



Children's liturgy – Twenty Eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Welcome: In today's liturgy we will hear a story about a king who invites lots of different people to the wedding of his son. They have a big feast with lots of yummy food. Let's think about what God invites us to do in our lives today.

Opening prayer: God of welcome, you invite us to follow in your ways and enter into your kingdom. May we answer your call. Amen.

Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus again used parables in talking to the people. "The Kingdom of heaven is like this. Once there was a king who prepared a wedding feast for his son. He sent his servants to tell the invited guests to come to the feast, but they did not want to come. So he sent other servants with this message for the guests: 'My feast is ready now; my bullocks and prize calves have been butchered, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding feast!' But the invited guests paid no attention and went about their business: one went to his farm, another to his shop, while others grabbed the servants, beat them, and killed them. The king was very angry; so he sent his soldiers, who killed those murderers and burnt down their city. Then he called his servants and said to them, 'My wedding feast is ready, but the people I invited did not deserve it. Now go to the main streets and invite to the feast as many people as you find.' So the servants went out into the streets and gathered all the people they could find, good and bad alike; and the wedding hall was filled with people.

"The king went in to look at the guests and saw a man who was not wearing wedding clothes. 'Friend, how did you get in here without wedding clothes?' the king asked him. But the man said nothing. Then the king told the servants, 'Tie him up hand and foot, and throw him outside in the dark. There he will cry and grind his teeth.'"

And Jesus concluded, "Many are invited, but few are chosen."

Gospel reflection: What do you remember from today's reading?

Today Jesus tells us another parable to try and explain what the kingdom of heaven is like.

The king's son is getting married. He invites lots of people to the party but when the day comes and the king sends out his servants to fetch the people they do not come. He tries again, but the people just aren't interested in coming.

How do you think the king feels about this? What does he do next?

The king sends out his servants to stand in the middle of the street and invite everyone they can find to the wedding. So they do, and the wedding hall is filled with guests. They all take part in the big feast.

The king in Jesus' story represents God and the wedding is the kingdom of heaven. What do you think that Jesus was trying to tell us with this story?

We are all invited by God to enter into the kingdom of Heaven. It is a place where everyone is welcome. But we have to be ready to go.

When we go to a wedding, or any party, we tell the person who invited us that we are coming. We get out our best clothes and make sure we are clean and tidy. We buy a present and card. Can you think of anything else that we do to get ready for a party?

How do you think we can answer God's invitation and get ready for the kingdom of heaven?

We can listen to God's word and try to follow what God asks us to do in our lives. What do you think God asks us to do?

God asks us to be kind, to be welcoming and invite others to share in what we have, to bring peace, to stand up for what is right, to care for and respect one another and to love our neighbour, wherever they are in the world.

Can you think of anything else that God asks us to do?

By answering God's invitation and being kind and generous, welcoming and fair, by loving our neighbour, we can help to reflect God's kingdom here on earth. We will help other people to see that we care for everyone, no matter who they are or where they come from, and the world will become a better, fairer place for all people to live.

Let's all try really hard this week to listen to what God wants from us and to say yes to that invitation in the way we behave in the coming week.

You could give the children an example from your own life eg: I think God is inviting me to be more generous and share what I have. I will say yes to that invitation by sharing the vegetables from my allotment with my elderly neighbour/sharing some of my time volunteering to help others/taking my old clothes to the charity shop, raising money for CAFOD etc.

How does God want you to live your life? And how will you answer that invitation this week?

Activity

Colour in the accompanying illustration optional illustration and to fill in both the invitation (God invites me to...) and the RSVP (I am willing to...)

Remember to share all that you have heard and thought about in the liturgy today with your grown ups. Spend some time quietly in prayer in the coming week, trying to listen to what God is inviting you to do. Try to say yes to that invitation in the way you behave in the coming week.

Twenty-eighth Sunday in Ordinary Time
Gospel: Matthew 22:1-14

INVITATION

God invites me to

✂

RSVP

I am willing to

Flowers are illustrated in the bottom corners.