# Children’s liturgy: Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year C)

## Preparation of the worship space

Colour: green
Props: coloured pens and pencils

## Song suggestions

Tell out my soul (880, Laudate)

## Welcome

Today Jesus tells us how powerful faith is. How if we have faith we can do anything we want to, even if at first it feels impossible. Let’s think some more about this now.

## Opening prayer

God of light, help us to see that even with the smallest amount of faith, we can do anything you ask of us. Amen.

## First reading: Habbakuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4

## Psalm: Psalm 94:1-2, 6-9 r. v. 8

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

## Gospel: Luke 17:5-10

The apostles said to the Lord, “Make our faith greater.”

The Lord answered, “If you had faith as big as a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Pull yourself up by the roots and plant yourself in the sea!’ and it would obey you.

“Suppose one of you has a servant who is ploughing or looking after the sheep. When he comes in from the field, do you tell him to hurry and eat his meal? Of course not! Instead you say to him, ‘Get my supper ready, then put on your apron and wait on me while I eat and drink; after that you may have your meal.’ The servant does not deserve thanks for obeying orders, does he? It is the same with you; when you have done all you have been told to do, say, ‘We are ordinary servants; we have only done our duty.’”

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

## Gospel reflection

Today the disciples ask Jesus to give them more faith. Can you remember what Jesus says?

Jesus says that even if they had faith like a mustard seed they could tell a mulberry tree to move from where it is in the ground and plant itself in the sea.

What do you think Jesus is trying to say here? How big is a mustard seed? Is it easy to get a tree to move itself into the sea?

A mustard seed is really tiny. So, Jesus is saying that even if we only have a small amount of faith we can do amazing things. Even if we can’t move trees, we might be able to make big changes to the world around us.

When we look at the world we can see that it is not very fair. What do you think is unfair in our world? How does that make you feel?

Abbiott is a Climate Change Officer in the Borana community in Ethiopia where he was born. In recent years there has not been enough rain and many of the community’s cows and goats have died. Abiott has worked on a water tank project to support his community and others who are affected by the drought.

Before the water tank was built, local women had to walk 20 kilometers for water. Adi, who has six children, says it was often a five-hour round trip. Now it’s a much shorter walk. “This cistern is a blessing for us. It will serve us well and we’ll have time to spend with our children, unlike before.” she says.

Adi and the community worked closely with Abbiott on the tank, choosing where it would be and carrying the materials. “We are working hand in hand,” says Abbiott. Adi agrees, “We are working as one people.”

Adi’s oldest son, Abadhalee, wants to make a difference to the community too, just like Abbiott. He says, “I plan to study economics and support my entire community to move out of poverty.”

We all have times when things are really difficult. It can be hard to keep our faith in God at these times. Even the disciples had moments when they did not think they had enough faith.

Yet this reading gives us hope – even if we have just a tiny little bit of faith, with God’s help, we can make real changes to the world around us.

What changes do you think you could make in our world?

We could raise money to help families around the world like Adi’s as they work to build a better life for themselves.

We could ask world leaders to make a change so that the world is a fairer place for all people.

And we can pray for a world where all of us have all that we need to live happy and healthy lives

What change will you try to make with others in the world this week?

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

We know that anything is possible with faith and God’s help, and so we pray together:

We pray for world leaders: that they may see that real change is possible and act to make the world a fairer place for everyone to live. Lord in your mercy…

We pray for people throughout the world who do not have enough food or water: that they may have the hope, faith and support from others that they need, as they work to change their lives for the better. Lord in your mercy…

We pray for our parish, family and friends: that we may have faith and courage to try to make a real difference in our world so that it becomes a fairer place for all. 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

God of life, give us the courage to try to make a change to our world and the faith to know that with you all things are possible. Amen.

## Activity suggestions

Invite the children to colour in the accompanying illustration of a tiny seed of faith and to write or draw the changes that they would like to see in the world sprouting from their seed.

Share our Family Fast Day resources with the children and encourage them to think about how they could play their part in building a better world at **cafod.org.uk/primary**

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 try and do one thing this week to make a difference to someone else or to make a change to the world around them.

\*Gospel passage taken from:

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

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