

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

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

The Readings:

First Reading: Deuteronomy 18:17-20 (*This is a reading from the book of Deuteronomy.*)

God said to Moses:

“Because the people have prayed for a prophet,
I will give them one like you,
one of their own people.
I myself will speak through the voice of this prophet
and the prophet will tell the people everything that I say.”
“I will punish anyone
who does not listen to my teaching through the prophet.
And I will also punish any prophet
who teaches the people things in my name
that I did not really say.”

The Word of the Lord.

Psalm 40

Response: “Here I am, O my God. I come to do your will.”

Gospel Reading: Mark 1:21-28 (*This is a reading from the Gospel of Mark.*)

One day while Jesus was teaching on the Sabbath,
a man who had an evil spirit in him came into the synagogue.
The evil spirit screamed out loud,
“Why are you bothering us, Jesus of Nazareth?
Did you come here to destroy us?
I know who you are. You are the Holy One of God!”
Jesus spoke very sternly to the evil spirit,
“Be quiet! Come out of that man!”
The evil spirit made the man’s body tremble and jump.
Then it screamed loudly again and came out of the man.
Everyone who saw this happen was shocked.

They asked each other,
“What can all this mean? Who is this Jesus?
He doesn’t teach like our scribes.
He teaches with real authority.
When he tells the evil spirits what to do,
even they obey him!”
From then on, everyone around Galilee knew about Jesus!

The Gospel of the Lord.

Helping the Children to Reflect:

Ask the children what they heard in today’s Gospel reading?

“What does it mean to have real power?”

For example, parents and teachers create rules that children must follow. Government officials make laws that citizens must obey. Is power good or bad? It all depends on how it is used. Jesus had great power. He could change water into wine. He could drive evil spirits out and help people. Some people were afraid of Jesus. They were afraid he would take their power. They were not using power for good. Jesus used his power for good and wanted all of us to do the same and love one and other.

Reflection Activity:

Can children be powerful? We may not make the rules, but we can show others how to do the right thing. Just like Jesus we need to make sure that everyone is treated fairly, respectfully, and with love.

Let’s play a game of “Rock, Paper, Scissors”. The game is played by hitting our fists three times and then make a hand symbol for rock (fist), paper, (holding hand flat), or scissors (hold up two fingers). Rock can break scissors, scissors can cut paper, paper can cover rock. Talk to your child about how Rock seems to be the strongest and have the most power, but it can be defeated by the “weaker” paper.

“Your Word brings us healing.

Alleluia, Alleluia!

“Your Word, Lord, is all we need.

Alleluia, Alleluia!”

