

Light a candle

Sign of the cross

In the name of the Father and of the Son † and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Sing

“Just as I am” – Brian Doerksen <https://youtu.be/pZhAWErbbwU>

“What a Friend we have in Jesus” - https://youtu.be/8SCorW9r_Is

“Love God, Love People” – Danny Gokey <https://youtu.be/t-29WLQ3trA>

“Jesus” – Chris Tomlin <https://youtu.be/cEbQswNB6Wc>

God's Word

Read: Matthew 5:38-48 “Go the second mile.”

This is the word of the Lord. Thanks be to God.



Reflection

The saying ‘An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth’ comes from the explanations of the laws of Israel dating back many centuries before Christ to the time of Moses (Deut.19:21, Lev. 24:17-20, Ex. 21:23-25). The law of retribution was not about vengeance. It was about punishment being proportionate to the crime. The laws were intended to maintain order, decency and peace, to protect all people, to make provision for justice, and to guard against harshness and excessive punishment. The fifth commandment tells us not to do anything to hurt or injure other people. In keeping the fifth commandment we are to help people when they need it. Jesus said, “A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another” (John 13:34-35 NIV). St Paul explains to us that love fulfils the law: “Give to everyone what you owe them: If you owe taxes, pay taxes; if revenue, then revenue; if respect, then respect; if honour, then honour. Let no debt remain outstanding, except the continuing debt to love one another, for whoever loves others has fulfilled the law. The commandments, “You shall not commit adultery,” “You shall not murder,” “You shall not steal,” “You shall not covet,” and whatever other command there may be, are summed up in this one command: “Love your neighbour as yourself” (Romans 13:7-9 NIV). It is through love that we put others ahead of ourselves, give generously and do more than what is required of us. When we walk the second mile with people we are being salt and light in the world. We are being a blessing to others. We are demonstrating the love of Jesus Christ. Jesus teaches us to break the cycle of hurt for hurt by showing love and patience. When we return

kindness to those who try to hurt us, we short-circuit the cycle and begin a new pattern for living. When we walk the second mile with people we can remember that Jesus is walking along the road with us.

Activity

Create a reminder to show love, kindness and patience towards all people.

Music

Sing/Listen to music. Ideas:

“How Great Thou Art” – Songs of Praise <https://youtu.be/dBLRsUMtuFQ>

“Rock of Ages” - <https://youtu.be/rbh-sq2OZbs>

“One True God” – Steven Curtis Chapman <https://youtu.be/uN9anMOoS4Q>

“This Little Light of Mine” - https://youtu.be/RGWC6_SjHKQ

“This is My Commandment” – VeggieTales https://youtu.be/kH_ewFJ4o7M

Bible verses

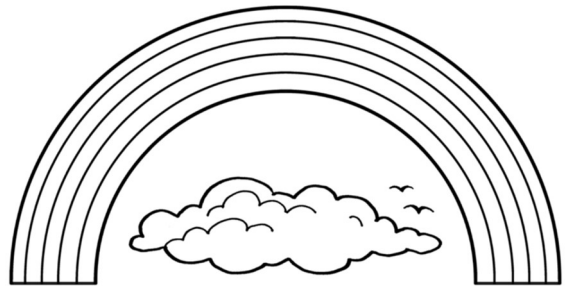
Psalm 103

Catechism

Baptism – Third part

How can water give us God’s gifts?

We don’t get God’s gifts in baptism just by using water. We get them by using God’s word with the water and by believing what God says. If we use water on its own without God’s word, that’s not baptism. But when we use God’s word with the water, the Holy Spirit shows God’s love for us by washing us clean from sin and giving us new life. Read Titus 3:5-8.



Prayer

Our Father, we know that you love us and that your word is powerful. We thank you for sending your only Son, Jesus Christ, into this world to save us from sin and death. We thank you for the gift of baptism and for the gift of faith. We thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit who makes us your people. Help us to trust in you and your Word. Help us to remember our baptism and to live knowing that you love us and help us every day. In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

Blessing

The Lord bless us and keep us. The Lord make his face shine on us and be gracious to us. The Lord look upon us with favour, and give us peace. Amen.