

Circle of the Holy Eucharist

This Godly Play presentation, another in the series of lessons developing themes in the Holy Eucharist, helps children pull together the sequence of liturgical actions and images from the Godly Play presentations they may have seen during their church's Sunday celebration. In the Godly Play room, the presentation first retells the story of the Synagogue and the Upper Room using cards to represent these two events. Additional cards are then placed in a circle around these two central cards, showing the major acts in the sequence of the Holy Eucharist. If necessary, your child's Godly Play teacher will have made adjustments to the cards to match the practice of your congregation. You can do the same as you retell today's lesson.

How to Use this Parent Page

With your child, begin by looking together at the illustration below and listening as your child recalls—and in a sense *relives*—the experience of today's Godly Play presentation. Invite your child to respond to the drawing. You might say, for example:

- I wonder what you can tell me about this picture?
- I wonder what this picture has to do with today's story?

Just listen. You are supporting the formation of young—sometimes very young—theologians. Then, if you wish, you can read with (or to) your child the condensed version of today's presentation offered below. Whether you read the presentation or simply listen as your child shares what was received in today's lesson, ask the Wondering questions printed in the left column. Conclude by sitting quietly for a moment and then saying "Amen."

The Presentation

The Holy Eucharist has two parts.

First there is the liturgy of the Word of God. (*Point to each part of the illustration as you retell the presentation.*)

The Word of God is when we read from the scriptures and hear the sermon.

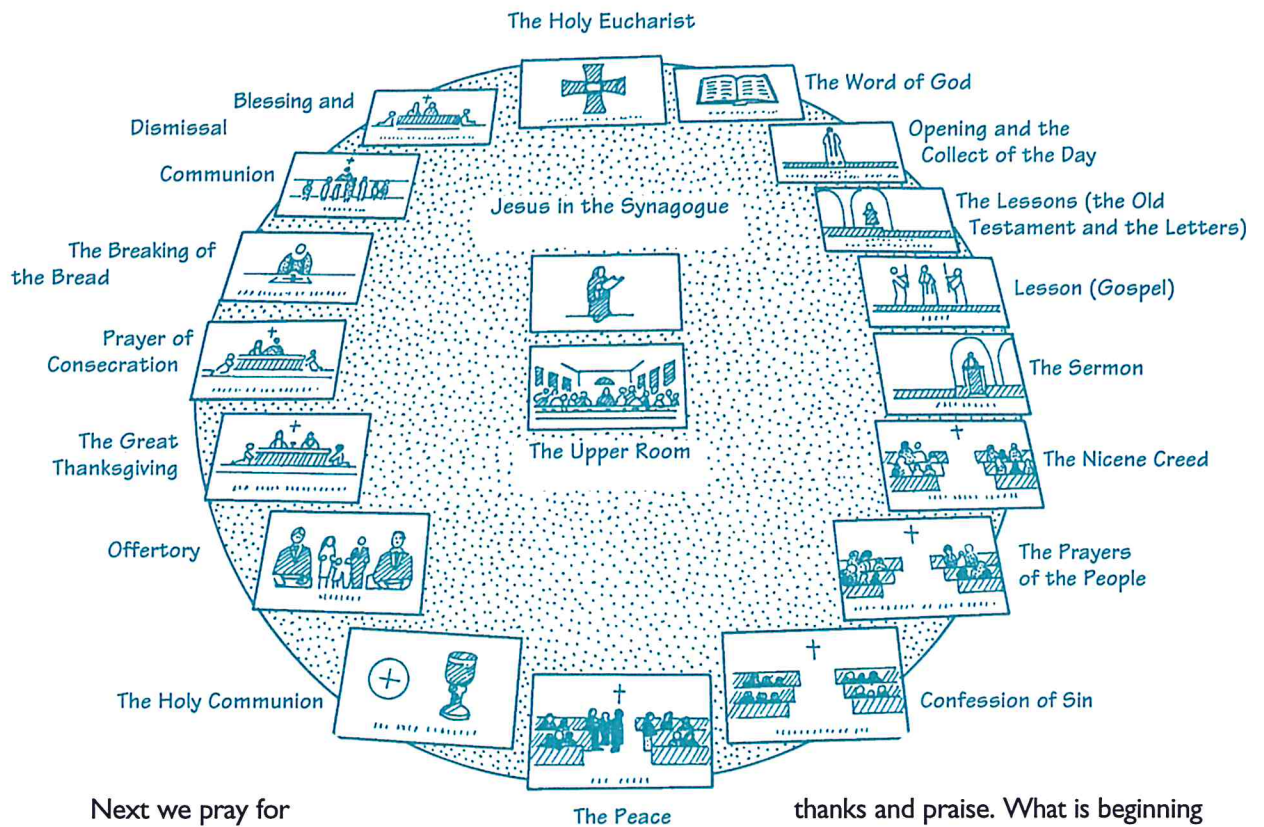
The second part is the Holy Communion.

When the Holy Eucharist begins, there is sometimes music and a procession. The priest says, "Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit." Prayers are said to help us get ready. One prayer changes each week. It is called a "collect."

Someone then reads from the Old Testament. Next we read or sing a psalm. Then someone reads from the New Testament. Then the most important reading happens, the Gospel.

After the reading of God's Word, someone says something about what was read.

Then we all say together what we believe—the Nicene Creed.



Next we pray for people and give thanks for all the wonderful things that happen in life.

The leader then says, "Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor." Sometimes even when good people try hard, they still make mistakes. We need to say we are sorry to people we have hurt and to God.

The priest tells us that we are forgiven.

Then people turn to each other and say, "The peace of the Lord be always with you." People say back, "And also with you."

thanks and praise. What is beginning to happen is a great mystery.

We remember the Last Supper of Jesus and the Twelve, and then gradually we are there and it is here.

The priest prays for the Holy Spirit to sanctify the bread and wine, to change them from their ordinary use to this special use. The priest also prays for us to be sanctified. We then say together the Lord's Prayer.

The celebrant holds the bread up so we can see it and breaks it. We thank Jesus for being with us, and the celebrant reminds us that the bread and wine are for us, gifts from God.

People come forward now to receive the holy bread and holy wine. Jesus is with us in the bread and wine and we are all together, all over the world, and with all who have lived and died in this huge family of families called the "Church."

Everything is put away, and we get ready to go out. The leader says something like, "Let us go forth in the name of Christ." And we always say, all together, "Thanks be to God!"

The Holy Eucharist is now ready to begin again.

Wondering

- **I wonder** what part of the Holy Eucharist you like best?
- **I wonder** what part is the most important part?
- **I wonder** if we could leave anything out and still have everything we need?

We now prepare for Holy Communion, which helps us go where words and thinking alone cannot take us.

People bring gifts of money and other things to the altar. They bring the gifts of bread and wine.

The gifts are received. The priest begins the Great Thanksgiving: "The Lord be with you." This is a time to lift up our hearts, to give