



Sign of the Cross. Let's sing. (See p. 133)

*quietly by yourselves*



Do you know anyone who makes a fuss about getting ready for school? They want new pencils, new bag, new uniform . . . ?

*when each child has had time to think*



Do all these things make such a difference in school?

Does your mum sometimes say 'Stop making a fuss and get off to school' or 'Don't worry about these things, just do your best'?

Does Miss in school sometimes say, 'Stop making a fuss, sit down and get on with your work. That's what you have to get on with, stop worrying'?



There was a rule in Jesus' time. People had to wash before they ate. Some people made a great fuss and had a shower or a bath. Jesus and his friends didn't always wash as much. The leaders asked Jesus 'Why?'.

*welcome the Gospel. Sing Alleluia. (See p. 220)*

*all stand (adapted from Mark 7:21-23)*



Jesus said,  
"Washing your hands and having baths doesn't make you good.  
It's what you say, do and think, that matters.  
It's what goes on inside you,  
not outside you,  
that counts."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

*all sit (some suggestions)*

Write (or draw) the good things inside you.

Draw two pictures: Me at my best outside and Me at my best inside.



# LORD, YOUR WORDS ARE LIFE

## VISUAL AIDS

- > Pictures of people bathing, washing dishes, washing clothes.
- > Church shape cut-outs.

## SHARING

Invite the children to look at the pictures and encourage them to talk about washing.

What are our reasons for washing things?

In Jesus' time too they had customs relating to washing, and when to wash. Jesus will speak about that in today's story.

## WELCOME AND PROCLAIM THE GOSPEL

*Saying together:*

**Alleluia, alleluia!  
Your words, Lord, bring us life.  
Alleluia!**

A reading from the Good News given to us by Mark.  
**Glory to you, Lord.**

The Pharisees and the Jews in general never eat without first washing their hands. And they have many customs about scrubbing the pots and dishes too.

One day some of the Pharisees and the scribes from Jerusalem noticed that Jesus and his friends began

Talk about ways of washing, times for washing (e.g. hands before meals).

eating without first washing their hands.  
Why are you breaking our traditions? they asked Jesus.  
Jesus replied

heart that counts. If your heart is full of nastiness, then you will be unclean no matter how much you wash. But if your heart is full of love, you are clean in the eyes of God.  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

It is far more important to have clean hearts and clean lives than to have clean hands.  
Then Jesus said to the people, It is not what happens on the outside that makes you clean or unclean. It is what you have in your

## DISCUSSION

Explain, as necessary, that Pharisees were the ones responsible for the law and customs of the Jews; the Scribes were lawyers, from Jerusalem.

What washing customs are mentioned in the story?  
And what did the Scribes and Pharisees notice about Jesus and his friends?

What was Jesus' reply?

What makes people clean in the eyes of God?

Get the children to give examples of things they do because they have to. And then examples of things they do from the heart.

Do they come to church because they have to?  
Or because they want to in their hearts?

## ACTIVITIES

Give out the church shape cut-outs.

On them have the children write or draw why they come to church.

Ask the children to promise that they will be very quiet in church, so as not to disturb the people

who are there praying to God in their hearts.