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This book is called
the Lectionary.

When you go to Mass, also called the celebration of the Lord's Supper, or the celebration of the Eucharist, you look, you listen, you sing, and you make gestures. You watch what the priest does as he leads the people in prayer. But it is *all of us together* who celebrate the Eucharist. The two main parts of the Mass are the **Liturgy of the Word** and the **Liturgy of the Eucharist**.

The Parts of the Mass

The Gathering

- The people arrive, greet one another, and gather in response to God's call
- The priest enters with servers and other ministers and everyone sings
- The priest greets all of us gathered to share the Lord's Supper
- We then pray for forgiveness and we praise God

The Liturgy of the Word

- We listen to the Word of God
- The priest speaks to us to help us better understand the Word of God
- We profess our faith
- We pray for the whole world

The Liturgy of the Eucharist

- We give thanks to God
- We remember the words of Jesus
- We share the Bread of Life and the Cup of his Blood

The Farewell

- The priest blesses us and asks us to love and serve one another
- The priest and others leave in procession and everyone sings

Things We See at Mass

The next time you go to Mass, look for the things Father Joseph is showing Sasha, Olivia, and Paulo. All these things are used for the celebration of the Lord's Supper.

Father Joseph also told them about the other things on the altar. Here's what he said:

The altar is the table for the Lord's Supper, so it's a very special table. The candles are a sign that Jesus, our light, is with us.



The large prayer book on the altar is called the **Missal**. It contains all the Mass prayers. The second book used at Mass is called the **Lectionary**. (See the Lectionary on page 12.) The Lectionary contains all the readings from the Bible. The priest uses a small gold plate, called the **paten** (PAT-en), and a cup with a lid, called the **ciborium** (sah-BORE-ee-um), to hold the hosts or communion bread. The other cup, the **chalice** (CHAL-ess), holds the wine.

Father Joseph told the children not to worry if they couldn't remember these "church" names. "The important thing to know," he said, "is that they are used for a very special meal: the Lord's Supper."

We Share Greetings

Did You Know?

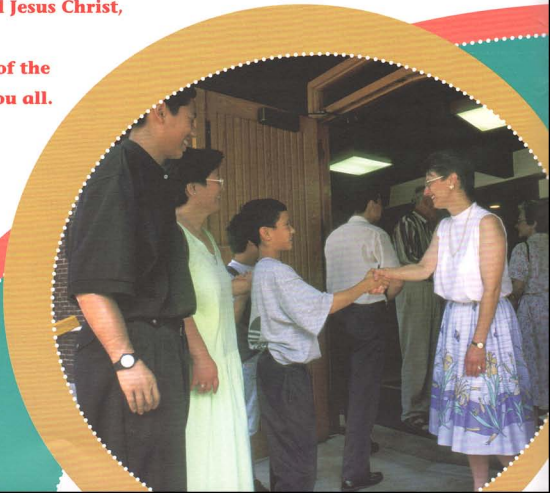
- ▶ You are invited to say the Mass prayers in a loud, clear voice.
- ▶ The Mass has been the special prayer of Christians for two thousand years.
- ▶ It is a custom in the Church for the priest to wear special garments called **vestments** at Mass.
- ▶ Several times during Mass the priest says, "The Lord be with you." What do you answer?
(Check your answer at the bottom of the page.)

When you enter the church, the priest or other greeters say hello to you to make you feel welcome. People greet one another as they gather. You should also greet those around you before Mass begins.

At the beginning of Mass, the priest greets everyone from the altar, saying:

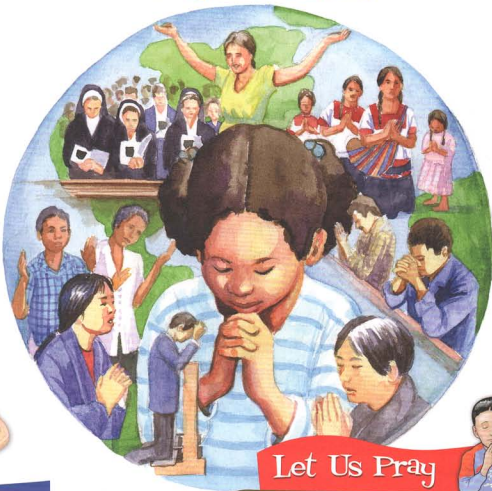
**The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the
Holy Spirit be with you all.**

Everyone answers:
And with your spirit.



We Are a Family

When we come to Mass, we join Catholics all over the world in worship. We sing, we make gestures, we stand and kneel. We pray the same prayers in many different languages. We ask God to take care of the poor and the suffering. We all gather in memory of Jesus. How lucky we are to be called to the Lord's Table!



The Church Teaches...

At Mass we share our faith in the real presence of Christ.

—adapted for children from CCC #1382

Let Us Pray



Praise God with shouts of joy, all people!
Sing to the glory of God's name.

—adapted from Psalm 42:4

We Ask Forgiveness



Once upon a time, there was a little prince who came from a faraway planet. One day he met a very wise fox in the desert. The fox explained to the little prince that before you meet a friend, you must “dress up your heart.”



This is just what you do at Mass before meeting the Lord. You quiet your heart and ask yourself, “Have I dressed up my heart by praying, doing good for others, and giving up my bad habits?”

The priest says: **Brothers and sisters, let us acknowledge our sins, that we may prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.**

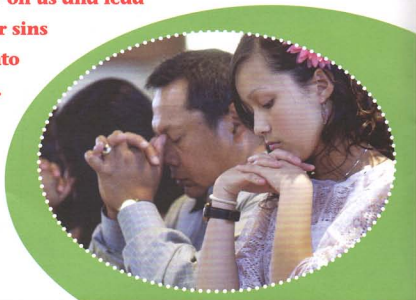
The people remain silent for a few moments and then praise God for the gift of forgiveness by chanting these words: **Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.**

In Greek, the words are *Kyrie Eleison* (keer-ee-AY a-LAY-ee-sahn) and *Christe Eleison* (kris-TAY a-LAY-ee-sahn).

Sometimes parishes use these words in the chant. When you say them you are speaking a little Greek!

Then the priest says: **May almighty God have mercy on us and lead us, with our sins forgiven, into eternal life.**

We answer: **Amen!**



We Sing Our Praise

After God gives us the gift of forgiveness, we proclaim the greatness of God by singing "Glory to God." This is what the angels sang when Jesus was born.

After this song of praise, the priest prays the Opening Prayer. He asks God to be with us and open our hearts. At the end of the prayer we again answer: **Amen!**

The first part of the Mass is now over.

Did You Know?

- ▶ During Mass we "dress up our hearts" because we are meeting Jesus, our best friend.
- ▶ At home, you can make a prayer corner, a space where you can pray. You can keep a Bible, a rosary, and special pictures in your prayer corner.
- ▶ Jesus is always with you, morning, noon, and night.

Read this prayer slowly and then fill the space with happy colours. Make a colourful frame to go around the prayer.

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.

Words

to Remember...

Liturgy ~ the "official" prayer of the Church that all Catholics share

Lectionary ~ the book that contains the readings for Mass

Have mercy ~ another way to say, "Please forgive me."

Amen ~ a word we say in prayer that means "Yes, I do believe it."



From the Liturgy

God, our loving Father, we are glad to give you thanks and praise because you love us. With Jesus we sing your praise.

—Eucharistic Prayer II
for Children

True or False?

1. At Mass we gather with other Catholics in our parish and all over the world. _____
2. The priest wears special garments called robes. _____
3. "Amen" means I do NOT believe. _____
4. To "dress up your heart" means to wear your best clothes. _____
5. The Mass begins with a special greeting. _____
6. At the beginning of Mass, we give praise and thanks for God's love and forgiveness. _____
7. The altar is the book the priest reads from at Mass. _____

Let Us Pray



Pray these words from the Mass often throughout the day:

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

