



## **The Gospel of the Lord**

Michael and Cathy were twins. Both had been altar servers at St Mary's for some time, but this Sunday they were going to have a special part. They were going to carry the candles for the Gospel reading.

Father David had practiced with them, showing them what to do and how to carry the candles. Now they were ready.

After the end of the second reading, everyone stood up and sang, "Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia."

Michael and Cathy picked up the candle sticks, holding them carefully and as straight as they could. They took their places on either side of Father David. Angela Quinn walked ahead of them carrying the thurible with the incense. It was like a procession.

Father David was holding the Book of Gospels with both hands, high in front of him. When they got to the lectern he put the book down and opened it. Michael and Cathy stood on either side facing him holding their candles steady. He took the thurible from Angela and waved it so that incense went swirling towards the Book of the Gospels. He gave it back to Angela and looked at all the people.

He said, "The Lord be with you," and everyone replied "And with your spirit." Then he said, "A reading from the Holy Gospel according to Luke." He made the Sign of the Cross on the Book of the Gospels and on his forehead, his lips and his heart. Everyone in the church made the Sign of the Cross on their foreheads lips and hearts and said, "Glory to You O Lord."

When Father David had finished reading the Gospel, he said, "The Gospel of the Lord," and everyone replied, "Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ."