 11:25-30

OLDER

## BACKGROUND



CREATIVECOMMONS

Jesus firstly reminds us of the simplicity of God's laws which are there to free us. In his time, the intricate laws and rituals of the Pharisees were often more burdensome than freeing for the people. Jesus asks us to come to him as simply as a child and rest with him when we are weary and overburdened. It is a call that is difficult to make in our modern sophisticated lifestyle. What are the things in your experience that cause you to feel 'burdened' and weighed down? Who do you know that may be finding that following the Gospel is both a joy and a burden? Is there someone you know who is struggling under the weight of cares and concerns?

Oxen were often put in pairs to plough the fields. Lets look for ways to help ease each others' burdens and remind each other of Jesus' desire to give us rest from our worries and cares. The burdens of the world are much heavier than his light yoke. Let us return to Christ in childlike trust, through simple daily prayers of praise and thanksgiving.

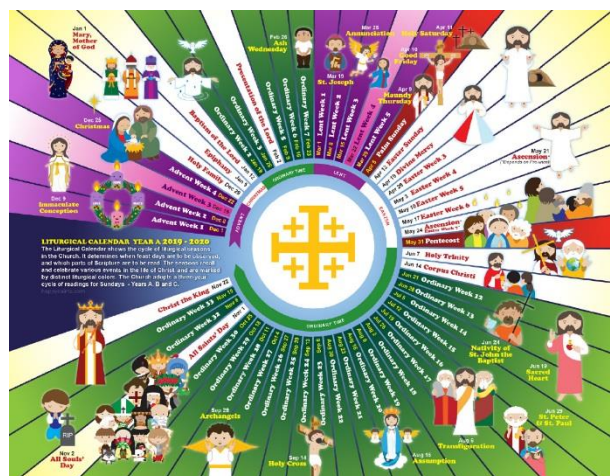
## PREPARATION

Prepare a prayer focus with a green cloth (Ordinary Time) a place to receive the Children's Liturgy Candle and the Children's Lectionary. You may like to include a small bag of stones or a picture of oxen and yoke.

Activity materials:

- Liturgical Year Calendar on the wall.
- Floorcloth
- Worksheets
- Picture of Jesus
- Variety of pictures around it with people making others feel welcome.
- Pencils

Set up a 'table' with a green cloth on the floor for the children with the worksheet for each placed around the edges so they feel welcome and at home in the room.



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## SETTING THE SCENE

To help the children know they are still part of the Mass, ask what Father talked to them about before they came into the Children's Liturgy room. Ask what colour he is wearing (green). Show on the Liturgical Calendar.

- Ask the children to make lists of what they typically have in their backpacks or school bags on any given day.
- When they are finished, invite several volunteers to read their lists aloud. Take a vote as to whose backpack or school bag seems like it might be the heaviest.
- Discuss how burdens are something we carry on our shoulders. Some are heavier than others. Not all are physical.
- Ask for examples of other kinds of burdens people carry (worries, missing friends, loneliness)
- ***In this Sunday's Gospel, Jesus tells us how we can lighten our burden.***

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## WE PRAY

God, help us to always welcome Jesus into our lives. Amen.

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## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

You may like to ask one of the older children (a good reader) to read the Gospel. As everyone stands for the Gospel Acclamation, the reader goes to the Lectionary Stand.

Gospel: MATTHEW 10:40-42 (*Read from the Children's Lectionary.*)

General: Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Fill us O Lord with your word. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia. Your word is life for our souls.

Reader:

A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew.

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

*Sign of the Cross on the forehead (God be in my mind)*

*sign of the Cross on the lips (God be in my words),*

*Sign of the Cross on the heart (God be in my heart)*

At the end of the Gospel: The Gospel of the Lord

Children: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.



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## REFLECTION ON THE READING

Ask the children what words they heard, and build up a list on the board.  
Summarise the Gospel using the words/reflection they have given.

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## RESPONSE

- ***What does Jesus say that we should do if we are burdened?*** (Go to him for rest.)
  - ***What is a “yoke”?*** (a wooden frame fitted around the neck of a person or animal and used to help carry things)
  - ***What does Jesus mean when he says that his yoke is easy and his burden light?*** (To follow Jesus places a burden on us, but it is a lighter burden than what we would carry if we did not follow him.)
  - ***One of the ways that we find rest in Jesus is through prayer. In prayer, we share our burdens with Jesus. Let’s take some time now to share our burdens with the Lord and to find rest.***
  - Allow a few minutes for silent prayer. Invite the young people to share with the Lord whatever may be burdening them and to ask for rest.
  - Conclude by praying together the Lord’s Prayer.
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## WE BELIEVE

Say the little Creed together from the chart. Relating to the creed what you have shared with the children, ask this series of questions and invite the children to reply, ‘I do.’

- Do you believe in God the Father who created the world to be a paradise?
- Do you believe in Jesus, come to earth to bring us back to God?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who guides us today?

***“I do, Alleluia! Alleluia!”***

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## WE PRAY

Again, try to relate the prayers to the Reading. To help children to include others in their prayers, ask who/what they would like to pray for. After each offering, repeat it, and add, “...and for all who....”

Conclude with the Glory Be to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit...

All:     Amen

The children return to the pews during the Offertory Procession.



