

Liturgy of the Word with Children
The Most Holy Body & Blood of Christ, Year C,
(Corpus Christi)
19 June, 2022
Luke 9:11-17

Catechist Background

The feast of the Body and Blood of Christ has some common themes with Holy Thursday's Institution of the Eucharist. It became a separate feast in the middle ages to highlight the doctrinal importance of the Eucharist. Today's gospel, the Feeding of the 5,000, is particularly significant as it is the only miracle story to appear in all four gospels. It foreshadows the Last Supper; some of the language describing the meals is the same.

Setting the Scene

The liturgical colour today is white.

It might be helpful to have some visual props of fish and bread to help create an atmosphere for the 'Response' section below. Paper cut-outs would work, or plastic models of fish and bread if you could find them.

We Say Sorry

Leader: You have given us your life, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: You are always with us, Christ have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: You share yourself with us in the Eucharist, Lord have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Gloria

We Pray (1)

Jesus, you gave us your whole self to help us to be holy. Help us to live our lives like you. Amen.

Gospel Intro

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel: Luke 9:11-17

Reflecting on the Reading with Children

- Count the number of children in the room. Ask if they could imagine what it would be like in a group of more than 5,000 people who came to see Jesus and listen to what he had to say. What would it have been like in such a large group?
- Why did the apostles want to send the people away? They were not being horrible, but they knew people would have to get something to eat, and they did not have enough food with them for so many people.
- Jesus asked the people to be seated in groups. We are all gathered to worship in a group today, and we have come apart in a smaller group for Children's Liturgy of the Word. When we rejoin the congregation, it will be time for the Liturgy of the Eucharist, when we celebrate the most important meal Jesus ever had with his friends—another meal in a group.

- Ask the children to think about any special meals that they have been at—perhaps for a birthday, or Christmas, or a wedding. How did they feel at that special meal? What would it have been like if that meal had been only had by one person? Point out how we need to come *together* to worship as Christians.

Response

With the 'fish' and the 'bread' among you, ask the children to imagine being at the feeding of the 5,000. If your group can sit in a circle on the floor, it might help add to the imagination. What do you think the weather was like that day? What might people have talked about? What do you think they did after eating?

Remind the children that when you return to the main body of the church, during the next part of Mass the bread and the wine will become the Body and Blood of Christ. Ask them to pay special attention to the prayer of the priest, particularly to when he describes the Last Supper.

Any children who have recently received their First Communion (or who will do so shortly) may be able to add to the discussion about the significance of the Eucharist.

We Believe

Relating to the creed what you have shared with the children, ask this series of questions and invite the children to reply, 'I do.'

- Do you believe in God, the Father, maker of the world and all that is in it?
- Do you believe in Jesus, who came to give us Himself?
- Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, who helps us to follow Jesus?

We Pray (2)

Again, try to relate the bidding prayers to the reading by saying, 'We know you are looking after the world today, just as you fed the crowds, and so we pray...'

Leader: We pray for people who preach your Good News, may they always be generous in giving to others. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for people in the world who are wealthy and powerful. May they use their power for good in the world. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for people who will not have enough food today. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: We pray for anybody in our parish who is lonely and will eat by themselves today. We especially pray for anybody who is too ill to come to Mass today. May they know that we care about them. Lord in your mercy,

All: Hear our prayer.

Leader: Lord, help us to trust that you will look after us and the whole world. We make all our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

