



18TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

RESPONSE: *Psalms 104*

You are the one who feeds us, giving us food from your hand. You are the one who feeds us, giving us all we need.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Jesus blessed the bread, and broke the bread, and gave it to his friends. Alleluia!



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 the season of Ordinary Time continues, we have the opportunity to celebrate still another aspect of our relationship with God. This is the beauty of Ordinary Time: it provides us with a weekly opportunity to explore, to learn, to celebrate, and to enlarge upon our life in relationship with God. This week we consider in practical terms God's promise of faithfulness to us. For this week we celebrate God's willingness to provide for our needs, both physical and spiritual. What is required of us is complete trust in God and faith in God's promises.

SCRIPTURE BACKGROUND

In today's first reading, Isaiah invites us to share in God's goodness "without price" This reading gives us an insight into God's boundless generosity, expressed in a covenant which will last forever.

In the Gospel, we gain a glimpse of just how far this covenant goes in showing us God's love. This reading is the well-known story of Jesus' miracle of the loaves and fishes. Taking bread, Jesus blesses it, breaks it, and gives it to the crowd. In this preliminary sign of the eucharist, Jesus gives nourishment to a multitude on a hillside and the promise of heavenly food to the multitudes of the ages.

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. A beautiful loaf of bread might be added today, in view of the Gospel selection. The liturgical color is green. You might display the *SUNDAY Scripture Poster*, which illustrates the Gospel story of the multiplication of the loaves and fish. The poster could be sent home with a 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.

18th 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:

- “Song of the Body of Christ / Canción del Cuerpo de Cristo” (Haas, Vol. 1 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #30 Treehaus Communications).
- “To Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King” (Vol. 2 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #46, Treehaus Communications).
- “Jubilate Deo / In the Lord Rejoicing” (Praetorius / Taizé, Vol. 1 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #27, Treehaus Communications).
- “For the Beauty of the Earth” (Vol. 1 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #49, Treehaus Communications).

FIRST READING *Isaiah 55:1-3*

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 awe and delight at the goodness of God.

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 104: “You Are the One Who Feeds Us” (Walker, *SUNDAY Book of Readings/Lectionary Adapted for Children* and *SUNDAY Weekly Leader’s Guide*, Year A, page 100, 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).
- Psalm 19: “Lord, You Have the Words” (Vol. 2 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #39, 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:

- “Jesus Blessed the Bread” (Walker, *SUNDAY Book of Readings/Lectionary Adapted for Children* and *SUNDAY Weekly Leader’s Guide*, Year A, page 100, 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 14:13-21*

Usually the presider reads the Gospel. This reading might be read in a simple, narrative style, with a sense of awe at the miracle which happens at the end.

HOMILY OUTLINE

See *SUNDAY Weekly Leader Guide*, Year A, pages 100 and 101, 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:

- What kind of food do you think Isaiah is talking about in this reading?
- How do you think people can get this food for free?
- God says, "Come to me so that you might live." What do you think this means?

Concerning the Gospel:

- How do you think Jesus felt when he heard about the death of John the Baptist? Why do you think he would want to be alone?
- Why would Jesus feel sorry for the people who were looking for him?
- What does it tell you about Jesus that he felt sorry for the people and stayed with them?
- Why do you think so many people were looking for Jesus in that area?
- Why do you think Jesus would want to feed over 5,000 people with only five loaves of bread and two fish?
- If you were one of the disciples, how would you help to feed so many people?

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:

- What kinds of things do we spend money on that don't satisfy us?
- What do you think Isaiah is talking about when he says, "come, eat good bread"? Where do we find this "bread" today?
- What does God's covenant mean to you?

Concerning the Gospel:

- What are some ways that Jesus feeds you?
- How are people today fed by Jesus?
- Who are some people you know who help feed others the food of Jesus? What do they do?



□ 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 can we share the stories of God's miracles and the promise of eternal life with others?
- How can you help Jesus to feed the people of God?

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 makes an everlasting covenant with us.
- Jesus, who fed the crowds with bread and fish.
- Holy Spirit, who opens our eyes to see the goodness of God.

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: "come to the water," "come to me so that you may live," "he felt sorry for them, and he stayed with them," "blessed the bread, broke it, and gave it to the disciples..."

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 100 and 101, (Treehaus Communications, Inc.) as a way of assisting the family's deeper reflection on God's word at home.



Liturgy of the Word

July 31, 2011

CENTERING / PROCESSIONAL SONG

• "To Jesus Christ, Our Sovereign King" (Vol. 2 *Sing God a Simple Song*, #46, Treehaus Communications).

Substitutions / Additional Notes:

OPENING PRAYER

Presider: God of faithfulness and love, we want to be faithful to you as you are to us. May this celebration help us to remain close to you through Jesus, your Son.

All: Amen.

Substitutions / Additional Notes:

FIRST READING *Isaiah 55:1-3*

Today's Reader: _____

Presider: Today, we will hear an unexpected invitation from God through the prophet Isaiah.

Substitutions / Additional Notes:

PSALM RESPONSE

Presider or Leader of Song: We are grateful for God's generous invitation, and so we sing:

Substitutions / Additional Notes:

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

• "Jesus Blessed the Bread" (Walker, *SUNDAY Book of Readings/Lectionary Adapted for Children* and *SUNDAY Weekly Leader's Guide*, Year A, page 100, Treehaus Communications; *Music for Children's Liturgy of the Word*, Cycle A, Treehaus Communications/O.C.P. Publications).

Substitutions / Additional Notes:

GOSPEL *Matthew 14:13-21*

Today's Reader: _____

Preliminary Comments:

Liturgy Celebration for July 31, 2011 • 18th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Year A



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HOMILY

Focal Points: Each Sunday, we celebrate God's goodness, faithfulness, and love for each of us. God's goodness began before anything was created. God made us and provided us with all we needed to be happy. Today's readings remind us that this is still true. All that we need comes from God. God invites us to share in the endless goodness of heaven, here and now. In the Gospel, Jesus shows in a very practical way that God wants to give us everything we need — in abundance. God's generosity — God's power — is limitless. God's generosity came to the hungry crowd through Jesus, the Christ. Through Jesus, the people's hunger was satisfied — and there was food left over. We can learn two things from this. First, that through Jesus, God provides for more than we could ever dream. Second, just as Jesus' disciples were the ones who distributed the food, so can we serve and satisfy the needs of people in the world today.

Outline / Ideas:

CREED

Presider: God, we celebrate your love for us as we proclaim our faith:

Do you believe in God, who makes an everlasting covenant with us?

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

Do you believe in Jesus, who fed the crowds with bread and fish?

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

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who opens our eyes to see the goodness of God?

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

Substitutions / Additional Notes:

PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL

Presider: We know that God will give us everything we truly need, and we want to participate in God's work here on earth, and so we offer these prayers. (After the children have offered their prayers, you might also add prayers based on the scripture texts. For example:)

+ For the people of all nations, that we may remember God's generosity and be generous with one another, we pray.

All: Caring God, hear our prayer.

+ For the churches of our world, that we may work together to invite all people to come to the water of life through faith, we pray.

All: Caring God, hear our prayer.

+ For our families, neighbors, and friends, that we may remember the love of God every time we take bread and share a meal together, we pray.

All: Caring God, hear our prayer.

Substitutions / Additional Notes:

CLOSING PRAYER

Presider: Generous God, we thank you for your never-ending kindness to us. May we accept your invitation and trust in you to provide for what we need. And may your Holy Spirit strengthen us so that we will bring your goodness to others in our world. We pray in the name of Jesus, who feeds us now with the Bread of Heaven at the table of the eucharist.

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.

EIGHTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

YEAR A

PRAYER OF THE DAY:

God of never-ending goodness,
your greatest wish
is to make us happy.
Feed us with your love
so that we may become strong
and grow to be more
like your Son, Jesus,
who lives with you,
forever and ever.

FOCUS OF THE READINGS:

Our readings focus on the Eucharist as a sign of the heavenly banquet.

The first reading speaks of the lasting covenant which provides, gratuitously, the food which satisfies. One might see in this reading the invitation to baptism and eucharist.

The Gospel, Matthew's account of the multiplication of loaves for 5,000, uses the liturgical language of the early church: bread taken, blessed, broken and given. This story, which is found more often in the New Testament than any other incident (six times), probably represents the early church's understanding of eucharist—nourishment now and the promise of future feeding (twelve baskets left over.)

FIRST READING: *Isaiah 55:1-3*

This is a reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Our God says,

“All you who are thirsty, come to the water.
Even if you have no money, come.
Come and have good wine and milk.
It's yours free.
Why spend money on things
that don't really satisfy you?
Come, instead, and eat good bread.
Listen; come to me so that you may live.
I will make a covenant with you,
and my covenant will last forever.”

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSE: *Psalm 104*

RESPONSE:

You are the one who feeds us, giv-ing us food from your hand...
— You are the one who feeds us, giv-ing us all we need. —

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Je - sus blessed the bread, and broke the bread and
gave it to his friends. Al - le - lu - ial Je - sus lu - ial

GOSPEL: *Matthew 14:13-21*

This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

When Jesus heard
that John the Baptist had been killed,
he went away in a boat to be alone.
But the people went to find him.
When Jesus came back to the shore,
he saw how many people were looking for him.

He felt sorry for them,
and he stayed with them,
healing the people who were sick.
Then it was evening,
the disciples came to Jesus and said,

"These people are a long way from home,
and it's getting late.
Send them into the village
so they can buy some food."

But Jesus said,
"They don't have to leave.
You give them food."

The disciples said,
"But we have only five loaves of bread
and two fish."

Jesus said,
"Bring them to me."

Then he told all the people
to sit down on the grass.
Over 5,000 people were there.
Jesus took the bread and the fish
and looked up to heaven.
Then he blessed the bread, broke it,
and gave it to the disciples to give to the people.
Then everyone had enough to eat,
and they collected the bread that was left over,
and it filled 12 baskets.

Gospel of the Lord.

REFLECTING ON THE READINGS WITH CHILDREN:

What did you hear in the Gospel
today? Ask the children to recall:

- Where did it take place?
- Who was there?
- What did Jesus do first? (healed the sick.) Why?
- What does this tell us about Jesus? It is helpful for children to repeat lines such as, "he felt sorry for them." Jesus is not merely a worker of miracles; he is a compassionate human being.
- What did the disciples say to Jesus?
- How much food did the disciples have?
- What did Jesus do?

Help the children recall the words as they appear: *took* the bread, *blessed* it, *broke* it and *gave* it to the disciples. . . .

- After everyone had eaten, how much bread was left over?
- What does this story tell us about Jesus?

Help the children see both the power and the caring in this event.

- When do we hear those same words: Jesus took the bread, blessed it, and so forth?

Help the children see the eucharistic theme in this reading.

- What do you think Jesus wants us to learn from this story?

Help the children see that:

- Jesus can do all things.
- Jesus cares about the needs of people.
- Jesus is present in the bread we share at mass.