



Celebrating Liturgy of the Word with Family 25th Sunday Ordinary Time

Preparation – allow some time to prepare

- Read through the outline beforehand
- Arrange seating and set a prayer focus in the centre. Include candles, cross, children’s art, something from nature.
- Open links. Beginning, psalm, ‘reflection’ after the gospel, after prayer of faithful and at the end.
- Share the reader role. Encourage your readers to practice beforehand and pause for commas and full-stops. Don’t correct children as they are reading or during the Liturgy.

Light candles. SIGN OF THE CROSS: Ki te ingoa...

READER: Tēnā Koutou Katoa – Welcome everyone. Today is the 26th Sunday of Ordinary Time and we are still in the Season of Creation. We are gathering now, as Jesus asked us to do, in a spirit of love. We are people of compassion who try to be of the same mind, and strive to be one in Christ.

READER: SONG - This is a very old song. The original words were composed by St Francis in the 13th Century. That’s about 700 years ago. When we sing old songs like this one, it helps us to know all of us who make us the Church today, are really part of a community that stretches through time, and that all the people in this community make up the Church. We belong together. All Creatures of our God and King <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=od3gO6qDLNA>

READER: Let us pray – ka inoi tatou.

You help us want to do what is right, Lord have mercy

You give talent to develop and new skills to learn. Christ have mercy

You help us understand what justice is, Lord have mercy

(All) Lord have mercy

(All) Christ have mercy

(All) Lord have mercy

READER: *This prayer is taken from 'A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation' We will pray it then talk about the question.*

'Enlighten those who possess power and money that they may avoid the sin of indifference, that they may love the common good, advance the weak, and care for this world in which we live.' From *A Christian Prayer in Union with Creation, Laudato si*

DISCUSS: The prayer says 'enlighten those who have power.' Sometimes we think we don't have much power. What power do we have, as children and as a family to care for the world?



(image from pickpik)

COLLECT/OPENING PRAYER: Thank you for your thoughts. Let’s remember all the things we want to pray for and put these into the care of Jesus. *(Allow silence - 1 minute)*

God, it is easy to see how wonderful you are when we see how quickly you forgive and show mercy. Be generous to us and help us learn your way of love. We make this prayer through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever. Amen.

All: Amen.

READING: Isaiah 55:6-9 Good News Translation

Reader 1 "But you say, 'What the Lord does isn't right.'

Reader 2 Listen to me, you Israelites. Do you think my way of doing things isn't right? It is your way that isn't right.

Reader 1 When a righteous person stops doing good and starts doing evil and then dies, they die because of the evil they have done.

Reader 2 When someone evil stops sinning and does what is right and good, they save their life.

Reader 1 They realize what they are doing and stop sinning, so they will certainly not die, but go on living.

Reader 2 And you Israelites say, 'What the Lord does isn't right.'

Reader 1 You think my way isn't right, do you? It is your way that isn't right.

The Word of the Lord – **Ko te kupu a te Ariki**

ALL: Thanks be to God – **Whakamoemiti ki te Atua**

Silence – *Let's be quiet for a few moments and let God's Word settle inside us.*

Discuss: Sometimes it can be hard to know what is right and what isn't. What helps us to learn what is right?

REFLECTION: *Join in – God is Good* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vt6TsIAHlg>

GOSPEL: *Matthew 21:28-32 Good News Translation*

Reader 1 *Let's listen to this story Jesus told to help people understand how to act.*

Reader 2 "Now, what do you think? There was once a man who had two sons.

Reader 1 He went to the elder one and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.'

Reader 2 'I don't want to,' he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.

Reader 1 Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing.

Reader 2 'Yes, sir,' he answered, but he did not go.

Reader 1 Which one of the two did what his father wanted?"

Reader 2 "The elder one," they answered.

Reader 1 So Jesus said to them, "I tell you: the tax collectors and the sinners are going into the Kingdom of God ahead of you.

Reader 2 For John the Baptist came to you showing you the right path to take, and you would not believe him; but the tax collectors and the prostitutes believed him.

Reader 1 Even when you saw this, you did not later change your minds and believe him.

The Gospel of the Lord - **Ko te rongopai a te Ariki**

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ - **Kia whakanuia rā koe e Hēhu Karaiti.**

After the reading - silence. Let some words go over and over in your mind.

Discuss: Which son do you think did the right thing? In Jesus' time, people used to think the tax collectors and sinners were bad people. But Jesus says they are going into the kingdom of God before others? When Jesus says this, what is he trying to help us understand?

3 minute talk by 'Douglas' Goodness – The Fruit of the Spirit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WtPRKPJvno>

Discuss: What is Douglas's message?

Prayer of the Faithful – we pray for the needs of the Church and the world.

For the Church – that we try to be united in what we do.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For leaders of the most powerful nations – that they people's right to express their own ideas.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For an end to the Covid-19 pandemic – that we care for people who are effected by the pandemic.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For Aotearoa New Zealand in this election year – that politicians act with wisdom and compassion.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For school children – that in this difficult year, families and friends will help them with their learning.
(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For communities worldwide hit by fire, floods or storms – that we learn how to support people facing these terrible situations.
(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For us here now – that we learn to live simply and do good for neighbour.
(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.
Merciful and gracious God hear our prayers that we bring before you in expectation and in hope. We do so simply and sincerely through Christ our Lord. ... Amen

READER: Let's pray this photo prayer, A Prayer for the Earth. you can join in by clapping and moving. You might want to pray it twice so you can join in. The, the Our Father.

A Prayer for the Earth - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJzoZuxxMlo&t=275>

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

COLLECTION: READER: Something that Christian people do is support people who need help. There are lots of people who need help. Let's talk about who needs help and then think about a way we might be able to help.

Thank you for your kindness. Thank you for your participation in today's Liturgy of the Word. Let us go in peace to love and serve God. Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou – Peace be with you.

All: Thanks be to God.

SONG: Beat of Your Love Watoto Children's Choir - You can dance along with this – learn the moves!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BURDJ6wdUTE&list=RDEMGTKVXE6cV2GSoHU1qtoGw&index=3>

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