**Children’s liturgy – Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)**

**Preparation of the worship space**

Colour: green

**Song suggestions:** Go tell everyone (864, Laudate)

**Welcome:** Today we hear Jesus telling people what it is he has come to do. One of the things he says is that he has come to bring good news to people who are poor. Our faith calls us to do the same. Let’s think a bit more about what this good news is and how we can share it with others today.

**Opening prayer:** Loving God, you sent your Son Jesus to share the good news of your love for everyone. May we also share this good news through our words and all that we do. Amen.

**First reading (optional):** Nehemiah 8:2-6, 8-10

**Psalm:** Psalm 18:8-10, 15 r. Jn 6:63

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

**Gospel:** Luke 1:1-4, 4:14-21

Dear Theophilus:

Many people have done their best to write a report of the things that have taken place among us. They wrote what we have been told by those who saw these things from the beginning and who proclaimed the message. And so, Your Excellency, because I have carefully studied all these matters from their beginning, I thought it would be good to write an orderly account for you. I do this so that you will know the full truth about everything which you have been taught.

Then Jesus returned to Galilee, and the power of the Holy Spirit was with him. The news about him spread throughout all that territory. He taught in the synagogues and was praised by everyone.

Then Jesus went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath he went as usual to the synagogue. He stood up to read the Scripturesand was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it is written,

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,  
    because he has chosen me to bring good news to the poor.  
He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives  
    and recovery of sight to the blind,  
to set free the oppressed  
and announce that the time has come  
    when the Lord will save his people.”

Jesus rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. All the people in the synagogue had their eyes fixed on him, as he said to them, “This passage of scripture has come true today, as you heard it being read.”

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

**Gospel reflection:** What do you remember from the reading today?

Jesus is teaching in the synagogue. He reads a passage from the Scriptures which is about himself (although the people listening don’t know that until he explains it afterwards).

The Scripture passage talks about what Jesus has been sent to do. What does it say?

It says that he has come to bring good news to people who are poor. What do you think this means?

Can you remember a time when you heard some good news? What was it? Can you tell me about it?

Good news means different things to different people. It can be confidence, peace, enough food, a safe place to live, light in the darkness, doing well at school, getting to spend the day with friends.

We are all God’s children. God loves us all. No matter where in the world we are, whether we are rich or poor, and we should all have the chance to live in a world of peace, dignity and fairness. This is the good news of Jesus.

This year is a special Jubilee Year. In the Bible a Jubilee Year was a time of renewal and celebration. Debts were cancelled, people could rest, and because crops weren’t planted even the land was able to rest. It was also a time of freedom: prisoners and slaves were freed, and land was given to those who didn’t have any. Just like Jesus talks about in today’s reading.

Jesus makes it clear that his mission is to bring the justice and freedom of the Jubilee. We can share in this mission to create a world of justice, peace and love. How do you think we can make the world a fairer, more peaceful place for everyone?

We now celebrate a Jubilee Year every 25 years and for this Jubilee, Pope Francis has asked us all to be “Pilgrims of Hope”. This hope comes from knowing that God loves each one of us, whoever we are.

How do you think we can try to share Jesus’ good news and the hope of the Jubilee with our brothers and sisters around the world today?

**Intercessions** *You may want to ask the children to offer their own prayers or*

*you can use the suggestions below.*

Let us offer our prayers to God, who loves us and listens to us:

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that we may follow the example of Jesus, bring good news to people who are poor and work to help all people live life to the full. Lord, in your mercy…

We pray for people who are poor, in prison, or finding life hard: that they may find hope, freedom and strength as we work together to make all things new. Lord, in your mercy…

We pray for our parish, families and friends: that in this Jubilee Year we may be inspired to be signs of hope in our world by sharing what we have and bringing good news to all. Lord, in your mercy…

**Closing prayer:** God of life, you call us all to share your good news. May we do all that we can to answer that call. We ask this through Christ our Lord, Amen.

**Activity suggestions**

Invite the children to complete the accompanying activity sheet and to write their own Jubilee prayer using the prompts on the sheet.

Encourage the children to share all that they have heard and thought about today with the people at home and to try to share the hope and freedom of the Jubilee in our world this week.

\*Gospel passage taken from:

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

© 1992 American Bible Society. All rights reserved.

Anglicisation © The British and Foreign Bible Society 1976, 1994, 2004. The copyright for the derivative work of Anglicisation pertains only to the text within the Good News Translation (GNT) that British and Foreign Bible Society adapted for British literary usage, consistent with Section 103(b) of the United States Copyright Act, 17 U.S.C. § 103(b).

Bible text from the Good News Translation (GNT) is not to be reproduced in copies or otherwise by any means except as permitted in writing by American Bible Society, 101 North Independence Mall East, FL 8, Philadelphia, PA 19106 (www.americanbible.org).

®