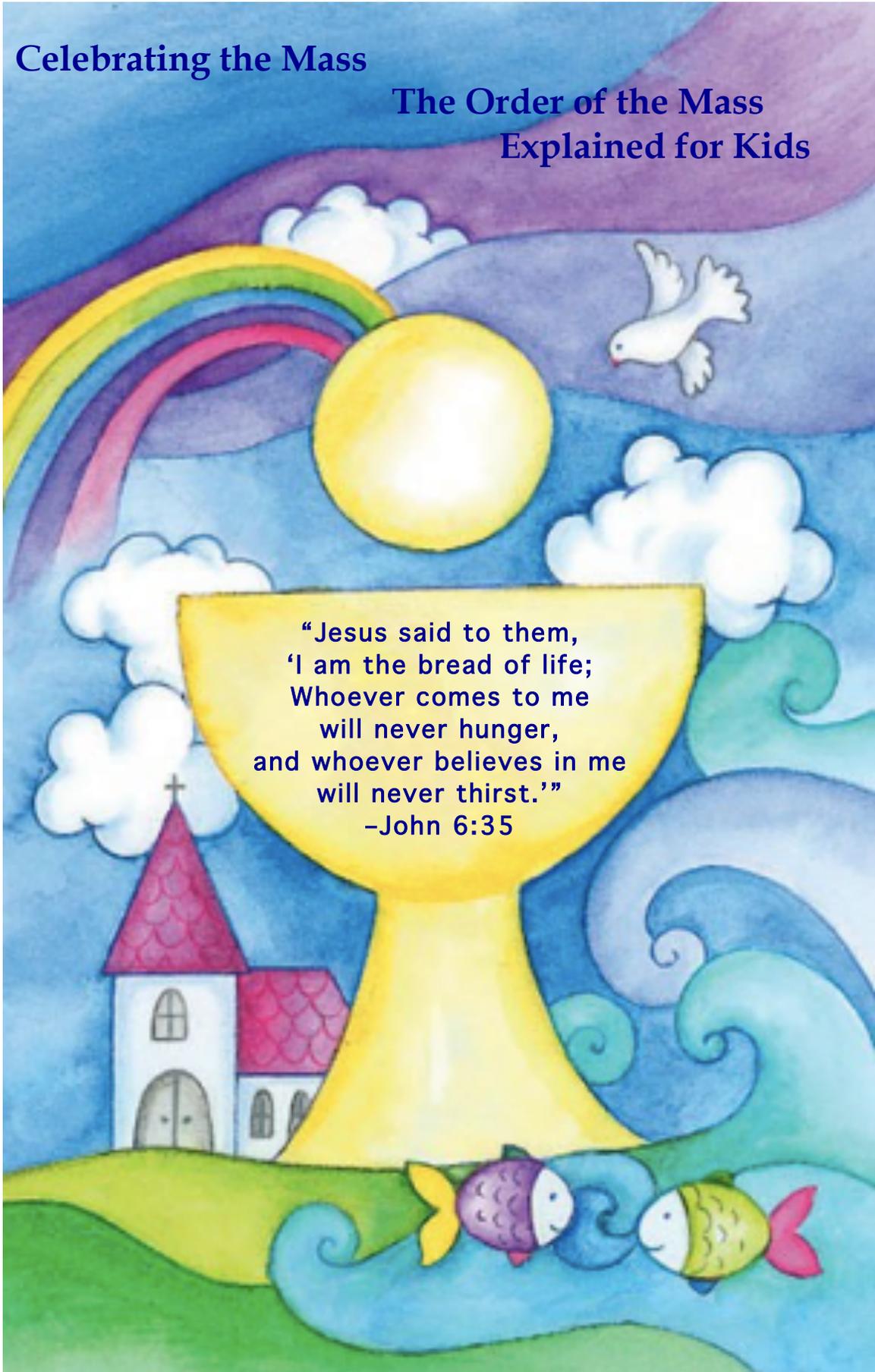


Celebrating the Mass

The Order of the Mass Explained for Kids



“Jesus said to them,
‘I am the bread of life;
Whoever comes to me
will never hunger,
and whoever believes in me
will never thirst.’”
-John 6:35

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Adapted in part from

the fabulous book:

We Go to Mass

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&

“Celebrating the Mass” in ***Eucharist:***

Do This in Memory of Me

from RCL Benziger



The Introductory Rites

We are all members of God's family! The Holy Spirit calls us to gather as the community of the Church. The Church is the People of God, the Body of Christ. As Catholic members of the community of the Church, we gather together at Mass to meet Jesus, to praise and thank God, to celebrate God's love for us, and to love one another. We prepare to listen to the Word of

God and to celebrate the Eucharist.

Entrance Procession and Gathering Song

We stand as the priest and other ministers enter the assembly. We are the assembly! The priest presides over the celebration of the Mass. The priest kisses the altar as a sign of reverence. The altar reminds us of Jesus and his love for us. We join all our voices together in prayerful song to make one beautiful sound.

Greeting

The priest leads us in praying the Sign of the Cross, which reminds us of our Baptism. This very old and special prayer reminds us that God loves us very much, that we are part of God's family, that we are followers of Jesus Christ, and that the Holy Spirit is always with us to help us live as friends of God and followers of Jesus.

Priest: In the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

People: AMEN.

The priest greets us with a very old greeting:

Priest: "The Lord be with you."

People: And with your Spirit.

Did you know?

- ★ A song-prayer is also called a *hymn* (pronounced *him*).
- ★ The word *mercy* has different meanings such as being forgiving and also being kind, caring and compassionate.

Rite of Blessing and Sprinkling with Water

On some Sundays we are blessed with holy water to remind us of our Baptism. We ask God to help us be faithful to the Holy Spirit whom we have been given at Baptism. The Holy Spirit helps us live as children of God and followers of Jesus.

The Penitential Act

We say that we are sorry for the times when we have not acted like friends of Jesus. We also bless God for showing us mercy.

Priest: Lord have mercy.

People: Lord have mercy.

Priest: Christ have mercy.

People: Christ have mercy.

Priest: Lord have mercy.

People: Lord have mercy.

The Gloria

We sing our thanks and praise to God. The Gloria is like a love letter to God. We praise and thank God for being awesome. We ask God to show us mercy and hear our prayers. We celebrate that we share in the life of the Holy Trinity – God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.

**Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of
good will.**

**We praise you, we bless you,
we adore you, we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your
great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King, O God,
almighty Father.**

**Lord Jesus Christ, Only
Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of
the Father,
You take away the sins of the
world,**

Have mercy on us;

**You take away the sins of the
world,**

Receive our prayer;

**You are seated at the right hand
of the Father,**

Have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,

You alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High,

Jesus Christ,

With the Holy Spirit,

In the glory of God the Father.

Amen.

The Collect

We observe a moment of quiet. We remember that we are in God's presence. We lift up our minds and hearts to God. We remember what God has done for us. We ask God our loving Father to help us live as children of God and followers of Jesus. The priest leads us in praying a prayer that changes every time we go to Mass.

Priest: Let us pray...

People: Amen.

The Liturgy of the Word

The Liturgy of the Word is always celebrated at Mass. God speaks to us. Yes! God is going to speak to us! Yes! We will hear God when the readers proclaim the Holy Scriptures to us! We will remember the story of God's love for us! Christ will be present through his own Word! We will meet Jesus in the Word!

The First Reading

The First Reading is usually from the Old Testament. Sometimes the reading is from the New Testament, from a book called the *Acts of the Apostles*.

The lector concludes the First Reading by saying:

Lector: "The Word of the Lord."

We are happy and thankful that God has spoken to us. And so we all respond by saying,

People: Thanks be to God!

The Responsorial Psalm

After the First Reading, the cantor (a member of the Choir) leads us in singing the Psalm. Psalms are very old hymns (song-prayers) from the Bible (you will find them in the Old Testament.) They help us pray all our emotions up to God. Jesus prayed the same psalms we pray today! The cantor usually sings the verses and we sing the response.

The Second Reading

A lector reads from the New Testament, usually from one of the letters that were written to help the first Christians. These letters are full of advice about growing more like Jesus. At the end of the reading the lector says:

Lector: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Did you know?

- ★ A person who reads out loud from the Holy Scriptures at Mass is called a *lector* (pronounced *lek-tor*).
- ★ Did you know? The Bible has two parts: the *Old Testament* and the *New Testament*.
 - The Old Testament is a collection of books written about the time BEFORE Jesus.
 - The New Testament is a collection of books written ABOUT Jesus and AFTER the death of Jesus.
- ★ Think of the Bible as a library- a collection of books rather than just one book. The Bible is kind of like God's library. God's library contains 73 books! The books in the Bible are also called *Scriptures*. In the Scriptures we hear stories of God's great love for us.

Alleluia or Gospel Acclamation

It is time to stand up and listen to a reading from the Gospel. We show our reverence for Jesus, the Word of God. In Jesus, God most fully told us about himself and his love for us. We stand to honor Jesus present with us in the Gospel.



And because we are so happy and excited to meet Jesus in the Gospel, we usually start by singing or saying a very special word that means, “Praise God!” - **ALLELUIA!**

- ★ While we are singing “Alleluia”, the priest will present, or show, the book with the gospels in it.
- ★ At St. Matthew’s, as the book is presented to the section of the church you are seated in, you bow by lowering your head and shoulders slightly.

The Gospel

Before reading the Gospel, the deacon or priest says,

Priest or deacon: “The Lord be with you.”

People: And with your Spirit.

The deacon or priest will then tell us which Gospel the reading is from.

- ★ We make a small cross on our forehead, then on our lips, and over our heart.
- ★ This means we will keep the words of Jesus in our minds and our hearts, and we will share this good news with others when we speak!

The deacon or priest then proclaims the Gospel.
After proclaiming the Gospel, the deacon or priest says,

Priest or deacon: “The Gospel of the Lord.”

People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ!

The priest or deacon then kisses the Book of the Gospels.

The Homily

We sit. The deacon or priest preaches the homily. The homily helps us to understand the ancient readings we have just heard and to better understand what God is saying to us today. We choose ways to live as followers of Jesus.

Did you know?

- ★ *Gospel* means good news! The Gospel stories share stories about Jesus’ life and teachings.
- ★ There are four Gospels in the New Testament part of the Bible: Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.
- ★ We stand up to listen to the Gospel because the good news of Jesus is so important to us.

The Profession of Faith

We stand again! We stand up to tell the world what we believe! We pray the **Profession of Faith**, which is also called *the Creed*. Faith is accepting God's invitation to believe and trust in him. A creed is a prayer that tells what we believe. When we pray the Creed at Mass, we say that we believe in the Holy Trinity. The Holy Trinity is the belief that there is One God in Three Persons: God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit. Each person of the Trinity helps us live as children of God. Sometimes we pray *the Nicene Creed*. Sometimes we pray *the Apostles Creed*.

The Prayer of the Faithful

The Prayer of the Faithful is a special gift of prayer we give to people we love, people we know, and even people we have never met! In the Prayer of the Faithful, we pray for the needs of all people: people in our Church, our family, our community, our country, and our world ... including leaders, people who are sick, people who have died, and even ourselves.

- ★ Did you know? The Prayer of the Faithful is sometimes called the *General Intercessions*. The word *intercession* (pronounced *inter-session*) comes from the word *intercede*, which means to act on behalf of another or to help someone.
- ★ When we pray a prayer of intercession, we are asking God for help.

The prayers in the Prayer of the Faithful usually end with, "We pray to the Lord." We can respond to each prayer in several ways. For example, after each prayer, we might respond:

People: Lord, hear our prayer.

Did you know?

- ★ Pope Francis' Five-Finger prayer can help you give the gift of prayer even when you aren't gathered with your family of faith at Church...



The Liturgy of the Eucharist

Celebrating the Eucharist is the center of our Christian life. In this part of Mass, Jesus comes to us in Holy Communion. We prepare to meet Jesus with special gifts and prayers.

The Preparation of the Altar and Gifts



Do you help your family set the table for dinner and special meals? The altar is the table of the Lord. At this point during Mass, we sit as the altar is prepared for Holy Communion.

Have you ever brought a gift to a special celebration ... like a birthday present to a birthday party? This is the time during Mass when we share many gifts:

This is the time when ushers walk around Church with baskets to collect gifts of money to help our Church and care for those in need. This is the time when gifts of bread and wine are brought to the altar. As we offer the bread and wine, we also offer our hearts and lives to God. The priest lifts up the bread and blesses God for all our gifts. The priest prays,

Priest: “Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation...”

People: Blessed be God forever.

The priest lifts up the cup of wine and prays:

Priest: “Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation...”

People: Blessed be God forever.

The priest then invites us to pray:

Priest: “Pray, brothers and sisters that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.”

People: May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name and for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

The Prayer over the Offerings

The priest leads us in praying the Prayer over the Offerings. We respond,

People: Amen.

The Eucharistic Prayer

The priest leads us in praying the *Eucharistic Prayer*, a great prayer of praise and thanksgiving to God for giving us the gift of Jesus.

We join in saying or singing aloud the PREFACE:

Priest: “The Lord be with you.”

People: **And with your Spirit.**

Priest: “Lift up your hearts.”

People: **We lift them up to the Lord.**

Priest: “Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.”

People: **It is right and just.**

We then join in singing or saying aloud

All: **Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of Hosts.**

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

What happens next?

- 🌈 The priest tells us the story of Jesus’ Last Supper.
- 🌈 We ask God our Father to send the Holy Spirit to make our gifts of bread and wine holy and change our gifts of bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Jesus.
- 🌈 Jesus is now truly present under the appearances of bread and wine.

After we do what Jesus asked us to do at the Last Supper in memory of him, we proclaim our faith in Jesus. We join in singing or saying aloud the Memorial Acclamation. Here is an example:

Priest or deacon: The mystery of faith

People: **We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.**

Did you know?

- ★ The word *Amen* means so be it. It is a word we use to say, “Yes! I believe that’s true!”
- ★ The word *Eucharist* (pronounced *you-ka-rest*) means thanksgiving.
- ★ The word *preface* (pronounced *preh-fiss*) means an introduction or beginning.



We remember Jesus' Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension. The priest prays that God the Father accepts the Church's offering that we be filled with the Holy Spirit and become one with Christ. The priest then leads us in praying for the Church, for people who are living and dead, and that we may one day live in Heaven. Finally, the priest leads us in proclaiming our praise of God by saying aloud or singing the doxology to conclude the Eucharistic Prayer.

Priest: "Through him, and with him, and in him, O God, almighty Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, for ever and ever."

People: Amen!

Communion Rite

We prepare our minds and hearts to receive the gift of Jesus in Holy Communion.

The Lord's Prayer

We begin the Communion Rite by praying the Lord's Prayer together. This is the special prayer that Jesus taught. Jesus often told us about his love his Father and his Father's love for us. In this prayer we call God "Father" as Jesus invited us to do. We tell God how much we love him and ask him for the grace we need to live as children of God. The Lord's Prayer is a summary of the Gospel.

**All: Our Father who art in heaven,
Hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come,
Thy will be done
On earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those
who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.**



Priest: "Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil, graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ."

People: For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever.

The Sign of Peace

We must live in peace if we are to be true friends of Jesus and true friends to each other. We pray for peace and unity for the Church and the whole human family.

The priest invites us to share a sign of peace, saying,

Priest: “The peace of the Lord be with you always.”

People: And with your Spirit

Priest: Let us offer each other a sign of peace.



We share a sign of peace with the people near us by shaking hands, giving hugs, or even giving a kiss to a loved one.

The Breaking of the Bread (also called the Fraction)

At the Last Supper Jesus broke bread and gave it to his disciples. At the time of the Apostles the Eucharist became known as the “breaking of bread.” The priest breaks the consecrated bread so it can be shared with others. We join together in saying or singing,

**All: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world,
grant us peace.**

Communion

The priest raises the host and tells us what it has become,

Priest: “Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.”

We respond with a prayer from the Gospel,

People: Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

The priest receives Holy Communion.

The faithful join in singing the Communion hymn. We walk in procession to the altar to receive Holy Communion, the Body and Blood of Christ.

Priest: the Body of Christ

People: Amen

We receive the consecrated bread in our hand or on our tongue. We reverently chew and swallow the consecrated bread.

If we are to receive the consecrated wine, the Blood of Christ, the minister offers us the cup.

Priest: the Blood of Christ.

People: Amen.

We reverently take the cup in our hands and drink from the cup.



Period of Silence or Song of Praise.

We return to our seats. We remember Jesus. We have received the gift of Jesus, the Bread of Life. We praise God for this wonderful gift.

The Prayer after Communion

After everyone has received Communion, we stand when the priest invites us to pray. He prays that we are truly nourished and strengthened by our sharing in the Eucharist.

Priest: “Let us pray...”

People: Amen.



The Concluding Rites

Greeting

We stand. The priest greets us as we prepare to leave and carry God's love into the world.

Priest: "The Lord be with you."

People: *And with your Spirit.*

Blessing

The priest blesses us in the name of the Holy Trinity. We remember that God loves us and shares his life and love with us now and forever.

Priest or deacon: Bow down for a blessing.

Priest: May almighty God bless you in the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People: *Amen.*

Dismissal of the People

We are ready for our Christian mission!

We are sent forth in peace to love and serve the Lord.

We are sent forth in peace to bring the good news of God's love into the world.

We are sent forth in peace to be the Body of Christ for the world.

The priest or deacon sends us forth to live the Great Commandment.

Priest or deacon: Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God!*

We sing a joyful hymn and go forth!

"I give you a new commandment: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another." (John 13:34)

Did you know?

- ★ The word *Mass* means mission.
 - The end of Mass is really just the beginning of our Christian mission!
 - Now it is our time to bring the good news of God's love into the world!
 - Now it is our time to BE the Body of Christ for the world!
 - This is our Christian mission.