

PRAYING *With* CHILDREN

SUNDAY LITURGY

All Saints - Year A - 1 November 2020



“Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.”

Something to Think About

What do you think a blessing is? We ask God to bless our family, we thank God for our blessings, we even say “bless you” when someone sneezes!

Blessings are the wonderful things God gives us in our lives, not because we deserve them, but just because God loves us.

The Story

This gospel story takes place on a mountain top. Mountains are sacred places. Just like Moses went up a mountain to receive the 10 Commandments from God, Jesus now gives his disciples a special set of blessings from God. This story is sometimes called “The Beatitudes” because ‘beatitude’ is an old word that means ‘blessed’.

God loves all people but blesses in a special way those people who are sad, people who depend on God, people who care for others, people who are treated unfairly, gentle people, forgiving people.

The Scriptures

A Reading from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew 5:1-12

Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven.

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up on the side of a mountain and sat down.

Jesus' disciples gathered around him, and he taught them:

"God blesses those people who depend only on him. They belong to the kingdom of heaven!

"God blesses those people who grieve. They will find comfort!

"God blesses those people who are humble. The earth will belong to them!

"God blesses those people who want to obey him more than to eat or drink. They will be given what they want!

"God blesses those people who are merciful. They will be treated with mercy!

"God blesses those people whose hearts are pure. They will see him!

"God blesses those people who make peace. They will be called his children!

"God blesses those people who are treated badly for doing right. They belong to the kingdom of heaven.

"God will bless you when people insult you, mistreat you, and tell all kinds of evil lies about you because of me. Be happy and excited! You will have a great reward in heaven."

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

Video

Click to watch the video.

[Sermon on the Mount](#)



Group Discussion

Some of God's blessings we can see, but some blessings are invisible.

Talk about some of God's blessings that you can see.

Now talk about some of God's blessings that you can't see.

Spend a few moments in silence thanking God in your heart for these great gifts.

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: For the leaders who work together to bring about a just and harmonious world. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who suffer. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who find no joy in life. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: For those who are treated unjustly. Lord, hear us.

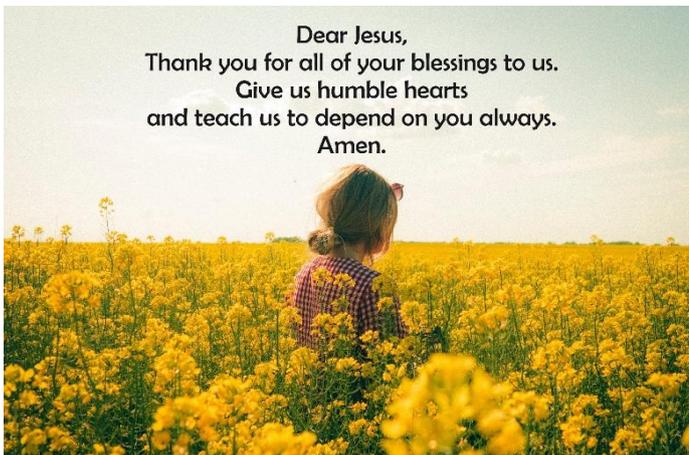
All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Reader: That we may work to build up God's Kingdom. Lord, hear us.

All: Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader: Loving God, listen to the prayers we make in the name of Jesus.

All: Amen.



Prayer

Say this prayer together during the week.

Group Activity

Invisible Blessings

You will need:

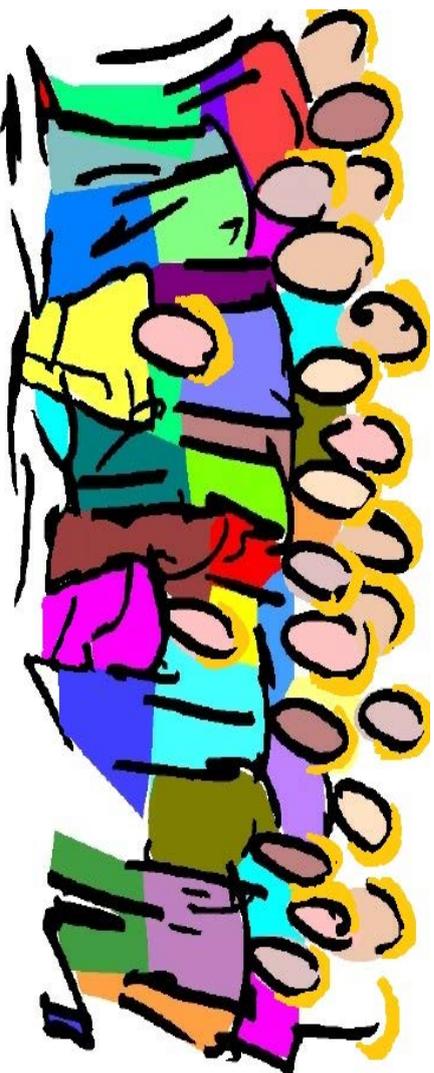
White paper, white crayons, watercolour paints, paintbrushes.

- 1) Remind the children that God's blessings can sometimes be invisible in our lives. We know that God's peace, comfort, mercy and strength are always with us, but we can't see these things.
- 2) Invite children to draw a picture, using a white crayon, that reminds them of God's blessings. It might be a garden of flowers, the beach, a mountain, family or friends.
- 3) When the invisible crayon drawing is finished, invite children to paint gently over the whole page with watercolours. Remind children that when they cover their lives with Jesus, like they cover their drawing with paint, a beautiful picture will appear of God's love and blessing in their lives.



THE SAINTS - HAPPY WITH GOD FOREVER

JESUS TOLD US HOW TO BECOME SAINTS BLESSED BY GOD



DRAW A
CIRCLE
around the
right
words of
Jesus

GOD BLESSES THOSE WHO ARE PROUD / HUMBLE

GOD BLESSES THOSE WHO DEPEND ON GOD / DON'T CARE ABOUT GOD

GOD BLESSES THOSE WHO ARE SORRY / NOT SORRY

GOD BLESSES THOSE WHO ARE DISOBEDIENT / OBEDIENT

GOD BLESSES THOSE WHO ARE KIND / CRUEL

GOD BLESSES THOSE WHO ARE GOOD IN THEIR HEART / BAD IN THEIR HEART

GOD BLESSES THOSE WHO START FIGHTS / MAKE PEACE