

Liturgy of the Word with Children
The Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, Year C,
(Corpus Christi)
22 June, 2025
Luke 9:11-17

Catechist Background

The feast of the Body and Blood of Christ (known in Latin as 'Corpus Christi', which means 'The Body of Christ') has some common themes with the 'Institution of the Eucharist' which we celebrate on Holy Thursday. 'Corpus Christi' became a separate feast in the Middle Ages to highlight the doctrinal importance of the Eucharist at a time when Christians were discussing (and sometimes disagreeing) about what takes place during Mass and what we mean by the 'Eucharist'.

Today's Gospel reading, the Feeding of the 5,000, is very significant as it is the only miracle story which appears in all four Gospels. It foreshadows the Last Supper (probably intentionally so by Luke), and some language used in this passage is also used in Luke's account of the Last Supper.

Setting the Scene

The liturgical colour today is white (and gold) as Corpus Christi is a feast associated with Jesus. It might help to have some visual props of fish and bread to create an atmosphere for the 'Response' section. Paper cut-outs would work or models of fish and bread if you have 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 Gospel Reading with Children

- Ask one of the children to count the number of children in the room.
- Ask if they can imagine what it would be like in a group of more than 5,000 people.
- Ask if any of them have been to a concert or sports event with that many people there.
 - If so, what was it like being in such a large group?
- Ask: what would have been like to be in that large group of people who came to see Jesus and listen to what he had to say?
- Ask: Why did the apostles want to send the people away?
 - They were not being horrible, but they knew people would need something to eat, and they did not have enough food with them for so many people.
- Jesus asked the people to sit down in groups.
 - We are all like those people today – we are gathered in a group to listen to Jesus today, and we have come apart in a smaller group for Children's Liturgy of the Word.

- When we re-join the congregation, it will be time for the Liturgy of the Eucharist, when we celebrate the most important meal Jesus had with his friends: another group meal.
- 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 only one person had been at that meal?
 - Point out how we need to come *together* to worship as Christians.

Response

- Using the 'fish' and the 'bread', ask the children to imagine being at the feeding of the 5,000 (If possible, sit in a circle on the floor to aid 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?
- Tell the children that when they 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 when the priest 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 the Creed to what you have shared with the children, ask these questions and invite them to reply: 'I do.'

- Do you believe in God the Father, maker of the world and everything 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, relate the Prayer of the Faithful to the Gospel 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 be always 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 anyone in our parish who is lonely and will eat by themselves today. We also pray for anyone 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 our prayers through Christ our Lord.

All: **Amen.**