

We Celebrate the Liturgy of the Eucharist

18

WE GATHER

✦ **Leader:** Write your initials in each gift box to show that you offer God all that you think, say, and do.

Now stand and lift up your books. Echo each line of the prayer.

We lift our minds and hearts in prayer. (Echo)

God, we offer to you today (Echo)

All we think, and do, and say, (Echo)

Uniting it with what was done (Echo)

On earth by Jesus Christ, your Son. (Echo)

☀ What are some different ways to show your thanks to others?



WE BELIEVE

We bring forward the gifts of bread and wine.

The **Liturgy of the Eucharist** is the second main part of the Mass. During the Liturgy of the Eucharist we present the gifts of bread and wine. A very special prayer is prayed. The bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. We receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

The Liturgy of the Eucharist begins as the priest prepares the altar. This is also the time when we give money or other gifts for the Church and the poor.

Then members of the assembly bring forward the gifts of bread and wine. We remember that everything we have is a gift from God. We will offer these gifts and ourselves back to God. The priest prepares these gifts of bread and wine with special prayers.

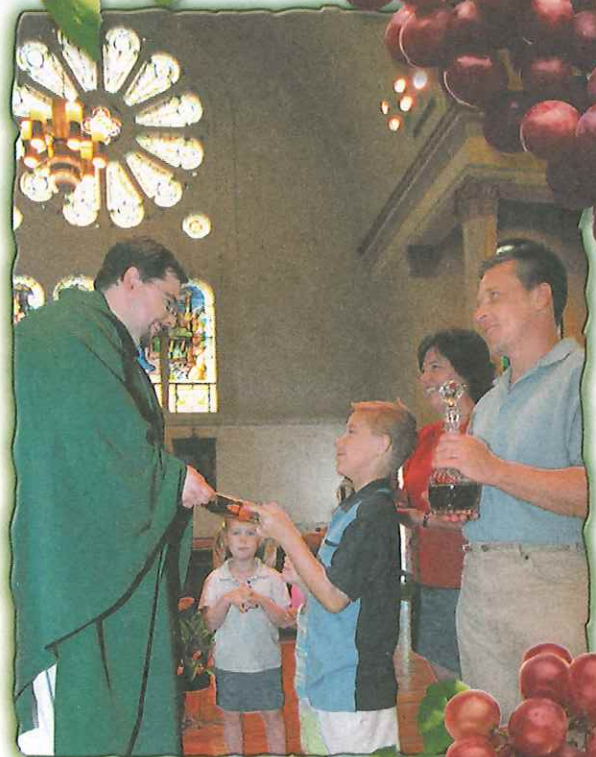
We can respond:

“Blessed be God for ever.”

Then we pray that the Lord will accept these gifts.

A Gift From Your Children

Here is our gift, the bread and the wine:
A symbol of sharing, a beautiful sign:
A gift, a gift from your children;
A gift, a gift of our love.



As Catholics...

The Church uses a special plate and cup at Mass. The plate is called a *paten*. The paten holds the bread that will become the Body of Christ. The cup is called a *chalice*. The chalice holds the wine that will become the Blood of Christ. The next time you are at Mass, notice the paten and chalice.

The Eucharistic Prayer is the great prayer of thanks and praise.

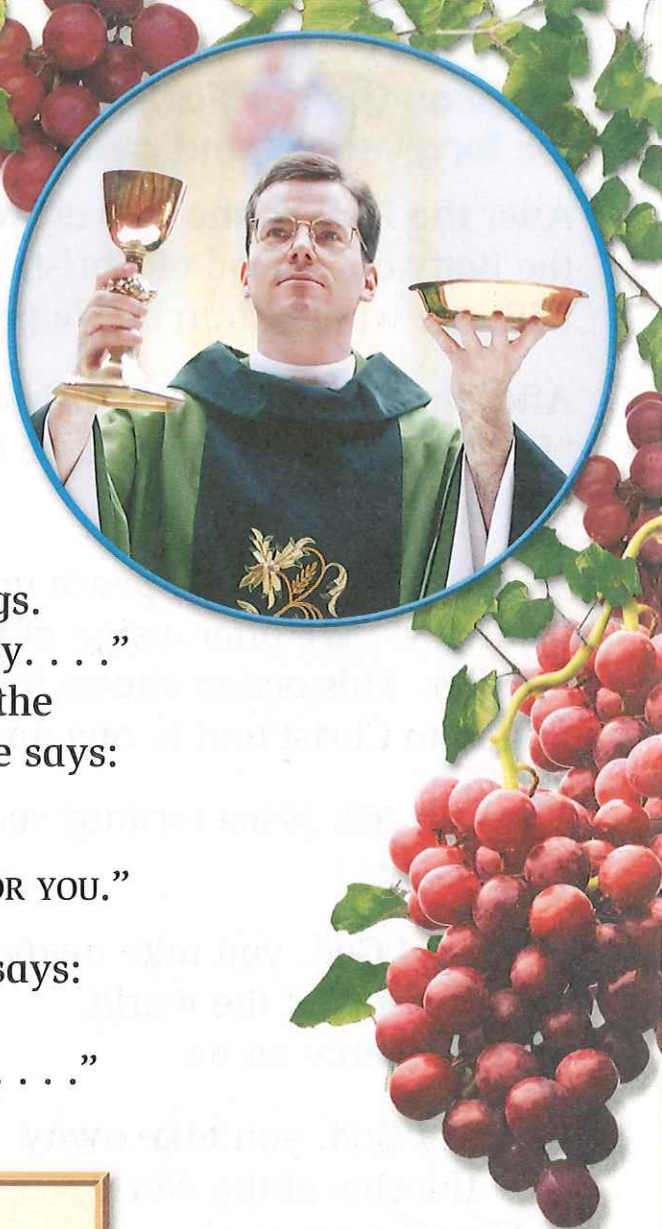
After the preparation of the gifts, the priest prays in our name. He prays the most important prayer in the Mass. This prayer is called the **Eucharistic Prayer**. It is the great prayer of praise and thanksgiving.

During this prayer we pray for many things. We praise God by singing “Holy, holy, holy. . . .” We remember what Jesus said and did at the Last Supper. The priest takes the bread. He says:

“TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND EAT OF IT,
FOR THIS IS MY BODY, WHICH WILL BE GIVEN UP FOR YOU.”

Then the priest takes the cup of wine. He says:

“TAKE THIS, ALL OF YOU, AND DRINK
FROM IT, FOR THIS IS THE CHALICE OF MY BLOOD. . . .”



Read Along

This part of the Eucharistic Prayer is called the Consecration. By the power of the Holy Spirit and through the words and actions of the priest, the bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ. This is called transubstantiation. What looks like bread and wine is not bread and wine anymore. The bread and wine are now the Body and Blood of Christ. As Catholics we believe that Jesus Christ is really present in the Eucharist.

The priest invites us to proclaim our faith. We pray:

“When we eat this Bread and drink this Cup,
we proclaim your Death, O Lord,
until you come again.”

We pray that the Holy Spirit will unite all those who believe in Jesus. We end the Eucharistic Prayer by responding “Amen.” We are saying “yes” to the prayer the priest has prayed in our name.



Circle the words the priest says when he takes the bread and wine.

Key Words

Liturgy of the Eucharist

the second main part of the Mass in which the gifts of bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ

Eucharistic Prayer the most important prayer of the Mass

We pray the Our Father and ask God for forgiveness and peace.

After the Eucharistic Prayer, we prepare to receive the Body and Blood of Christ. We join ourselves with the whole Church. We pray the Our Father.

After the Our Father, the priest prays, "Peace I leave you, my peace I give you."

We pray that Christ's peace may be with us always. We offer a sign of peace to one another. This action shows that we are united to Christ and to one another.

Then we ask Jesus for forgiveness and peace:

"Lamb of God, you take away
the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

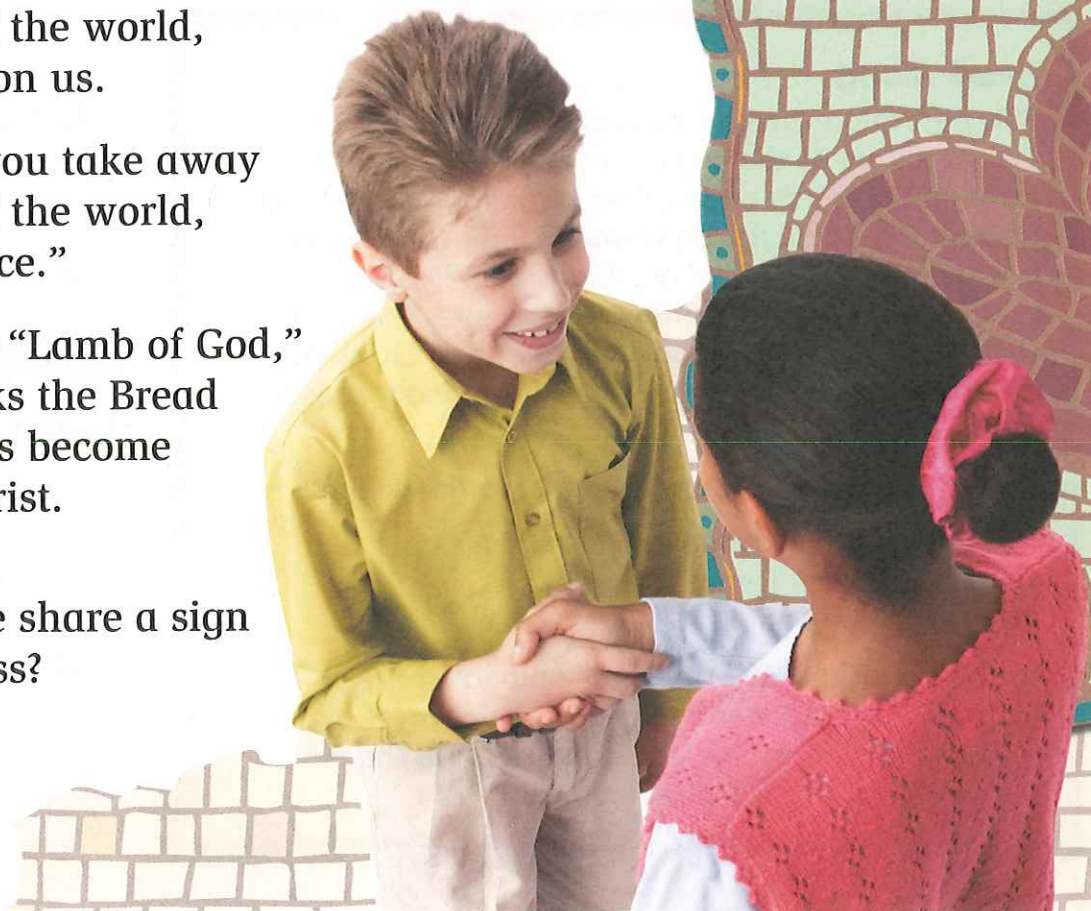
Lamb of God, you take away
the sins of the world,
have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away
the sins of the world,
grant us peace."

As we pray the "Lamb of God," the priest breaks the Bread or Host that has become the Body of Christ.



Why do we share a sign of peace at Mass?



We receive Jesus Christ in Holy Communion.

After the “Lamb of God,” the priest holds up the Host that has become the Body of Christ. He says,

“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,

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

Then people go forward to receive
Communion. The priest, deacon,
or extraordinary minister of Holy
Communion shows the Host to each
person and says, “The Body of Christ.”
Each person responds, “Amen”
and receives Holy Communion.

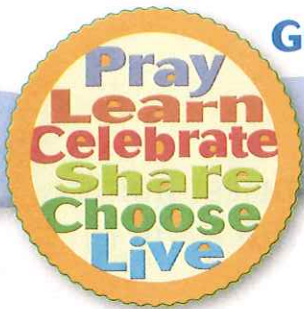
Then the priest, deacon, or extraordinary
minister of Holy Communion may hand
the cup to each person saying, “The Blood
of Christ.” Each person responds, “Amen”
and drinks from the cup.

We all sing a song of thanksgiving. Then
there is quiet time. We thank Jesus for the
gift of himself in Holy Communion.

WE RESPOND



Talk about what you can do to thank
Jesus for the gift of himself in the
Eucharist.



PROJECT

Show What **you** Know

Circle the **Key Word** that names the second main part of the Mass in which the gifts of bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ.

Underline the **Key Word** that names the most important prayer of the Mass.

Liturgy of the Eucharist

Eucharistic Prayer



Put the parts of the Liturgy of the Eucharist in order. The first one has been done for you.

☐

Sign of peace

☐

1

Presentation of gifts

☐

Our Father

☐

Lamb of God

☐

Holy Communion

☐

Eucharistic Prayer

DISCIPLE



Picture This

Look at the photo. What important prayer is the priest praying in our name?

Make it Happen

In some parishes, people volunteer to be prayer partners with those preparing for their first Holy Communion. In the space below, write a prayer for prayer partners to pray together.



Take Home

Discuss with your family why it is an honor to bring forward the gifts at Mass. Write your thoughts here.

↪ **DISCIPLE CHALLENGE** Pray your prayer for those receiving first Holy Communion in your parish.

CHAPTER TEST

Fill in the circle beside the correct answer.

1. The second main part of the Mass is the _____.
☐ Our Father ☐ Liturgy of the Eucharist
2. Bread and wine become the Body and Blood of Christ during the _____.
☐ Our Father ☐ Eucharistic Prayer
3. When we pray "Amen," we are saying _____.
☐ have mercy ☐ Yes, I believe
4. Right after we pray the _____, we are invited to share in the Eucharist.
☐ Lamb of God ☐ Creed

Order these actions of the Liturgy of the Eucharist, 1 to 4.

5. We offer each other a sign of peace. _____
6. We receive Holy Communion. _____
7. We bring forward gifts of bread and wine. _____
8. The Eucharistic Prayer begins. _____

9–10. Why is the Eucharistic Prayer the most important prayer of the Mass?