

Years A, B and C

Feast of Corpus Christi

The Body and Blood of Christ

INTRODUCTION

(For this feast, we will use the Gospel from Year B.)
 What would happen if we had no food or anything to drink? Together they keep us alive, and without their life giving nourishment we would die. Jesus is the bread of life who shares himself with us in a special way during the Mass.

SIGN OF THE CROSS

LIGHT THE CANDLES

Light the candles and say Candle Prayer 2.

SORRY

Sing Sorry Song 2.

GLORIA

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

To welcome today's Gospel sing Acclamation 5.

GOSPEL (MARK 14:22-24)

Jesus and his disciples had gathered to celebrate the Passover meal together. While they were eating, Jesus took some bread, gave thanks to his heavenly father, broke the bread, and gave a piece to each of his disciples, saying, "Take this and eat it, this is my body."

Then he took a cup of wine. Again he praised his father, and passed it to each of his disciples saying, "Take this and drink it, this is my blood, poured out for you. Do this in memory of me."

DISCUSSION

What joyful event were Jesus and the disciples celebrating at the Last Supper? Every year Jewish families and friends gathered together to share a meal which celebrated the Passover, when they remembered how God had freed them from slavery in Egypt.

At the Last Supper, Jesus shared a loaf of bread and a cup of wine with his friends. He changed the bread and wine into his own body and blood, to nourish them with its life-giving power. Just as our bodies need nourishment to live, so do our souls.

When we come to Mass, we come as one large family to celebrate something which happened for all of us: the resurrection of Jesus. We share a meal together just as Jesus did at the Last Supper.

What happens when we celebrate the Mass together? At our celebration of the eucharist, which means "thanksgiving," we remember the meal which Jesus shared with his friends the night before he died; and we share in his death and resurrection. We believe that, through the power of God, the bread and wine become the body and blood of Jesus, who gives himself to each of us in a very special way.

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life," and when we share in the eucharistic meal, we share life with the son of God himself.

ACTIVITY

Prepare a simple celebration meal with the children, to help them to imagine the Last Supper, and to understand its relevance to the Eucharistic meal at Mass. If possible, sit around a table with a tablecloth and re-enact the scene using pita bread and grape juice.

Or, simply give the children a copy of the picture on the opposite page to color.

CREED

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord Jesus, you are the living bread
 which comes to each one of us
 in a special way.

Help me to share the joy of your love
 with others I meet.

