

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time

10 September 2023 - Year A

***“If your brother or sister listens to you,
you will have won that person back.”***

Something to Think About

Today's gospel is all about community. What does the word 'community' mean to you? Can you name some different communities to which you belong? How do these communities live peacefully together? What does peace mean to you?

The Story

In today's gospel story, Jesus is giving the disciples some advice about how to live together peacefully in a community. Jesus is encouraging them to make their community more united and more harmonious and he suggests what should happen if conflicts arise. The simple message is that Jesus wants us to live together as one happy family. What does peace mean to you? What makes you feel peaceful?

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

18:15-17

Jesus said to his disciples:

"If one of my followers sins against you, go and point out what was wrong.

But do it in private, just between the two of you. If that person listens, you have won back a follower.

But if that one refuses to listen, take along one or two others.

"The Scriptures teach that every complaint must be proven true by two or more witnesses.

If the follower refuses to listen to them, report the matter to the church.

"Anyone who refuses to listen to the church must be treated like an unbeliever or a tax collector."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Watch the video: [What is Peace?](#)



Group Discussion

Invite the children to share what it means for them to *belong* to a community. Is it important? Why? How does it feel? Is it always easy being part of a community? Are there certain things one needs to do when one belongs to a community?

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader 1: We pray that our leaders will work together for the good of all people. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray that we will forgive those who hurt us. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray that we will work for peace in our communities. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray that we will listen to others and try to understand them. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray for people who are searching for a sense of peace and calm. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear Jesus,
Help us to be people of peace who
listen calmly to others. May our
homes and our schools be places
where love and joy are found.
Amen.

Group Activity

What does a peaceful community look like?

You will need: pieces of blank paper in A3 or A4, coloured pencils or markers.

- 1) Talk to children about what peaceful communities look like where people work together and forgive one another.
- 2) Invite children to draw a colourful picture that represents their idea of what they would see in this place where people are happy and care for one another and the environment.
- 3) Children might like to talk to one another about what they have drawn.





**IF THERE IS A PROBLEM,
DON'T FIGHT – TALK ABOUT IT!**

**Imagine what these boys
are saying to each other**