

Liturgy Instructions

4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle A

Welcome children to their worship space.

Introduction

Explain: Today is the Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time. Does anyone remember the season that will begin soon? <Lent> And what does Lent mean? What do we do during Lent? <prepare for the feast of Easter—the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ>

Introduce symbol

Say: Today's symbol <hold up the symbol> is a **praying cowboy**.

Ask: Do you think this cowboy looks proud as he is praying? <no> What tells you that he is not proud? <he is kneeling; he is holding his hat in his hands; he is bowing his head> This cowboy is humble, which we'll talk about next.

Introduce readings

Say: Today's first reading is from the Old Testament book of the prophet Zephaniah (Zeph 2:3, 3:12-13). Zephaniah tells us to be humble. What do you think that means? <to put others before yourself; not bragging about yourself; it is the opposite of being proud and always putting yourself first> Being humble means thinking of other people first, worrying about how others are instead of how we are, making sure other people have what they need before making sure we have what we need.

Have the reader read the first reading.

FIRST READING A reading from the book of the prophet Zephaniah 2:3; 3: 12-13

See <https://www.pflaum.com/readings/>

The word of the Lord. All: "Thanks be to God"

Ask: Do you think that it is easy for us to be humble? Why or why not? <discuss>

Say: Now it is time for the Responsorial Psalm (Psalm 146:6d–7ab, 7c–9a). Your part is to say: **Blessed are the poor in spirit; the kingdom of heaven is theirs!**

See <https://www.pflaum.com/readings/>

Say: Today's Gospel reading is taken from the book of St. Matthew (Matt 5:1-12ab). In this reading, Jesus gives a very special talk on a mountainside. This talk is called "the Sermon on the Mount." During this talk, Jesus listed the kinds of people God blesses. We now call this list of blessings "The Beatitudes." Listen closely and try to remember some of these blessings.

Say: Now we will get ready to hear the Gospel. **Please stand up.**

GOSPEL

Matthew 5:1-12ab

† A reading from the holy Gospel according to **Matthew**
(Demonstrate we cross our foreheads, lips, and hearts when we say "a reading from the holy Gospel...")

See <https://www.pflaum.com/readings/>

The Gospel of the Lord.

All: "Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ."

Please have the children sit

Ask: What did you hear? Did you hear anything new or that surprised you? <discuss>
Which of these qualities do you think you might need to work on?

If there is time, ask questions and go over the parts of the lessons you think they may need to hear one more time to help them remember.

Today's symbol is a praying cowboy.



Parent Letter
4th Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle A

Dear Parents,

The children listened to two of the same readings you did: Zephaniah 2:3; 3:12-13 and Matthew 5:1-12ab.

To reinforce at home:

For several weeks, we have been talking about the beginning of Jesus' ministry. Today's readings focus on the virtue of humility. The reading from Zephaniah emphasizes how much God values people who are humble. And in the Gospel, we hear the Beatitudes from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount. Blessed are the poor in spirit! God blesses the downtrodden, the lost, the depressed, those who did not put themselves first.

Activities to do at home:

- *Discuss with your child WHY God blesses those who put themselves last.
- *Identify some of those people that God specially blesses and try to think of a way to help them (pull together a bag of clothes to donate; go as a family to help serve in a soup kitchen).
- *Read over the Beatitudes together. Choose one quality that is hard for you to practice and work on it together!