

SUNDAY GOSPEL WITH CHILDREN

2ND SUNDAY OF EASTER YEAR B JOHN 20:19-31

3-6YRS OLD

BACKGROUND

It is noteworthy that a large portion of today's gospel (John 20:19-23) will be read on Pentecost in a few weeks' time. Just as in the beginning of John's Gospel where 'the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, Jesus with his resurrected body comes to stand among his followers.



But Thomas wasn't there on the first Sunday. When the apostles told him, "We have seen the Lord!" Thomas resounded "Unless I see I refuse to believe." How like Thomas we are. We insist on proof. And yet Thomas, the man of doubts, became Thomas, the man of faith. Once convinced, he expressed the most

complete faith of anyone in the gospels, "My Lord and my God!"

The disciples in today's reading were transformed by the unexpected presence of Jesus among them. The process of transformation in our own lives often requires the support of others. Are there times when God has acted in a way that is different to what you have expected? Have there been times of doubt in your life experience or your faith journey? How did you overcome these doubts, and how will you nourish your faith in the future? Let us say with Thomas, "My Lord and my God!"

PRAYER SPACE

In setting up a prayerful space together, a white or gold cloth will remind us of how our Church is decorated for Easter. Have a bible open at the Gospel reading and light a candle. A visual aid could be a cross with a white cloth draped on it, or a completed sample of the craft activity.

SETTING THE SCENE

As the children settle into the room, help the children know they are still part of the Mass with questions they can easily answer. Ask what colour Father is wearing (White and Gold for Easter) and what he said to them.

Remind the children that the Gospel begins on the first Sunday of Easter and continues today on the 2nd Sunday of Easter. Find it together on the Liturgical Calendar. Easter is a time when we have the opportunity to reflect on Jesus' death and resurrection.

WE SAY SORRY

You search for us when we lose our way, Lord have mercy,
All: Lord, have mercy.

You have hopes for us even when we feel hopeless, Christ, have mercy,
All: Christ, have mercy.

You love us even when we lose faith, Lord, have mercy.
All: Lord have mercy.

We Pray: Raise our hearts so that we can become more like Jesus.
All: Amen.

GOSPEL:

Listen to the Word of God (*If you're happy and you know it, clap your hands!*)

Alleluia, Alleluia, praise the Lord!
Alleluia, Alleluia, praise the Lord!
As we listen to the story,
Let us praise him for his glory,
Alleluia, alleluia, praise the Lord!



Let the children know they are going to need to sit quietly so all the parents can also hear the reading. (Parents need spiritual nourishment too.)

Gospel: John 20:19-31.

(Read from the Children's Lectionary, or maybe an attending parent may like to read it.)

Minister of the Word: A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

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.

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



REFLECTING ON THE READING

Younger children: https://youtu.be/A_QcGnwilXI https://youtu.be/ktoVG_NxYTg

- Where were the disciples hiding?
- Who was missing? (Thomas)
- One week later Jesus appeared also to Thomas.
- Do you think Thomas actually did put his fingers in Jesus' wounds?

Some people don't believe in Jesus or God because they haven't seen him.

There are lots of things we believe in that we haven't seen – Mt Everest is the tallest mountain in the world, Oranges have Vitamin C in them, the Earth is round – because others have told us it's true.

Jesus says that people who have not seen him, but still believe in him are happy!

Why does believing in Jesus make us happy?

RESPONSE

John wrote about this in the Gospel so that we too can believe that Jesus really did come back on Easter Sunday and loves us. On a big poster, invite the children and their parents to draw a big smiley face with the words above: "Jesus is risen! We are happy!" Everyone sign their own name/draw their happy faces around it.



Or: Create simple joyful crosses decorated with colourful buttons or stickers for them to take home. On the back write the words – Jesus is Risen, Alleluia!

Or: Create an empty tomb, with he is risen on the door, and then invite the children and parents to plant flowers in the garden – symbols of joy and new life!

WE BELIEVE

In our creed, we say what we believe. Invite your children to think about what they are saying when they say the creed. Ask this series of questions and invite the children to reply, "I do":

- Do you believe in God, the Father, who sent his Son to us?
- Do you believe in Jesus the Messiah, who brought a new peace to the world?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, who is given to us so we can love the world as Christ does?

WE PRAY

Again, try to relate the prayers of the faithful to the reading by saying,

'Jesus brings us the Good News of God's Kingdom, and we bring our needs to him...'

| Respond to each prayer with: We Pray to the Lord.

All. Lord, hear our prayer.

