

SINGING



Discussion:

The Mass usually begins with everyone singing a song of praise to God. During the song, the priest and his helpers walk up to the altar.

Activities:

- Color the action word SINGING
- Color the people who are singing in the picture.

GREETING



Discussion:

After singing the opening song, we join the priest in making the *Sign of the Cross*. This short prayer reminds us that we were baptized into God's family in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. We end the prayer by saying "**Amen,**" which means, "Yes, I agree!"

The priest then welcomes us to the celebration with these simple words: "The Lord be with you." We joyfully answer, "**And with your spirit.**"

Look at the clothing the priest is wearing. It is called a chasuble. The color of the chasuble is often green. Chasubles in white, purple, or red are used for special celebrations.

Activities: • Color the action word GREETING.

- What answer do you say when the priest says, "The Lord be with you." (*And with your spirit.*)
- Show how to make the *Sign of the Cross*.
- Color the chasuble with the color you saw the last time you went to Mass.

FORGIVING



Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

Discussion:

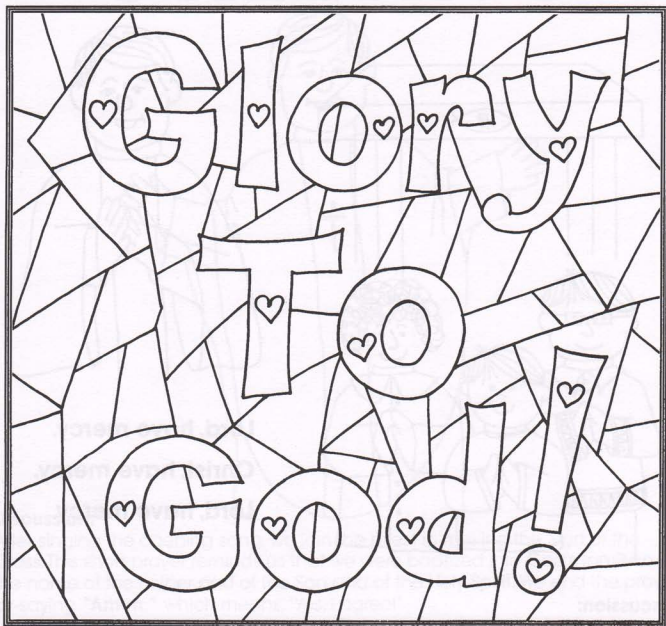
God loves us very much and wants us to be good and kind to others. But sometimes at home or at school or when we play with our friends we do or say things that are not so good. In this part of the Mass God gives us a chance to say, "I am sorry." God is happy to hear us say we are sorry and forgives us through the words of the priest.

The word *Lord* is a title of respect. When we call Jesus or Christ *Lord*, we are calling him God.

Activities: • Color the action word FORGIVING.

- What words should you say when you hurt someone? (*I'm sorry!*)
- What words should you say when someone says, "I'm sorry" to you? (*I forgive you!*)

PRAISING

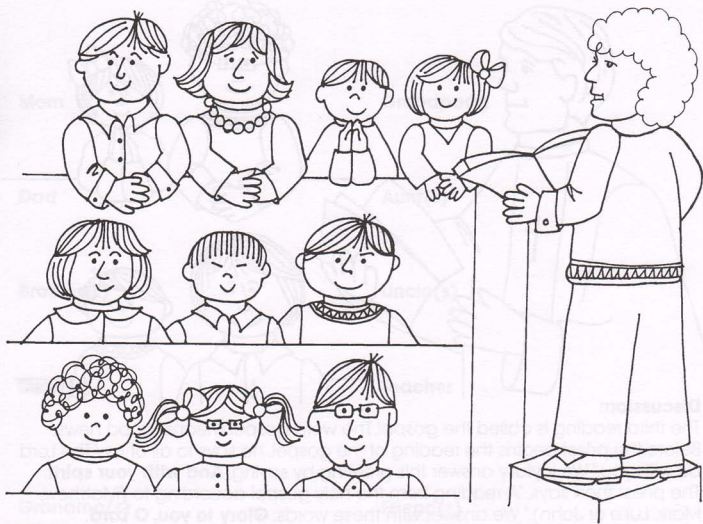


Discussion:

The next prayer that we often say and sometimes sing during Mass is called the *Gloria*. It is a happy song of praise and thanksgiving to God for all of the wonderful things God has done for us. The first sentence of this prayer comes from the words the shepherds heard the angels sing the night Jesus was born: "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to people of good will." (Cf. Lk 2:14)

- Activities:**
- Color the action word PRAISING.
 - Color every space in the stained glass window that has a heart to find the hidden words.

LISTENING



Discussion:

In this part of the Mass we sit down and listen to short readings from the Bible. These readings tell us about God's words, actions, and love for people.

At the end of the readings, the reader says: "The Word of the Lord." We answer the reader with these words: **Thanks be to God.**

Then we stand and praise God by singing the word Alleluia, a word that means *Praise God!*

- Questions:**
- What do the readings tell us about? (*God's words, actions, and love for people.*)
 - What does the word Alleluia mean? (*Praise God.*)
 - When the reader says: "The Word of the Lord," what should we say? (*Thanks be to God.*)

- Activities:**
- Color the action word LISTENING.
 - Color the people who are listening.

LEARNING



Discussion:

The third reading is called the *gospel*. The word *gospel* means "good news." Before the priest begins the reading of the gospel, he says to all of us, "The Lord be with you." We joyfully answer this greeting by saying, **And with your spirit**. The priest then says, "A reading from the holy gospel according to (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John)." We answer with these words: **Glory to you, O Lord**.

During this reading we stand and listen to learn about the words and actions of Jesus. After reading the gospel, the priest says: "The gospel of the Lord." We answer the priest by saying: **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**.

Then we sit down to listen as the priest gives a short talk about the meaning of today's Bible readings. Like Jesus, the priest is a teacher who explains what God wants us to do.

- Question:**
- What answer do you give when the priest says: "The Lord be with you"? (*And with your spirit!*)
 - What answer do you give when the priest says, "A reading from the holy gospel according to Matthew"? (*Glory to you, O Lord.*)
 - What answer do you give when the priest says, "The gospel of the Lord"? (*Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.*)

- Activities:**
- Color the action word LEARNING.
 - Color the priest's chasuble with the same color you used on page 8.