**A reading of the holy Gospel according to Mark**

People were bringing children to Jesus that he might touch them,

 but the disciples rebuked them.

When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them,

 “Let the children come to me;

 do not prevent them,

 for the kingdom of God belongs to such as these.

Amen, I say to you,

 whoever does not accept the kingdom of God like a child

 will not enter it.”

Then he embraced them and blessed the,

 placing his hands on them.

**THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD**