

Children's liturgy - Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time (Year B)

Colour: green

Song suggestions: Lay your hands (528, The Complete Celebration Hymnal)

INTRODUCTION:



THE YEAR OF THE EUCHARIST
"All my springs are in You" (Psalm 87:7)
22 November 2020-12 September 2021
Archdiocese of Johannesburg

WHAT IS THE EUCHARIST?

The true Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, who is really and substantially present under the appearances of bread and wine, in order to offer himself in the sacrifice of the Mass and to be received as spiritual food in Holy Communion. It is called Eucharist, or "thanksgiving," because at its institution at the Last Supper Christ "gave thanks," and by this fact it is the supreme object and act of Christian gratitude to God.

Although the same name is used, the Eucharist is any one or all three aspects of one mystery, namely the Real Presence, the Sacrifice, and Communion. As Real Presence, the Eucharist is Christ in his abiding existence on earth today; as Sacrifice, it is Christ in his abiding action of High Priest, continuing now to communicate the graces he merited on Calvary; and as Communion, it is Christ coming to enlighten and strengthen the believer by nourishing his soul for eternal life. (Etym. Latin eucharistia, the virtue of thanksgiving or thankfulness; from Greek Eucharistia, gratitude; from Eu-, good + charizesthai, to show favor.)

WHY DID THE POPE DECLARE A YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH? (UNIVERSAL CHURCH)

In making his declaration, Pope Francis noted that this year marks the 150th anniversary of the saint's proclamation as patron of the Universal Church by Pope Pius IX on Dec. 8, 1870.

Pope Francis said the coronavirus pandemic has heightened his desire to reflect on St. Joseph, as so many people during the pandemic have made hidden sacrifices to protect others, just as St. Joseph quietly protected and cared for Mary and Jesus.

"Each of us can discover in Joseph -- the man who goes unnoticed, a daily, discreet and hidden presence -- an intercessor, a support and a guide in times of trouble," the pope wrote.

He also said he wanted to highlight St. Joseph's role as a father who served his family with charity and humility, adding, "Our world today needs fathers."



Welcome: Today we hear about how Jesus healed people who were sick. Many people who were ill came to Jesus and he made them better. Who makes you feel better when you are sick? Let's think some more about healing today.

Opening prayer: Merciful God, look after all those who are sick. Help us to bring them comfort and make them feel better in any way that we can. Watch over all doctors, nurses and carers and give them strength in their difficult job. Amen.

Jesus heals Simon's mother-in-law

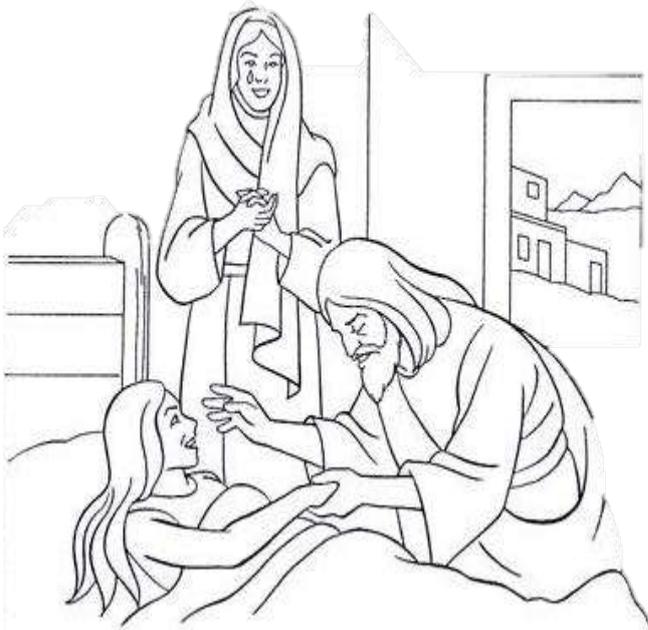
Read the following:

Job 7:1-4, 6-7, Psalm 147: 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 1 Corinthians 9:16-19,22-23, Matthew 8:7 & Mark 1:29-39

You are there

- ✚ What do you do when you see that Simon's mother-in-law feels better? Do you run to get some friend or relative who is sick so that Jesus can cure him or her? Who do you get?
- ✚ Imagine that you are one of the sick people cured by Jesus. What is the first thing you do when you feel better?

Color this Picture



Jesus visited Simon's house and healed his sick mother-in-law. Has Jesus helped you or someone in your family feel better after suffering from an illness?

Jesus, your friend, invites you:

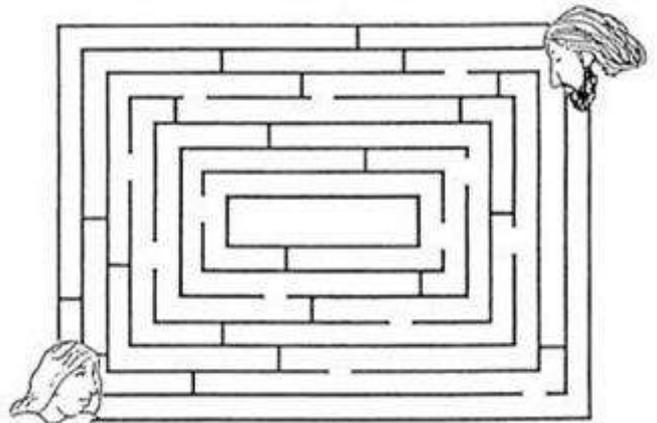
- ✚ Peter's mother-in-law got up and served others. Do you serve others gladly? Jesus cured many people of their sickness. What can you do to people of their sickness. What can you do to comfort some that is suffering?
- ✚ Jesus goes to a quiet place to pray. Do you pray every day?

What am I going to do?

Speak with Jesus and tell him about someone you love who is sick or has a problem. Ask Jesus for help with this person. Tell him what you want to do.

- ✚ For example: I will help my mom.
- ✚ For example: I will visit a sick person

How will Simon's mother-in-law get better? Jesus will heal her, but you have to help Jesus find his way to her house



Gospel reflection: What do you remember about the reading?

Later that day lots of people who were ill came to the place where Jesus was. Some of them may have travelled a long way. Jesus helped them all, curing them and making them feel better.

What do you think this story tells us about Jesus?

This last year has been a difficult one, but we have all been doing what we can to try to help ourselves and others to stay well and stop the coronavirus from spreading.

Closing prayer: God of love, help us all to follow Jesus' example of loving care, and to treat all those who are ill with kindness and tenderness. Amen.