



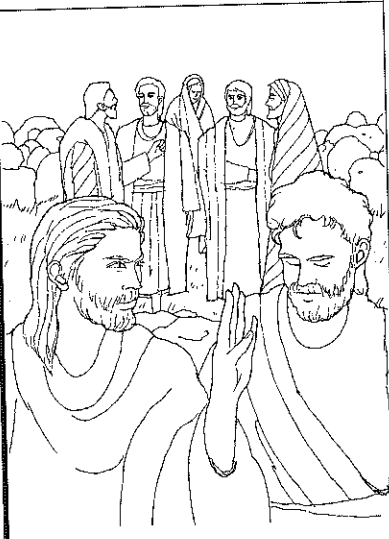
## 22ND SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

RESPONSE: Psalm 63

I will praise you, Lord;  
as long as I live,  
I will praise you.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

"If you would be  
my disciples,  
accept the cross  
and follow me."  
Alleluia, alleluia!  
"Accept the cross  
and follow me."



## EVALUATION

We are providing this brief evaluation form for use after you have celebrated this Sunday's liturgy with the children.

Notes for future reference:

What went well?

What needs improvement?

## LITURGICAL SEASON BACKGROUND

As this holy season progresses, we continue to celebrate the ways of God and of God's people. We know that we are called to respond to God's love by serving God and others. We know that Jesus is the expression of God's love for us and our example of service to others. And we know that serving God is not always easy in a world that does not always recognize God's goodness. Today we celebrate the "cost" of serving God. For not only is serving God sometimes difficult, it can actually cause us to suffer at times. This is a most important celebration, for we can find ourselves in pain and doubt if we forget that the world does not always welcome the servants of God. But if we remember God's promises and God's faithfulness, we will persevere in our service to God, finding real happiness as we do so.

## SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND

Today's readings contain both challenge and hope. Jeremiah's prayer is touching in its honesty. He cries out in pain to God, claiming that God has trapped him into ministry as a prophet. Jeremiah is learning that people do not always want to hear God's word, especially when it challenges their comfortable way of life. In the Gospel, Jesus introduces to his disciples the idea that he is going to suffer, die, and rise from the dead. Peter challenges this thought and insists that it will never happen. Jesus' reply is shockingly harsh. In last week's Gospel, Jesus gave Peter the "keys of the kingdom"; today Jesus compares Peter to Satan!

Jesus' final teaching in today's Gospel contains the words of hope that we need: "If you are willing to give your life for me, you will live forever." This is our hope. Giving our life for others is the way to gain eternal life for ourselves. And as Christians we understand that this is not simply a reward later for suffering now. For us, the reward can come along with the suffering. For if we understand that giving our life is what brings us eternal life, we can be happy in the midst of whatever suffering comes to us as the result of living according to the Gospel.

## LITURGICAL ENVIRONMENT

The environment for Ordinary Time would be simple, featuring basic symbols of the liturgy. A candle, perhaps incense, and a plant or group of plants would convey the desired tone. The liturgical color is green. You might display the *SUNDAY Scripture Poster*, which shows Jesus admonishing Peter. The poster could be sent home with different family each week to color for the next celebration. The book of God's word, displayed facing the assembly, is the focal point of the gathering space.

## 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A

### CENTERING / PROCESSIONAL SONG

You might use the same centering / gathering song for several Sundays in a row during this season.

#### *Suggestions:*

- “To Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King” (Vol. 2 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #46, Treehaus Communications).
- “This Little Light of Mine” (Traditional, Vol. 1 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #46, Treehaus Communications).
- “Praise to the Lord, the Almighty” (Vol. 2 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #41, Treehaus Communications).

### FIRST READING *Jeremiah 20:7-9*

The reader can be either a child or an adult; in either case, this person would know ahead of time in order to prepare carefully. This reading might be read with a sense of Jeremiah’s pain, but also with careful attention to the emerging sense of hope in the concluding paragraph.

### PSALM RESPONSE

The psalm is not only a response to the first reading, but “responsorial” is the style in which the psalm is prayed, with the children responding to the cantor or reader. You might use the same psalm through several Sundays in a row during this season.

#### *Suggestions:*

- Psalm 63: “I Will Praise You, Lord” (Walker, *SUNDAY Book of Readings/Lectionary Adapted for Children and SUNDAY Weekly Leader’s Guide*, Year A, page 108, Treehaus Communications; *Music for Children’s Liturgy of the Word*, Cycle A, Treehaus Communications/O.C.P. Publications).
- Psalm 145: “I Will Praise Your Name” (Vol. 1 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #40 Treehaus Communications).
- “If You Hear the Voice of God” (Vol. 2 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #35, Treehaus Communications).
- Psalm 103: “Bless the Lord, My Soul” (Vol. 2 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #36, Treehaus Communications).

You may wish to follow the gestures suggested in *Sing God a Simple Song*.

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

#### *Suggestions:*

- “If You Would Be My Disciples” (Walker, *SUNDAY Book of Readings/Lectionary Adapted for Children and SUNDAY Weekly Leader’s Guide*, Year A, page 109, Treehaus Communications; *Music for Children’s Liturgy of the Word*, Cycle A, Treehaus Communications/O.C.P. Publications).
- “Halle, Halle, Halle” (Caribbean, Vol. 1 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #43, Treehaus Communications).
- Psalm 113: “Praise His Name” (Vol. 2 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #38, Treehaus Communications).
- “Salisbury Alleluia” (Vol. 2 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #41, Treehaus Communications).

You may wish to follow the gestures suggested in *Sing God a Simple Song*.

### GOSPEL *Matthew 16:21-27*

Usually the presider reads the Gospel. This reading might be read with careful attention to its two sections, expressing the seriousness of the beginning and the dialogue with Peter but also conveying the hope and wisdom that fills the concluding teaching.

### HOMILY OUTLINE

See *SUNDAY Weekly Leader Guide*, Year A, pages 108 and 109, for “Focus of Readings” and “Reflecting on the Readings With Children.” When reflecting on the scriptures with children we take our cues from the children’s responses. In so doing, you might use some of the questions below to enrich their appreciation of God’s word.

WE LISTEN TO GOD SPEAK

- What might the children in the assembly hear God saying to them in today's readings?
- How might you engage the children in the biblical experience with open-ended questions?

*Examples for this week's readings:*

*Concerning the first reading:*

- Why do you think Jeremiah says that he let himself be "trapped" by God?
- What do you think the people might have been saying about Jeremiah?
- What do you think Jeremiah means when he says "I feel my heart burning inside me"?
- How do you think Jeremiah felt about being God's messenger and yet being made fun of by the people who didn't like what he was saying?
- Why do you think people would make fun of Jeremiah?

- Why do you think people would choose to ignore Jeremiah, when Jeremiah was telling them what God wanted?

*Concerning the Gospel:*

- If you were Peter, and heard Jesus say he was going to suffer and die, what do you think you would say to Jesus?
- What does Jesus' sharp reply to Peter tell you about how Jesus felt?
- If you were one of the disciples, what would you think about hearing Jesus say, "You must accept your cross and follow me"?

WE REFLECT ON THE REIGN OF GOD

- How can you invite the children to look out of the biblical experience at their lives today?
- How can you use the biblical imagery of today's readings to explore with children their experience of God's presence in our lives today?

*Examples for this week's readings:*

*Concerning the first reading:*

- In what way do people today suffer when they follow God's way as Jeremiah did?
- When are some times you felt like Jeremiah when he said, "I will not speak about God anymore"? What was that like for you?
- When might you have felt strongly about your faith? What was that like for you?

*Concerning the Gospel:*

- What do you think Jesus means by the expression "accept your cross and follow me"? What is the "cross" you have to accept?
- In what ways might you try to "save your life"? How could this cause you to lose it after all?
- How do people give their lives for Jesus? What people do you know that have done this or are doing it now?



**□ WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD**

- How might you attune yourself to encourage the children's own creative responses to God's word?
- How might the Spirit be moving the children to respond to God's word in praise and thanksgiving?

*Examples for this week's readings:*

- How are you going to try to be a better disciple of Jesus?
- How can you give your life for Jesus?

**CREED**

Invite children to profess our faith by creedal statements that echo the readings. To formulate the statements, reflect on what the readings say about God as Creator, Jesus as Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit as Gift of Life. Express these statements so that the children can give their assent to them. This week's readings, for example, offer these options:

- God, who gives hope in the midst of suffering.
- Jesus, who shows us the way to eternal life.
- Holy Spirit, who helps us to overcome our fear of suffering and death.

**PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

The proclamation of the word leads us to change our lives and express our gratitude in the celebration of the Eucharist. After the children have offered their prayers and concerns, you might also offer petitions based on the scripture texts. See notes for Trinity Sunday for guidelines on preparing petitions. In formulating the prayers, you might draw from the verbs or "action words" and biblical images in this week's readings. For example: "*I must be faithful,*" "*you must accept your cross and follow me,*" "*if you are willing to give your life for me, you will live forever.*"

*NOTE: Arrange to have SUNDAY Scripture Leaflets given to the children as they are leaving Mass. Encourage children and parents to use these leaflets through the week to continue reflecting prayerfully on God's word. In addition, emphasize the use of Light of the World, Our Family Spiritual Life Journal, pages 110 and 111, (Treehaus Communications, Inc.) as a way of assisting the family's deeper reflection on God's word at home.*



# Liturgy of the Word

August 28, 2011

## CENTERING / PROCESSIONAL SONG

• "Praise to the Lord, the Almighty" (Vol. 2 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #41, Treehaus Communications).  
*Substitutions / Additional Notes:*

## OPENING PRAYER

*Presider:* God of faithfulness, we are eager to serve you by serving others. May your Holy Spirit give us the wisdom and the strength to follow the teachings and the example of Jesus, who gave his life to do your will. We pray in Jesus' name.

All: Amen.

*Substitutions / Additional Notes:*

## FIRST READING Jeremiah 20:7-9

*Today's Reader:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Presider:* Today we hear a surprising prayer by Jeremiah.

*Substitutions / Additional Notes:*

## PSALM RESPONSE

*Presider or Leader of Song:* We want to serve God faithfully, and so we sing:

\_\_\_\_\_  
*Substitutions / Additional Notes:*

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

• "If You Would Be My Disciples" (Walker, *SUNDAY Book of Readings/Lectionary Adapted for Children and SUNDAY Weekly Leader's Guide*, Year A, page 109, Treehaus Communications; *Music for Children's Liturgy of the Word*, Cycle A, Treehaus Communications/O.C.P. Publications).

*Substitutions / Additional Notes:*

## GOSPEL Matthew 16:21-27

*Today's Reader:* \_\_\_\_\_

*Preliminary Comments:*

Liturgy Celebration for August 28, 2011 • 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A



**HOMILY**

*Focal Points:* Today's readings, at first, sound like bad news. As Jeremiah is finding out, serving God can cause us to suffer. People might very well make fun of us for following God's laws. In the Gospel, Peter tries to convince Jesus that his suffering and death could be prevented. But Jesus is very swift in his response: stop talking like that! Jesus goes on to teach Peter (and us) that the way we can save our own life is to give it up in service of others. In fact, Jesus shows us this when he dies obediently on the cross and then rises in glory on the third day. What happened to Jesus will happen to us. If we obey God, giving our life (this means our time, our energy, our good will—and, if it is what God asks of us, our life itself) in service to others will bring us to eternal life. This means that we can find happiness in our suffering as well as in the hope of eternal life.

*Outline / Ideas:*

**CREED**

*Presider:* God, we celebrate your love for us as we say:

**Do you believe in God, who gives hope in the midst of suffering?**

*All:* Yes, we believe. *Or:* Yes, we believe in God, who...

**Do you believe in Jesus, who shows us the way to eternal life?**

*All:* Yes, we believe. *Or:* Yes, we believe in Jesus, who...

**Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us to overcome our fear of suffering and death?**

*All:* Yes, we believe. *Or:* Yes, we believe in the Holy Spirit, who...

*Substitutions / Additional Notes:*

**PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL**

*Presider:* We are eager to serve God by serving others, and so we offer our prayers. (After the children have offered their prayers, you might also add petitions based on the scripture texts. For example:)

**+ For the people of all nations, that we may be faithful to the will of God that all people be treated with justice, mercy, and love, we pray**

*All:* Faithful God, hear our prayer.

**+ For all our churches, that we may embrace the cross of Christ and whatever difficulties may come with it, so that we will find true happiness and eternal life, we pray.**

*All:* Faithful God, hear our prayer.

**+ For our families, friends, and neighbors, that our way of life may show our faith in God's promise of eternal life for those who give their lives in service to others, we pray.**

*All:* Faithful God, hear our prayer.

*Substitutions / Additional Notes:*

**CLOSING PRAYER**

*Presider:* God of faithfulness, we are grateful for the message of hope that Jesus brings to us. May your Holy Spirit give us the wisdom of Jeremiah to continue serving you even when it becomes difficult or painful to do so. We pray in the name of Jesus, who shows us the way to eternal life.

*All:* Amen.

*Substitutions / Additional Notes:*

NOTE: Arrange to have the *Sunday Scripture Leaflets* given to the children as they are leaving Mass. Encourage the children and parents to use these leaflets and the *Light of the World, Our Family Spiritual Life Journal* throughout the week.

Liturgy Celebration for August 28, 2011 • 22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A

**TWENTY-SECOND  
SUNDAY  
IN ORDINARY TIME**

**YEAR A**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY:**

All-powerful God,  
see how weak we are,  
how difficult  
for us to live your way.  
Make us brave  
in following Jesus.  
May we never give up  
when things become difficult,  
never frightened or put off  
by those who do not know you  
or your Son,  
who lives with you,  
forever and ever.

**FOCUS OF THE READINGS:**

Both of our readings focus on the cost of obedience to the will of God.

Jeremiah is constantly ridiculed and persecuted for being the bearer of God's Word to the people. His message, and he, are rejected, yet he remains faithful.

In our Gospel for today, Jesus warns his disciples he himself will suffer and even be killed for being faithful to God's message. The focus then shifts to the disciples: those who want to follow Jesus must accept the same cross, the willingness to be faithful, even if it means giving their lives.

What Jeremiah experienced and Jesus died for, the disciples must accept—the world is opposed to the message of God.

**FIRST READING: Jeremiah 20:7-9**

*This is a reading from the prophet Jeremiah.*

Jeremiah made this prayer to God:

“O God, you are stronger than I am,  
and I let myself be trapped by you.  
Now everyone is making fun of me,  
because I tell the people  
they are going to suffer  
from the way they are living.  
And now I am the one who is suffering  
for telling them the truth.  
Sometimes I think to myself,

‘I will not talk about God anymore.  
I won’t even speak in God’s name.’

“But then I feel my heart burning inside me,  
and I know that I must be faithful  
and go on talking about you.”

*The Word of the Lord.*

**RESPONSE: Psalm 63**

RESPONSE:



I will praise you, Lord, as long as I live, I will praise you.

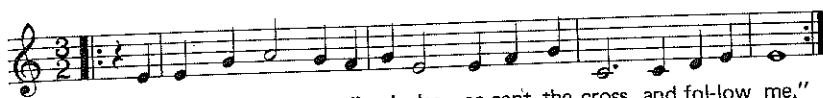
VERSES:



1. I trust in you, your hand keeps me safe.  
2. I bless your name, for you are my help.  
3. Your love for me is bet-ter than life.

to Response

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:



1. "If you would be my dis-ci-ples, ac-cept the cross and fol-low me."
2. Al-le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, "Ac-cept the cross and fol-low me."

## GOSPEL: *Matthew 16:21-27*

*This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*

One day Jesus told his disciples that he had to go to Jerusalem. He explained to them that in Jerusalem the chief priests and the teachers of the law would make him suffer and then would kill him. But three days later, he would be raised from the dead. Peter took Jesus aside and said to him,

"This will never happen to you!  
God will save you."

But Jesus said to Peter,

"Be quiet! Stop talking like Satan!  
You are no help to me,  
because you are thinking  
the way people think,  
and not the way God thinks."

Then Jesus turned to his disciples and said,

"If you want to be my disciple,  
you must accept your cross and follow me.  
If you try to save your own life,  
you will lose it.  
But if you are willing to give your life for me,  
you will live forever."

*The Gospel of the Lord.*

## REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

While this Gospel is important in the on-going formation of children as well as adults, we must be cautious in reflecting on it with small children. "Accepting one's cross" must be explained in language and concrete examples appropriate to the age of the children. We want to avoid burdening them with expectations beyond their understanding and capacity to fulfill.

After the Gospel, encourage the children to share their reflections.

- What does Jesus mean when he says his disciples must not think only about themselves? How does this help others?
- What does Jesus mean when he says his disciples must live as he lives?
- What does Jesus mean when he says that if we are willing to give up our lives for him we will find real life?

Help the children understand "giving up our life" means living for others—living as Jesus wants us to—no matter what. This can be a real "cross" when living the Gospel in fact requires children to make difficult choices in their everyday lives.