

Children Celebrate!

Liturgy of the Word with Children

FEBRUARY 26, 2023 First Sunday of Lent

For the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a violet cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a cactus or dried flower arrangement

For use during the Gathering:

- ▶ a recorded Gathering song and music player
- ▶ a large stuffed animal (with a bandage on its arm or hand) placed on a chair facing a corner of the room

Suggested Music

Gathering: "Saying Yes" (*Seeds* CD-2, Track #8) or "These Ashes" (*Promise & Good News* CD-1, Track #15)

Gospel Acclamation: "Glory and Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ" (*Promise & Good News* CD-2, Track #23)

MARCH 5, 2023 Second Sunday of Lent

For the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a violet cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a cactus or dried flower arrangement

For the Gathering activity you will need:

- ▶ a recorded Gathering song and music player
- ▶ several large sheets of newspaper wadded up to form "bushes" of poison ivy
- ▶ a blindfold

Suggested Music

Gathering: "CHOICES" (*Seeds* CD-2, Track #9) or "Saying Yes" (*Promise & Good News* CD-1, Track #17)

Gospel Acclamation: "Glory and Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ" (*Promise & Good News* CD-2, Track #23)

MARCH 12, 2023 Third Sunday of Lent

For the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a violet cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a cactus or dried flower arrangement

For the Gathering activity you will need:

- ▶ a recorded Gathering song and music player
- ▶ pail of water
- ▶ an earthenware mug or metal soup ladle
- ▶ tabletop novelty water fountain or image of a water fountain
- ▶ today's Children's Leaflet or obtain online an artist's image of Jesus and the woman at the well (download from sermons4kids.com/samaritan_woman_colorpg.htm)

Suggested Music

Gathering: "Saying Yes" (*Seeds* CD-2, Track #8) or "CHOICES" (*Promise & Good News* CD-1, Track #16)

Gospel Acclamation: "Glory and Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ" (*Promise & Good News* CD-2, Track #23)

MARCH 19, 2023 Fourth Sunday of Lent

For the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a rose cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a cactus or dried flower arrangement

Have the following ready for the Gathering and the Homily:

- ▶ a recorded Gathering song and music player
- ▶ adhesive-backed name tags (one for each child)
- ▶ crayons or markers
- ▶ a wadded-up sheet of newspaper to serve as a lightweight ball

Suggested Music

Gathering: "God Loves Me" (*Seeds* CD-2, Track #15) or "Saying Yes" (*Promise & Good News* CD-1, Track #17)

Gospel Acclamation: "Glory and Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ" (*Promise & Good News* CD-2, Track #23)

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Liturgy of the Word with Children

MARCH 26, 2023 Fifth Sunday of Lent

For the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a violet cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a cactus or dried flower arrangement
- ▶ an image of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus

For use during the Gathering:

- ▶ a recorded Gathering song and music player

For use during the Gospel, have ready one of these two options:

- ▶ actors prepared to help with a dramatization
- OR
- ▶ a video clip that depicts the Raising of Lazarus (such as <https://youtu.be/JR1ku3kE2IY>)

Suggested Music

Gathering: "God's Love Is" (*Seeds* CD-2, Track #11)
or "Come, Do This In Memory of Me" (*Promise & Good News* CD-1, Track #20)

Gospel Acclamation: "Glory and Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ" (*Promise & Good News* CD-2, Track #23)

APRIL 2, 2023 Palm / Passion Sunday

For the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a red cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a cactus or dried flower arrangement
- ▶ a crucifix

For use during the Gathering:

- ▶ a recorded Gathering song and music player

For use during the Gospel, have ready one of these two options:

- ▶ posted Doré illustrations as described in Children's Connections
- OR
- ▶ a copy of the Gospel with pauses marked and verses underlined that the children will repeat, as described in Another Option for Reading Today's Gospel

Suggested Music

Gathering: "Come Gather" (*Seeds* CD-2, Track #2) or "Hosanna! Shout Hosanna!" (*Promise & Good News* CD-1, Track #18)

Gospel Acclamation: "Glory and Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ" (*Promise & Good News* CD-2, Track #23)

APRIL 9, 2023 Easter Sunday

For the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a white or gold cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a fresh flower arrangement
- ▶ a few colored Easter eggs in a basket (optional)

For use during the Gathering:

- ▶ a recorded Gathering song and music player

For use during the Homily, prepare a set of 5 to 7 flashcards with inkblot designs on them (search online for "inkblot images" and you should find appropriate options to print).

Suggested Music

Gathering: "New Life" (*Seeds* CD-2, Track #10; *Promise & Good News* CD-2, Track #1)

Gospel Acclamation: "Gospel Acclamation; Alleluia" (*Promise & Good News* CD-2, Track #24)

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Liturgy of the Word with Children

APRIL 16, 2023

Second Sunday of Easter / Sunday of Divine Mercy

For the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a white or gold cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a live green plant or fresh flower arrangement
- ▶ a variety of balls of different weights and sizes, everything from a marble to a baseball to a beach ball

For use during the Gathering:

- ▶ a recorded Gathering song and music player

Suggested Music

Gathering: "Easter People" (*Seeds* CD-1, Track #14) or "He Is Risen Alleluia!" (*Promise & Good News* CD-2, Track #2)

Gospel Acclamation: "Gospel Acclamation; Alleluia" (*Promise & Good News* CD-2, Track #24)

APRIL 23, 2023

Third Sunday of Easter

For the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a white or gold cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a live green plant or fresh flower arrangement

For use during the Gathering:

- ▶ a device that can play the Gathering song (on YouTube)

For use during the Homily, on four paper plates draw faces (or enlarged emoticons) to show the following emotions:

- ▶ Sadness :-(
 - ▶ Peacefulness and contentment :-)
- ▶ Surprise :-o
 - ▶ Excitement and happiness :-D

Suggested Music

Gathering: "Raise a Song of Gladness/Jubilate Deo" (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ED4SdvLnWJg>)

Gospel Acclamation: "Gospel Acclamation; Alleluia" (*Promise & Good News* CD-2, Track #24)

APRIL 30, 2023

Fourth Sunday of Easter

For the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a white or gold cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a live green plant or fresh flower arrangement
- ▶ a portrait or statue of the Good Shepherd (optional)

For use during the Gathering Activity, write inside a set of folded papers or inside the flaps of a few lightly sealed envelopes the following words:

- ▶ Cattle rustler
- ▶ Bank robber
- ▶ Shoplifter
- ▶ Train robber
- ▶ Pickpocket
- ▶ Cat burglar
- ▶ Horse thief
- ▶ Purse snatcher
- ▶ Carjacker

If your group includes older children, consider adding a few extra challenges:

- ▶ Embezzler
- ▶ Plagiarist

Suggested Music

Gathering: "God's Love Is" (*Seeds* CD-2, Track #11; *Promise & Good News* CD-2, Track #6)

Gospel Acclamation: "Gospel Acclamation; Alleluia" (*Promise & Good News* CD-2, Track #24)

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MAY 7, 2023 Fifth Sunday of Easter

For the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a white or gold cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a live green plant or fresh flower arrangement

For use during the Gathering Activity, have ready the following materials:

- ▶ a recorded Gathering song and music player
- ▶ drawing paper
- ▶ crayons
- ▶ a sheet of paper, held horizontally, on which you have drawn a straight line across the page, about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way from the top

Suggested Music

Gathering: "I Am the Way" (*Seeds* CD-2, Track #19) or "Yes, Lord, I Believe" (*Promise & Good News* CD-2, Track #26)

Gospel Acclamation: "Gospel Acclamation; Alleluia" (*Promise & Good News* CD-2, Track #14)

MAY 14, 2023 Sixth Sunday of Easter

For the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a white or gold cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a live green plant or fresh flower arrangement

For use during the Gathering activity, have ready the following materials:

- ▶ a recorded Gathering song and music player
- ▶ a few cartoon fish images printed out from the internet
- ▶ sheets of paper, one for each child
- ▶ a sponge
- ▶ crayons only in black, white, and the warm colors (red, orange, yellow, etc.)
- ▶ a dish of watered-down blue tempera paint or poster paint

Suggested Music

Gathering: "The Spirit Song" (*Seeds* CD-1, Track #15) or "Holy Spirit, Live in Us" (*Promise & Good News* CD-2, Track #10)

Gospel Acclamation: "Gospel Acclamation; Alleluia" (*Promise & Good News* CD-2, Track #24)

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Liturgy of the Word with Children

MAY 18 or 21, 2023 Ascension of the Lord

For the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a white or gold cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a green plant or fresh flowers
- ▶ a globe or a photo of the earth taken from outer space (optional)

For use during the Gathering:

- ▶ a recorded Gathering song and music player

Suggested Music

Gathering: “This Little Light of Mine” (*Seeds* CD-1, Track #11) or “Come and Follow Me” (*Promise & Good News* CD-2, Track #14)

Gospel Acclamation: “Gospel Acclamation; Alleluia” (*Promise & Good News* CD-2, Track #2)

MAY 21, 2023 Seventh Sunday of Easter

For the Meeting Space

In the worship area, on a table draped with a white or gold cloth, place:

- ▶ a Lectionary
- ▶ a battery-operated candle
- ▶ a green plant or fresh flowers

For use during the Gathering activity, have ready the following materials:

- ▶ a recorded Gathering song and music player
- ▶ a winding pathway from the room’s entrance to the worship area (created by laying down sheets of newspaper end to end)

Suggested Music

Gathering: “This Little Light of Mine” (*Seeds* CD-1, Track #11) or “Come and Follow Me” (*Promise & Good News* CD-2, Track #14)

Gospel Acclamation: “Alleluia” (*Promise & Good News* CD-2, Track #14)