

Holy Spirit uses the “Sunday Book of Readings, The Lectionary Adapted for Children” and the Leader Guide to share the Liturgical readings with our children. This week you will find our readings for reflection are from Year A.

Children’s Liturgy of the Word Reflection – Sixteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Psalm 103

Response: “My God, my God have mercy on me, for all my hope is in you. My God, all my hope is in you.”

Today’s reading is a continuation of Matthew’s parables on the reign of heaven.

- Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a mustard seed and yeast.
- The point of the parables is that both result in a surprise.
- The kingdom, at this time may seem small. But like the mustard seed and yeast, in time it becomes more than it seems.
- At times, the world may seem discouraging and disappointing. We may not understand.
- The parables today encourage us to look beyond the present. To know what can and will be is all ready here. It may be small or hidden but it is here.
- The reign of God is already among us.

Summarizing the readings for the children:

First Reading: Wisdom 12:13, 16-19 (*This is a reading from the book of Wisdom.*)

In today’s first reading, we hear that God loves all his people. God is strong and treats everyone with justice. He created us. Our true God is gentle and forgiving with us. By God’s example we are to do his will by being kind to everyone. We are his children. God gives us hope because he forgives our sins.

Gospel Reading: Matthew 13:24-30 (*This is a reading from the Gospel of Matthew.*)

In the Gospel reading today, Jesus compares the kingdom to a mustard seed and yeast. The mustard seed is the smallest of all seeds in the whole world. But when it is planted in the ground, it grows into the biggest bush and becomes a tree. Then the birds come and make their nests in its branches.

Jesus also tells us that the kingdom of heaven is like yeast. A woman will place yeast in her flour when she makes bread. The yeast seems to be hidden in the flour until the dough rises.

Helping the Children to Reflect:

Our reflection today is meant to help the children see the references to the reign of God in Jesus’ parables. You may need to explain that “reign” is the dominion of a king or queen. This

reality is already here. We may not see something with our eyes, but we know that it is there. Jesus said, it is like yeast. Flour and yeast become bread. It is like the cooperation that we have with God. The woman measures the ingredients, mixes them, and kneads them into dough. But she must wait for the “rising”. Like the yeast is in the bread, the reign of God is already among us. We do not always see the results of the small things we do to live like Jesus. But we need to look past the present and know they are there.

Reflection Questions for the Children:

- **What do you think the reign of God is meant to be?**
- **What does the woman do to make the ingredients become bread?**
- **What can we do to bring about the reign of God?**

There are approximately four months until the end of the liturgical year and the celebration of Christ the King. Maybe today you could plant a seed with your child(ren) and watch it grow during this time.