# Children’s liturgy: Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

## Preparation of the worship space

Colour: green  
Props: coloured pens and pencils

## Song suggestions

There are several versions of the Lord’s prayer set to music.

## Welcome

Today we hear how Jesus teaches his disciples a very special prayer. A prayer that we still say today. Can you guess what it is? Let’s think about this prayer and what the words mean for us.

## Opening prayer

Lord Jesus, as we remember the prayer you taught your disciples today, help us to understand the words, to pray them with an open heart and to be moved to live our lives as you ask us to. Amen.

## First reading: Genesis 18:20-32

## Psalm: Psalm 137:1-3, 6-8 R. v3

## Gospel acclamation: *everyone stands and sings the acclamation together.*

## Gospel: Luke 11:1-13

One day Jesus was praying in a certain place. When he had finished, one of his disciples said to him, “Lord, teach us to pray, just as John taught his disciples.”

Jesus said to them, “When you pray, say this:

‘Father:  
May your holy name be honoured;  
may your Kingdom come.  
Give us this day the food we need.  
Forgive us our sins,  
for we forgive everyone who does us wrong.  
And do not bring us to hard testing.’”

And Jesus said to his disciples, “Suppose one of you should go to a friend’s house at midnight and say, ‘Friend, let me borrow three loaves of bread. A friend of mine who is on a journey has just come to my house, and I haven’t got any food for him!’ And suppose your friend should answer from inside, ‘Don’t bother me! The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can’t get up and give you anything.’ Well, what then? I tell you that even if he will not get up and give you the bread because you are his friend, yet he will get up and give you everything you need because you are not ashamed to keep on asking.

And so I say to you: ask, and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For all those who ask will receive, and those who seek will find, and the door will be opened to anyone who knocks. Would any of you who are fathers give your son a snake when he asks for fish? Or would you give him a scorpion when he asks for an egg? Bad as you are, you know how to give good things to your children. How much more, then, will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!”

*(Gospel passage taken from Good News Translation® and used with permission, see details below\*)*

## Gospel reflection

What do you remember from today’s reading?

The disciples ask Jesus to teach them how to pray. So, what does Jesus do?

Jesus gives the disciples a prayer that they can use. (*Perhaps read the words Jesus gives us in the gospel again to remind the children*.)

This prayer is often called the “Lord’s prayer”, because it is the prayer that Jesus, our Lord, taught us. With slightly different words, we still pray this prayer today. It is a prayer that we say every time we come to Mass. We say it at school and we say it at home.

Often when we know something really well, we don’t really think about the words that we are saying. We forget that this is our way of talking to God, and that the words are special. So today let’s think a bit about what the words mean.

Our Father, who art in heaven,  
hallowed be thy name.  
Thy Kingdom come.  
Thy will be done on earth, as it is in heaven.

Think quietly for a moment about this opening part of the prayer. What do you think it means?

“Hallowed” is an old-fashioned word for “holy”. (*You may need to explain any other words that the children don’t understand e.g. art, thy…)*

We are praising God in heaven and asking that we may be able to do what God asks of us, so that God’s Kingdom may come. What do you think God’s Kingdom is like?

God’s Kingdom is a place of love, generosity and fairness, where all people have what they need. How do you think we can make the world a fairer place, so that it is more like God’s Kingdom?

The next line of the prayer is: Give us this day our daily bread. What do you think this is about?

We are asking God to give us enough food to eat. But we don’t ask just for ourselves. We don’t say, “give ***me my*** bread”. We say “give ***us our*** bread.” This is because the food that God gives is for all people to share. It is for everyone around the world. This line of the prayer means that we must share the food that we have with others so that everyone has enough. How do you think we can do that?

The prayer finishes with:

Forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us,  
and lead us not into temptation,  
but deliver us from evil.

*(Again you may with to explain any words that the children don’t understand like trespass, temptation…)*

Any ideas what this is about?

We ask God to forgive us for the things we do wrong, but we also promise to forgive others. And we ask God to help us to do what is right in the future.

At the end of today’s reading, Jesus tells us that if we speak to God in prayer, God will answer. So this week, let us remember to pray each day. As you pray the Lord’s prayer this week, try to think about what the words really mean.

How will you do what is right this week? How will you help make sure that all people have their fair share of the daily bread that God gives to us?

## Intercessions: *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or you can use the suggestions below.*

Jesus encouraged his disciples to pray and so we pray together now:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may help to bring about a world of fairness, generosity and forgiveness. Lord in your mercy…

We pray for world leaders: that they may make decisions that are right for all their people and work to make the world a fairer place. Lord in your mercy…

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may be moved to share what we have so that all people have enough to eat. Lord in your mercy…

In this Jubilee Year, we pray that we may be signs of hope in our world through all that we do and how we treat one another. Lord in your mercy…

## Closing prayer

*Say the Lord’s prayer together*

## Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration and to write or draw on the back how they will do what God asks of them this week or how they will help make sure that all people have their fair share of the food that God gives us.

Share the Our Father family prayer ideas with the children and their parents so that they can reflect on this prayer further at home. These are available at **cafod.org.uk/familyprayers**

Remind the children to share all that they have heard and thought about in the liturgy today with the people at home. Encourage them to think carefully each time they say the Lord’s prayer in the coming week about the what the words really mean. Remind them to try their best to do what God asks of them and to make sure that all people have their fair share of food.

\*Gospel passage taken from:

Good News Translation® (Today’s English Version, Second Edition)

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