

Second Sunday of Easter

Peace be with you

INTRODUCTION

After the resurrection, Jesus appeared to the disciples and offered them the gift of his peace. At the same time he sent them out into the world to preach the Gospel and to share this peace with others.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and say Candle Prayer 3.

SORRY

Before making peace with God, Jesus told us to make peace with each other when he said:

If you are about to come before God to pray and then remember that you have quarreled with someone, go away first, settle your disagreement, and make your peace with them.

(Matthew 5:23-26)

Offer each other a sign of peace, and then close your eyes as we pray:

Father, forgive me
if I have done wrong.
Help me to make a fresh start,
sharing your love and peace
with everyone I meet.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia.
Jesus is risen from the dead
to be with us always.
Alleluia, alleluia.

GOSPEL (JOHN 20:19-23)

The disciples were gathered together in one room when suddenly Jesus appeared among them. Seeing their fear he said to them, "Peace be with you," and he showed them the wounds in his hands and his side.

The disciples were overjoyed to see Jesus again and to know that he was alive. Then Jesus said to them, "I give you my peace, and as my father sent

me, so I am sending you." Breathing gently on them he said, "Be filled with the Holy Spirit, and know that whoever you forgive, will be forgiven by me."

DISCUSSION

The first words Jesus spoke to the disciples were "Peace be with you." The word "peace" can be used in many different ways. Jesus used it so that his disciples would feel calm and unafraid. But it can also be used in other ways: to be free from disturbance or war; not quarrelsome but friendly; or to mean silence, with little noise to disturb you.

The disciples had run away and left Jesus when he was arrested. Even Peter had denied knowing him three times. But Jesus had no quarrel with them; he had forgiven them and wanted to reassure them that they need not be afraid any more, because Jesus would be with them always.

What else did Jesus say to them? He sent them out to carry on his work, with the help of the Holy Spirit, and to share the Good News with the rest of the world. He gave them the power and authority to forgive sins and to share his peace and forgiveness with other people.

Jesus has shared his gift of peace with each one of us, as a sign of his love. How can we share his peace with others?

—By being understanding and forgiving, instead of quarrelsome.

—By being kind and friendly.

—By smiling or shaking someone's hand.

(Encourage the children to share their own ideas.)

ACTIVITY

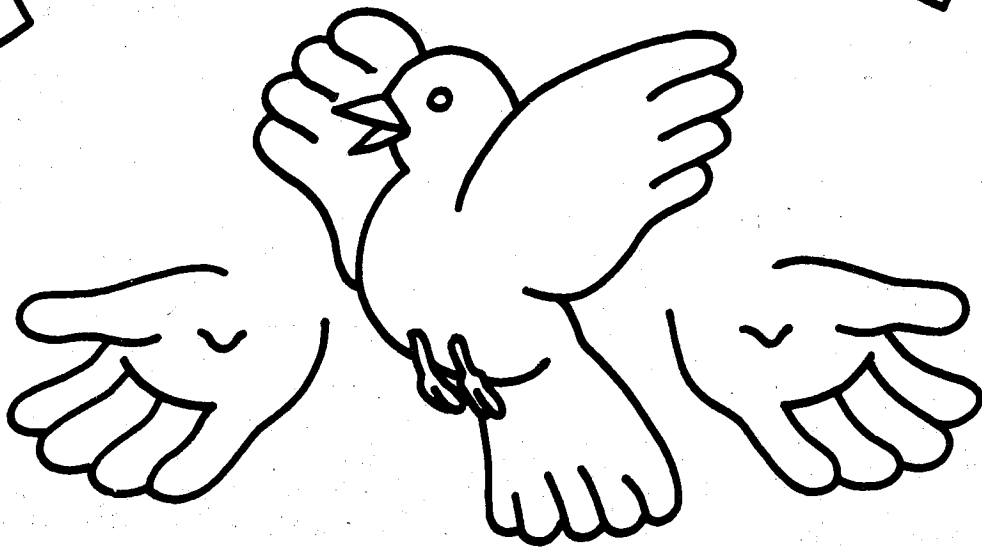
Help the children to make a "Peace" banner, as illustrated on the following page.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, just as you shared
your peace with us,
help us to share it with each other;
So that our world may be filled
with love and friendship.

PEACE BE



WITH YOU