

Children's Liturgy of the Word

7th Sunday of Easter (Year A)

Theme: Jesus Prays for His Church

1. Welcome & Gathering

Leader:

Today we hear something very special.

We hear Jesus praying.

And do you know who He is praying for?

His disciples.

His Church.

Us.

Before Jesus returns to the Father,
He prays for His people.

Let us begin with the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father,
and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Leader:

Jesus,
keep us close to You
and help us stay faithful.
Amen.

2. Introduction

Ask:

Has someone ever prayed for you?

How did that feel?

(Take answers)

Now say:

Today in the Gospel,
Jesus prays for His friends.

He knows life will sometimes be difficult.

He knows they will need strength.

And so He prays for them.

3. Gospel (Simplified)

Leader:

Jesus looked up to heaven and prayed:

“Holy Father, keep them safe.

Help them stay close to You.

Your word is truth.

I send them into the world.”

Leader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Children:

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

4. Reflection

Imagine this.

Jesus knows He is going to return to the Father.

The apostles are frightened.

Everything is changing.

And what does Jesus do?

He prays.

That matters.

Because prayer is not the last thing we do.

It is the first.

And what does Jesus pray for?

Not that life will be easy.

Not that the apostles will never struggle.

He prays that they stay faithful.

That they stay close to God.

Then Jesus says:

“Your word is truth.”

That means:

God tells us what is true.

Not the internet.

Not crowds.

Not whatever everybody else says.

God.

And Jesus teaches us the truth
through the Church.

Now that is important.

Because sometimes people say:

“You can believe whatever you want.”

But Jesus does not say that.

He says:

“Your word is truth.”

Truth is real.

And the Church helps us know it.

Then Jesus says something else:

“I send them into the world.”

That means:

We do not hide our faith.

We live it.

At school.

At home.

With friends.

So what does that look like?

It means:

- telling the truth
- being kind
- praying even when busy
- standing up for what is right
- coming to Mass

Even when others do not.

And then we hear in the first reading
what the apostles do after Jesus ascends into heaven.

They gather together.

And what are they doing?

Praying.

Together.

With Mary, the Mother of Jesus.

That is beautiful.

The Church begins in prayer.

Not noise.

Not rushing.

Prayer.

And that teaches us something important.

If we want to stay close to Jesus,
we must pray.

Not only when things are difficult.

Regularly.

Because prayer keeps us close to God.

And where do we stay closest to Jesus?

At Mass.

Because Jesus is truly here.

Not far away.

Not absent.

Present.

Especially in Holy Communion.

So remember today:

Jesus prays for you.

Jesus wants you close to Him.

And Jesus gives you the Church
so you can stay strong in faith.

5. Quiet Prayer

Leader:

Close your eyes.

Jesus,
thank You for praying for us.

Pause.

Help us stay close to You.

Pause.

Help us know what is true.

Pause.

Help us stay faithful.

6. Living the Gospel

Leader:

This week:

- take time to pray each day
- tell the truth
- be kind even when difficult
- remember Jesus is with you

And when life feels hard, pray:

“Jesus, keep me close to You.”

7. Closing Prayer

Leader:

Lord Jesus,
You prayed for Your Church.

Help us stay faithful,
stay truthful,
and stay close to You.

Amen.

8. Sending Back

Leader:

Today we heard that Jesus prays for His people.

Let us go back to Mass
and stay close to Him.

Optional Activities

1. “Who Helps You Stay Strong?”

Best after introduction

Ask:
“What helps you stay strong in football or school?”

Practice.
Listening.
Training.

Then connect:

Prayer helps us stay strong in faith.

2. Truth Sorting

Best after “Your word is truth”

Read statements:

“Being cruel is good.”

Children: NO

“Helping others matters.”

YES

“Lying is okay if nobody notices.”

NO

Connect to Jesus teaching truth.

3. Circle Prayer

Best after Acts reading

Children stand in a circle quietly.

Explain:

“The apostles gathered together to pray.”

Short silence together.

Then:

“That is what the Church does.”

4. Faith at School Scenarios

Best mid-reflection

Ask:

“What would Jesus want you to do?”

- Someone left out
- Someone being laughed at
- Someone upset

Keep answers practical.

5. Invisible Strength

Best before quiet prayer

Ask:

“Can something be real even if you cannot see it?”

Wind.

Love.

Prayer.

Then explain:

God’s grace is real too.

6. Anchor Activity

Best before sending back

Pretend to hold a rope or anchor.

Leader:

“What keeps us close to Jesus?”

Children answer:

- Prayer
- Mass
- Truth
- The Church

Explain:

These keep us steady when life gets difficult.