

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY



5th Sunday of Lent

17 March 2024 - Year B

“If a grain of wheat falls on the ground and dies, it yields a rich harvest.”

Something to Think About

When a seed is planted in the ground, something amazing happens. As it receives water, it begins to die. It sheds its outer shell and then it swells up and bursts open. From the death of the seed, new life begins! A root grows from the seed and eventually a new plant pokes up through the ground towards the sun. Something living comes from something that died! A plant can grow from that one tiny seed and produce lots of food!

The Story

In this week's gospel, Jesus uses the image of a grain of wheat to talk about what will happen to him. He will live on the earth and then he will die, but many people after Jesus will continue his work and spread the Good News throughout the earth. Jesus tells his friends that they must serve God before else, rather than focusing on their own personal interests. Those who follow Jesus will have a great reward, because God will honour them.

The Scriptures

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

12:24-26

Jesus said to his disciples:

"I tell you for certain that a grain of wheat that falls on the ground will never be more than one grain unless it dies.

But if it dies, it will produce lots of wheat.

"If you love your life, you will lose it.

If you give it up in this world,
you will be given eternal life.

"If you serve me, you must go with me.

My servants will be with me wherever I am.
If you serve me, my Father will honour you.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Video

Click to watch the video: [How Flour is Made](#)



Group Discussion

The seeds we plant can grow into something very important. Just like tiny grains of wheat that produce a harvest, you can do important things in the world even though you are just one person.

Talk together about the positive difference that each of you could make in the world. Maybe you can think of a famous person who achieved something wonderful in their life and influenced many other people.

Praying For Others

Leader: Trusting in God's love and forgiveness, we pray for the needs of the world.

Reader 1: We pray for farmers and all those who bring us the food we eat. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 2: We pray for peace in the world. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 3: We pray for all those needing forgiveness. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 4: We pray for our friends and families. Lord hear us.

All: Lord hear our prayer.

Reader 5: We pray that we will follow Jesus each day. 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 God,
Thank you for sending your Son to live
among us.
Help us to spend our lives serving others
and living as Jesus taught us to.
Amen.

Group Activity

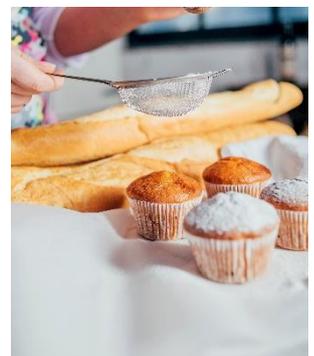
Foods Made From Wheat

You will need: foods that are made from wheat, and foods that are not.

Spread the foods out on a table, and ask the children about each food one by one.

Place those foods that are made from wheat on one side of the table, and those that do not contain wheat on the other side.

Tell the children that one grain of wheat fell to the ground and produced much more to make the flour that made these foods possible.





SEEDS DON'T SEEM VERY LIVELY,
DO THEY?

BUT BURY THEM IN THE EARTH
AND LOOK WHAT HAPPENS!



THE SHOOTS OF NEW LIFE
TURN INTO BEAUTIFUL FLOWERS
AND WONDERFUL FOOD
TO EAT!



THE JOY AND WONDER



OF NEW LIFE

THINK OF THE EASTER STORY.
JESUS DIES AND IS BURIED.
BUT LOOK WHAT HAPPENS NEXT:
HE RISES TO NEW LIFE!

**WRITE or DRAW the Easter
Story of Jesus**