

Children's liturgy – Third Sunday of Easter (Year B)

Preparing the worship space

Colour: white

Song suggestions: Go, tell everyone (227, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)
The Servant King (187, Celebration Hymnal for Everyone)

Welcome: Today we hear about how the risen Jesus ate some fish with his friends and gave them a special job to be his witnesses. We think about the people who have shared the story of Jesus with us and how we can share it with others.

Opening prayer: Loving God, help us to understand more about you so we can share your love with others. Amen.

First reading (optional): Acts 3:13-15, 17-19

Psalm: Ps 4:2, 4, 7, 9 r.7

Gospel acclamation: *everyone stands and sings together.*

Gospel: Luke 24:35-48

The two disciples then explained what had happened on the road, and how they had recognised the Lord when he broke the bread.

While the two were telling them this, suddenly the Lord himself stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you."

They were terrified, thinking that they were seeing a ghost. But he said to them, "Why are you alarmed? Why are these doubts coming up in your minds? Look at my hands and my feet, and see that it is I myself. Feel me, and you will know, for a ghost doesn't have flesh and bones, as you can see I have."

He said this and showed them his hands and his feet. They still could not believe, they were so full of joy and wonder; so he asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave him a piece of cooked fish, which he took and ate in their presence.

Then he said to them, "These are the very things I told you about while I was still with you: everything written about me in the Law of Moses, the writings of the prophets, and the Psalms had to come true."

Then he opened their minds to understand the Scriptures, and said to them, "This is what is written: the Messiah must suffer and must rise from death three days later, and in his name the message about repentance and the forgiveness of sins must be preached to all nations, beginning in Jerusalem. You are witnesses of these things."

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

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from today's reading?

The disciples were talking to each other when suddenly Jesus appeared amongst them.

They thought they had seen a ghost! How would you feel?

Jesus wants to show them he is not a ghost, but flesh and blood, so Jesus does something very normal.

He asks for something to eat. Do you remember what he eats in the story? Jesus eats some fish.

Many of Jesus' first followers were fishermen and the first Christians used fish as a symbol that they followed Jesus.

James is a fisherman in Liberia. Sometimes he has to go out in his boat during dangerous storms and sometimes it can be hard to find fish to catch. Like the disciples James trusts in God. He says, "God comes first and then fishing... I put my boat out to sea and I pray. I remind myself: 'Seek and you will find. Knock and the door will open.' Each time I pray, I remember this."

A special project has helped James with a life jacket and a fish finder, which means he can find good fishing spots and return home safely.

After eating, Jesus gives the disciples a special job to be his witnesses; to tell other people about his life, death and resurrection and his message of God's love and forgiveness.

The Christian faith has been passed on person to person for more than 2,000 years.

Who are the people who have told you the story of Jesus? How can you share the story of God's love and forgiveness with others?

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

Jesus wants us to be his witnesses, and so we pray:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may share the story of Jesus and show his love to all people. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for those who go to sea and all those who face danger in order to feed their families. May God be always with them, keeping them safe. Lord, in your mercy...

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may show Jesus' love in the way we care for and forgive others. Lord, in your mercy...

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

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Closing prayer: Father God, you sent your Son to share your message of love and forgiveness. Help us all to be witnesses to that love and forgiveness in our lives. Amen.

Activity suggestions

Invite the children to complete the accompanying activity sheet.

Find out more about the lives of fishing communities in Liberia by watching our film for children (from Lent 2024): https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GpkQ4yh_uOQ

Remind the children that we are continuing to celebrate the resurrection throughout Eastertide. What could they do to celebrate the good news that Jesus is alive this week?

Encourage the children to go home and share all that they have heard and thought about today. Remind them to do one thing over the coming week to show that they are sharing God's message of love and forgiveness.

*Gospel passage taken from:

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