

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



16th Sunday in Ordinary Time

23 July 2023 - Year A

“Let them grow together until the harvest.”

Something to Think About

Jesus tells us to accept people and not judge or criticise them. Every person is capable of good deeds and bad deeds. Only God truly knows a person's heart.

The Story

A man sows good seed in his field but during the night an enemy comes and plants weeds. They both grow together, the good and the bad. The servants want to pull up the weeds immediately but the wise farmer tells them to wait. He is worried that if they pull the weeds, they might also pull some of the wheat. He tells them to let the weeds and the wheat grow together side by side until harvest time.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

13:24-30

Jesus told his disciples this story:

"The kingdom of heaven is like what happened when a farmer scattered good seed in a field. But while everyone was sleeping, an enemy came and scattered weed seeds in the field and then left.

When the plants came up and began to ripen, the farmer's servants could see the weeds.

"The servants came and asked,

'Sir, didn't you scatter good seed in your field? Where did these weeds come from?'

'An enemy did this,' he replied.

"His servants then asked, 'Do you want us to go out and pull up the weeds?'

'No!' he answered. 'You might also pull up the wheat. Leave the weeds alone until harvest time.

Then I'll tell my workers to gather the weeds and tie them up and burn them.

But I'll have them store the wheat in my barn."

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Video

Watch the video:

[The Parable of the Weeds](#)



Group Discussion

Things are not always as they may appear. Sometimes we do not know the full story and yet we jump in and make an accusation or a judgment. It is important to see with new eyes, to look beyond the obvious and to consider what else might be happening. We may look at a child with dirty clothes and think they are unclean or lazy. What would we think if we knew the child was homeless? We may condemn a child who steals other children's lunches. What would we think if we knew that child came to school hungry each day and without any lunch? It is important not to make judgments about others. Instead we should look upon all people with love.

Praying For Others

Leader: Let us pray now for the leaders of our Church, our world, for those in our community and for our own needs.

Reader 1: We pray that our leaders will be fair and understanding. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for open hearts to listen to others. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for all who are judged unfairly. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray that we will always see the good in other people. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray for farmers as they water their seeds and help plants to grow. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Invite the children to pray for their own special intentions.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.

Prayer



Dear Jesus,
Teach us to accept all people and to
see the best in them.
Forgive us for the times we have
judged others.
Amen.

Group Activity

God Looks at Our Hearts

You will need: a template for each child, cardstock, contact paper, red paper, scissors, glue, coloured pencils or markers.

- 1) Colour and cut out the magnifying glasses. Glue them to cardstock.
- 2) Cut out the magnifying glasses from cardstock. Glue the handles together (not the rim around the glass).
- 3) Cut out the heart and circle templates. Trace the heart onto red paper and cut it out.
- 4) Trace the circle twice onto contact paper and cut out the circles. Take the back off one of the contact circles and place the heart in the centre. Remove the back of the other circle and place it on top of the heart/circle to make the 'glass' of the magnifying glass.
- 5) Place the 'glass' between the rims of the magnifying glass templates. Add glue to the templates to hold the 'glass' in place.







DRAW WEEDS GROWING AMONG THE WHEAT



IF WE PULL OUT THE WEEDS, WE'LL PULL UP THE WHEAT TOO.

**SO WAIT UNTIL
HARVEST TIME!
AT HARVEST, WHAT
WILL HAPPEN TO THE
WHEAT – WEEDS**

