



Celebrating Liturgy of the Word with Family 23rd Sunday Ordinary Time

Preparation – allow some time to prepare

- Read through the outline beforehand
- Arrange seating and set a prayer focus in the centre. Include candles, cross,
- Open links. Beginning, psalm, 'homily' after the gospel, and at the end.
- Share the reader role. Encourage your readers to practice beforehand and pause for commas and full-stops. Don't correct children as they are reading or during the Liturgy.

Light candles. SIGN OF THE CROSS: Ki te ingoa... Tēnā Koutou Katoa . Welcome Everyone. Today is the 23rd Sunday of Ordinary Time and the 6th of September. The month of September is also the Season of Creation – time to think about how we care for the planet. It is also Father's Day. Happy Father's Day Dad's. Thank you for the care you show to children. We are happy to be together now and celebrate this Liturgy of the Word.

Let's sing and (dance): Something to sing and dance along with <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZPoplFSt5WA>

READER: Let's remember that wherever 2 or 3 are gathered, Christ is present there. So Christ is with us now. Let's remember that as we pray.

Lord, the way you have made us, we depend for life on plants and animals, Lord have mercy

(All) Lord have mercy

Christ, the way you have made us we depend on water to drink and air to breathe, Christ have mercy

(All) Christ have mercy

Lord You have made us people who depend on the warmth of loving relationships, Lord have mercy

(All) Lord have mercy

READER: Look at the pictures for a few moments. *'All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe and in the smallest of your creatures. You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.'* *From - A Prayer for our Earth*

DISCUSS: What do you see?

The prayer says, 'God is present in the whole of creation.' What do we think that means?



COLLECT/OPENING PRAYER: Thank you for your thoughts. Let's take a few moments now to bring to mind what we want to pray for. (*Allow silence, 1 minute*)

Loving God, we know you look at us with love. Help us to believe in you. Give us true freedom and everlasting life with you. We pray through Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

All: Amen.

READING: Romans 12:2 *International Children's Bible*

Reader 1 Do not owe people anything.

Reader 2 But you will always owe love to each other.

Reader 1 The person who loves others has obeyed all the law.

Reader 2 The law says, "You must not murder anyone. You must not steal. You must not want to take your neighbor's things."

Reader 1 All these commands and all others are really only one rule:

Reader 2 "Love your neighbor as you love yourself."

Reader 1 Love never hurts a neighbor.

Reader 2 So loving is obeying all the law

The Word of the Lord – **Ko te kupu a te Ariki**

ALL: Thanks be to God – **Whakamoemiti ki te Atua**

Silence – *Let's be quiet for a few moments and let God's Word settle inside us.*

Discuss: *Have a look at the picture. What is it trying to say to us? Does it have a message about this reading?*



REFLECTION: *Join in (sing and dance)- it's about LOVE* <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FOsnEkckWKM>

GOSPEL: Matthew 16:21-28

Reader 1 A reading from the Gospel of Matthew.

From that time on Jesus began telling his followers that he must go to Jerusalem. He explained that the Jewish elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of the law would make him suffer many things. And he told them that he must be killed. Then, on the third day, he would be raised from death.

Reader 2 Peter took Jesus aside and began to criticize him. Peter said, "God save you from those things, Lord! Those things will never happen to you!"

Reader 1 Then Jesus said to Peter, "Go away from me, Satan! You are not helping me! You don't care about the things of God. You care only about things that people think are important."

Reader 2 Then Jesus said to his followers, "If anyone wants to follow me, they must say 'no' to the things they want.

Reader 1 Whoever wants to save their life will give up true life. And whoever gives up their life for me will have true life.

The Gospel of the Lord - **Ko te rongopai a te Ariki**

ALL: Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ - **Kia whakanuia rā koe e Hēhu Karaiti.**

After the reading - silence. Let some words go over and over in your mind.

7 minute homily by 'Douglas' <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-Wf6TH6gwIY>

Discuss: What is Douglas's message?

Prayer of the Faithful: *As God's people, one of our responsibilities is to pray for the needs of the whole world.*

For world leaders – that they use their power to care for those who are poor or vulnerable.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

For an end to the Covid-19 pandemic – that a vaccine be found and shared fairly, and that people who suffered in this time will be supported by family, friends and neighbours.

(Silence) **Reader:** E te Ariki **All:** Whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.

And let's pray this prayer for fathers, and then the Lord's Prayer

READER:

God our Father, thank you for all fathers.

Bless them.

May they be good at balancing time at work, with family and faith.

May they be tender, protecting children from harm while also encouraging them to live life fully.

May they be strong in love, generous in compassion and wise in the ways of life...

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name;

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.

COLLECTION: READER: Something that Christian people do is support people who need help. There are lots of people who need help. Let's talk about who needs help and what we could do to help them?

Thank you for your kindness. Thank you for your participation in today's Liturgy of the Word. Let us go in peace to love and serve God. Kia tau te rangimārie ki a koutou – Peace be with you.

All: Thanks be to God.

SONG: Laudato Si © by Damian Lundy Can you learn this dance? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T8gkVwFeUwo>

- And maybe even make some eco bricks.