

The following readings may be used only when the celebration of the liturgy of the word for the children is held in a place apart from the main assembly.

FIRST READING

Creation of our first parents, and sin.

A reading from the book of Genesis

2:7-9; 3:1-7

The LORD God took some earth and used it to make a man.
God breathed into the man's nose,
and the man started breathing.

The LORD God had made a garden in a place called Eden,
which was in the east,
and he put the man there.

The LORD made all kinds of beautiful trees
and all kinds of fruit trees grow in the garden.

Two other trees were in the middle of the garden.

One of the trees gave life,
and the other showed the difference between right and wrong.

The snake was sneakier than any of the other wild animals
that the LORD God had made.

One day it came to the woman and asked,
"Did God tell you not to eat fruit from any tree in the garden?"

The woman answered,
"God said we could eat fruit from any tree in the garden
except the one in the middle.

He told us not to eat fruit from that tree or even touch it.
If we do, we will die."

"No, you won't die!" the snake replied.

"God understands what will happen
on the day you eat fruit from that tree.

You will see what you have done,
and you will know the difference between right and wrong,
just as God does."

The woman stared at the fruit.
 It looked beautiful and tasty.
 She wanted the wisdom that it would give her,
 and she ate some of the fruit.
 She gave some to her husband Adam, and he ate it too.
 At once they saw what they had done,
 and they realized that they were naked.
 So they sewed fig leaves together to make clothes for themselves.

The word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

51:1, 10, 12, 15

R. (3a) Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

**You are kind, God!
 Please have pity on me.
 You are always merciful!
 Please wipe away my sins.**

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

**Create pure thoughts in me
 and make me faithful again.**

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

**Make me as happy as you did
 when you saved me; make me want to obey!**

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

**Help me to speak,
 and I will praise you, Lord.**

R. Be merciful, O Lord, for we have sinned.

VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

Matthew 4:4b

R. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

**No one lives on bread alone,
 but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.**

R. Glory and praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

GOSPEL

Jesus fasted for forty days and nights and was tempted.

✠ A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew 4:1-11

The Holy Spirit led Jesus into the desert,
so that the devil could test him.

After Jesus went without eating for forty days and nights,
he was very hungry.

Then the devil came to him and said,

“If you are God’s Son,
tell these stones to turn into bread.”

Jesus answered,

“The Scriptures say: ‘No one can live only on food.
People need every word that God has spoken.’ ”

Next, the devil took Jesus to the holy city
and had him stand on the highest part of the temple.

The devil said, “If you are God’s Son, jump off.
The Scriptures say: ‘God will give his angels orders about you.
They will catch you in their arms,
and you will not hurt your feet on the stones.’ ”

Jesus answered, “The Scriptures also say,
‘Don’t try to test the Lord your God!’ ”

Finally, the devil took Jesus up on a very high mountain
and showed him all the kingdoms on earth and their power.
The devil said to him, “I will give all this to you,
if you will bow down and worship me.”

Jesus answered, “Go away, Satan!
The Scriptures say: ‘Worship the Lord your God and serve only him.’ ”

Then the devil left Jesus,
and angels came to help him.

The gospel of the Lord.