

# Children's Liturgy of the Word

PENTECOST, YEAR B JOHN 20:19-23

## BACKGROUND



Today's gospel should have a familiar ring to it as it formed part of the gospel reading on the Second Sunday of Easter. In the languages that the apostles spoke and the cultures that they lived in, the concepts of 'sin' and 'peace' have different connotations than they do in modern English. John would have struggled with the concept of the 'shopping list model' we sometimes encounter when thinking of sins (stealing, cheating, lying, coveting, murder, etc.) Similarly, 'peace' is more than 'quiet tranquillity'. The first century world was a crowded, noisy place. The Hebrew concept of 'Shalom' encompasses the rightness of a situation when you

are at peace/reconciled with any person or God. It means being debt-free in the widest possible sense. Jesus has made the ultimate atonement for us, and we are free to experience shalom.

May our children hear us speak as Jesus would like us to speak – with the gifts of the Holy Spirit that he gave at our baptism and sealed at our Confirmation. Awe, Reverence, Right Judgement, Understanding, Piety, Self-Control and Fear of the Lord (another form of love, not wanting to do anything that would separate us from Him). May the fruits of the Holy Spirit flourish in our families: love, joy, patience, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, modesty, chastity, and gentleness. May we go in peace to follow his commandment to live the good news of his love in the world.

## PREPARATION

Prepare a prayer space to receive the Lectionary and the Children's Liturgy candle – with a red cloth (for Pentecost) and seven red tea-lights.

## WE SAY SORRY

Leader: You send us out to forgive, Lord have mercy. All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You free us from fear, Christ have mercy. All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: You came to bring us peace, Lord have mercy. All: Lord, have mercy.

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

**Reader:** A reading from the Holy Gospel according to John.

**All:** Glory to you, O Lord.

*(God be in my mind, God be in my words, God be in my heart,  
making the sign of the Cross on our forehead, lips and heart.)*

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

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

---

## REFLECTION

Ask the children: What did you hear? Let your child(ren) respond in their own words and then build up a discussion from there. Some of these questions below may be helpful.

- Who was in the room?
- Why had they locked the room?
- What did Jesus say and do?
- What did he want the disciples, and all of us to do?
- How could we share the gifts of the Holy Spirit in our families?

---

## RESPONSE

Jesus breathed on the disciples and said “Peace be with you”. When you think of the word ‘peace,’ what do you think of? Explain, using child-friendly language, that the understanding of the early Christians was different to our understanding. It is possible to experience this sort of peace at a noisy birthday party!



What do you think people mean when they use the word sin? Again, using child-friendly language, explain that things we call sins sometimes result from not fully understanding Jesus’ message. For instance, if I did not remember that Jesus loves both me and the person who is annoying me, I might want to hurt them. Understanding and remembering what Jesus taught us can stop me from doing things we regret.

The Holy Spirit brings gifts to help us to live like Jesus. Awe, Reverence, Right Judgement, Understanding, Piety, Self-Control and Fear of the Lord (another form of love, not wanting to do anything that would separate us from Him). May the fruits of the Holy Spirit flourish in our families: love, joy, patience, peace, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, modesty, chastity, and gentleness.

---

## WE BELIEVE

Relating to the creed what you have shared with the children, ask this series of questions and invite the children to reply, ‘I do, Alleluia, Alleluia!’

- Do you believe in God the Father who sent his Son to save us?
- Do you believe in Jesus, God the Son, who sends his friends out to continue his work?
- Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit, who has been with Jesus’ followers since the first Pentecost and is with us today?



**“I do, Alleluia! Alleluia!”**

---

## 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....”

Respond to each prayer with:

Reader:       **Lord, send out your spirit.**                      All:       **And renew the face of the earth.**

We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.        All:       Amen

Here are some suggested prayers that you may like to include:

### **For the Church –**

that we welcome the Holy Spirit, and use these gifts for the good of the church and the good of all people.

### **For all Christian denominations –**

that people of different religions learn to look to each other with love, see Christ in each other, and reconcile our differences.

### **For national leaders throughout the world –**

that they act kindly making sure that their countries laws protect everyone equally.

### **For people who have lost their jobs or business because of Covid-19 –**

that people will support them and that they will stay hopeful.

**For social media, radio and television** – that all media be family-friendly, respectful of all, and filled with uplifting and inspiring storytelling and entertainment.

---

## SOME FUN VIDEOS/MUSIC

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gj--BvTkkys>
- You may like to learn the actions that go with this song.
- <https://youtu.be/ON-g8Dwg0UU> Psalm 104 “Lord, Send out Your Spirit”
- <https://youtu.be/ORDm4rj27G4> Holy Moly (younger children)
- <https://youtu.be/jRf6RcE525s> Readings and reflection (older children)

Name:		Date:			
		1	2	3	reward
					Total 10 = big reward

## Sticker chart for your home:

It is one thing to say that something is good. But what type of good? Was it gentle, or kind. Help our children recognise the fruits of the Holy Spirit in their daily lives, and the effects their actions have on the people around them.

Each time there is a good action, stop to ask, what fruit of the Holy Spirit was it?

Let them decide, and put a sticker on the chart. Maybe write the action in to remember.

When five stickers are collected, a small treat could be given. (a lolly or similar)

When 10 stickers are collected, a big treat could be given.

(a special pencil, a game, decide together beforehand...)

Never take a sticker away! A sticker earnt is a sticker kept.

Some examples are:

- I did all my homework required: it could be patience and gives joy in teacher.
- I came as soon as you called me: it could be self-control, and gives joy.
- I made a special card for my friend: it could be kindness, which gives love or joy
- When I didn't argue, but listened and shared my things: peace/love
- I put a timer on the computer and then kept to it: it could be self-control
- I helped someone who was sad or scared: gentleness which leads to peace