

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

3 September 2023 - Year A

“All who wish to follow me must deny themselves.”

Something to Think About

Jesus and Peter were close friends. Think about the people who are your close friends. Have you sometimes had a disagreement? What were some of the 'growing points' in your friendship. Maybe it was allowing your friend to help you. Maybe it was sharing an important experience with them. Maybe it was having to ask forgiveness for something.

The Story

Jesus tells his disciples that he is going to suffer, die and rise again. Peter (as usual) does not fully comprehend what Jesus is saying. How often does Peter miss the point! More than this, Peter protests strongly and dares to try to tell Jesus that this should not happen! Jesus' response to Peter comes out in very strong language indeed! He calls Peter an obstacle and a hindrance to the will of God. It would seem Peter might think he is the leader and Jesus is the disciple! Are there times when you try to tell Jesus what to do - or what you would like him to do for you?

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew

16:21-25

Jesus began telling his disciples what would happen to him.

He said, "I must go to Jerusalem. There the nation's leaders, the chief priests, and the teachers of the Law of Moses will make me suffer terribly. I will be killed, but three days later I will rise to life."

Peter took Jesus aside and told him to stop talking like that.

He said, "Lord, surely God won't let this happen to you!"

Jesus turned to Peter and said, "Satan, get away from me! You're in my way because you think like everyone else and not like God."

Then Jesus said to his disciples:

"If any of you want to be my followers, you must forget about yourself. You must take up your cross and follow me. If you want to save your life, you will destroy it. "But if you give up your life for me, you will find it."

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

Video

Watch the video: [Fixin' My Eyes on You](#)



Group Discussion

Jesus has to keep reminding the disciples, especially Peter, that the way of discipleship is the way of the cross. It is not all sunshine and roses! However it is by experiencing the difficult times that we can grow and learn. Share some times when you have had to do something difficult or perhaps make a difficult decision - but gained something from the experience and grew through it.

The simple message for children is that it is not always easy to follow Jesus and do what is right - but we need to keep trying!

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 faithful followers of Jesus. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for willingness to follow Jesus wherever he leads. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for courage to do what is right. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray for those who are worried or anxious today. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that we will live as Jesus taught us. 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,
We thank you for walking with us in the good times and in the hard times. Help us to keep our eyes fixed on you and follow where you lead.
Amen.

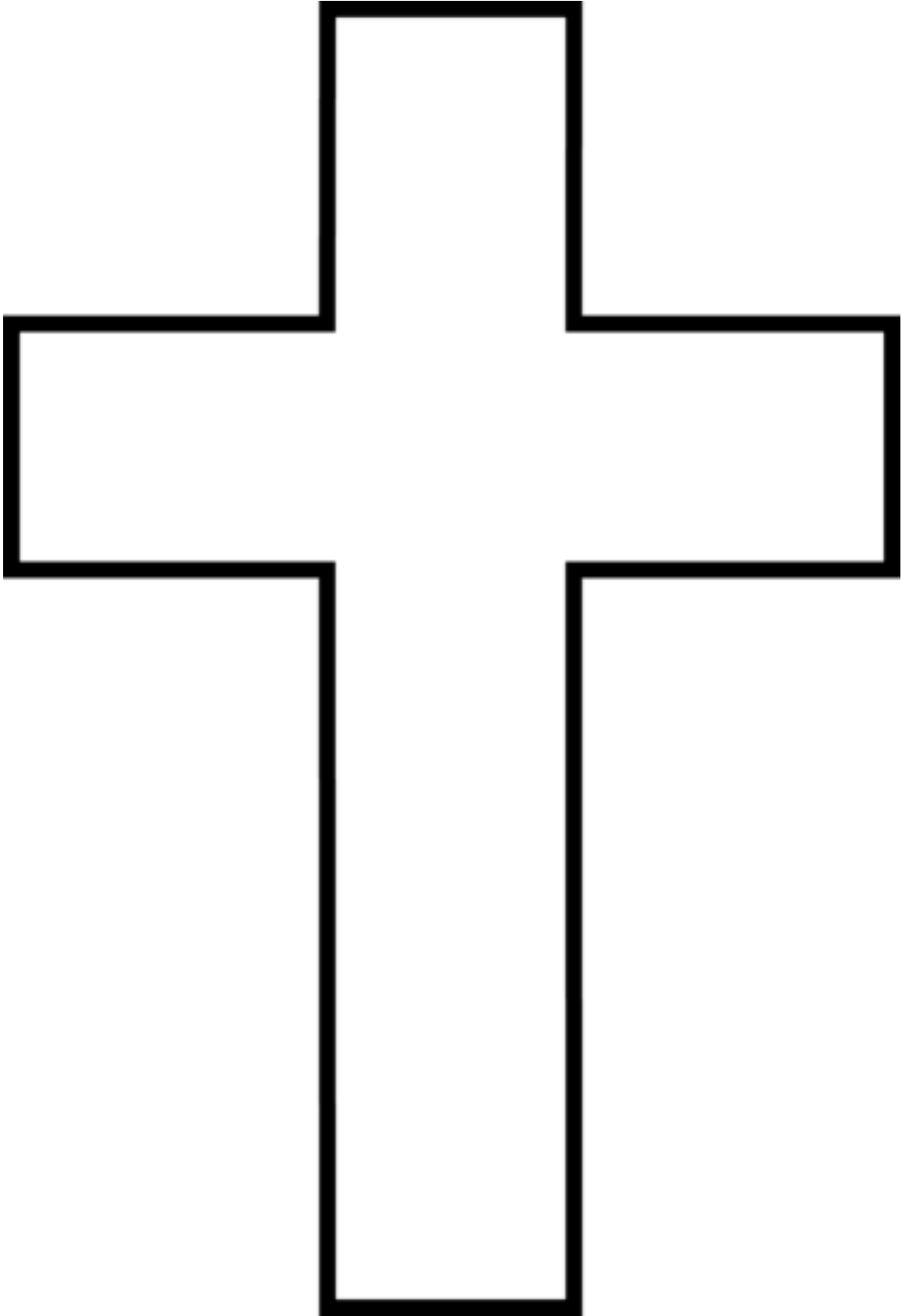
Group Activity

Take up your cross and follow me.

You will need: cross templates, paper in various shades of blue, yellow, pink and green torn into small pieces, bowls to display the different paper colours, craft glue, paintbrushes for the glue, paper plates to squeeze glue onto.

- 1) Children choose which colour they would like to use for the inside of the cross.
- 2) Ask children to paste glue onto a small section of the cross at a time, and layer pieces of coloured paper like a mosaic. Encourage children to stay inside the lines of the cross.
- 3) Then invite children to choose another colour for the background.





**PLAY A GAME
USING TWO BLOCKS
OR PIECES OF LEGO.**

**THE BIG ONE IS JESUS.
THE SMALL ONE IS
YOU.**

**WHEREVER JESUS
GOES YOU FOLLOW:**

**AROUND THE TABLE,
ALONG THE COUCH,
OVER THE CUSHIONS,
ONTO THE FLOOR,
ACROSS THE MAT...**



JESUS SAID: FOLLOW ME!