



Primary Collective Worship Resources

God is the potter and we are the clay

Step 1: We gather

Begin this liturgy as you begin every session with a welcome. The children are welcomed and the leader tells them that today they will be learning about how Catholics believe that God shapes and forms them in their faith. God shapes them when they go to Mass, when they listen to God speaking to us in the Scriptures and when they pray regularly.

Invite the children to sing Daniel Iverson's: "Spirit of the Living God". It is easy enough to learn; it just repeats the same thing three times.

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Ask the children if they have ever watched a potter working at his/her wheel. A lump of wet clay seems to turn into a vase, a bowl, a cup or a plate – or something else – as if by magic. Of course, it isn't magic. It is the constant turning of the wheel and the skilled, experienced hands of the potter. As the wheel goes round and round, the potter shapes and moulds the clay. [If the children are not likely to have seen a potter, you might show them a clip of one working.]

Step 2: What the Bible says

Pause here to listen to Carey Landry's "Abba, Father" to greet the Scripture. The words are especially suitable for this liturgy:

Abba, Abba Father, you are the potter; we are the clay, the work of your hands.
Mould us, mould us and fashion us, into the image of Jesus your son, of Jesus your son.
Abba, Abba Father, you are the potter; we are the clay, the work of your hands.
Father, may be one in you, may we be one in you as he is in you, and you are in me.
Abba, Abba Father, you are the potter; we are the clay, the work of your hands.
Glory, glory and praise to you, glory and praise to you – forever Amen.
Abba, Abba Father, you are the potter; we are the clay, the work of your hands.

If you teach them the refrain, you can ask them to join in with it each time it comes up.

Holding the Holy Book, the reader reverently and clearly reads the Scripture to the whole group. We suggest using this simplified version of Isaiah 64:8:

But now, God, you are our Father;
we are clay, and you are the potter;
we are all made by you.

The reader says, "The Word of the Lord". The response is "Thanks be to God".

Tell the children a little bit about the passage they have just heard. Isaiah was a prophet who lived in Jerusalem from around 750-700 BC, about 2,750 years ago. In this verse, he compares God with a potter. Just as pots, cups and plates are made by a potter, Isaiah says that people are made by God.

Explain Isaiah's idea that people are like the potter's clay and God is like a potter always active in our lives, shaping us into his people. The Mass is one place where God is active in people's lives, shaping and forming people into the Church. At Mass, people hear the stories of how God loves us, and we reply by praying and singing. If we are old enough, Jesus comes to us in a special way in Holy Communion. Catholics believe that God forms them like a special piece of pottery so that they can be filled with his love.



The leader can now invite everyone to join in the prayer that Jesus taught:

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us
and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Bring this part of the liturgy to a close with the same hymn we began with:
“Spirit of the Living God”

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me.

Step 3: Our life experience

Give the children some modelling clay so that they can make something with it. They will not be using a potter’s wheel; but this will nevertheless give them the sense of how something can be moulded out of a lump of clay.

Step 4: How God’s word affects our lives

The children might like to share with two or three children around them how they think God can mould people and fill them with his love. Ask them to think about how their parents are moulding them in their love too, and how they are doing that by giving them good examples they can follow.

Ask the children to share what kinds of things their parents do to mould them. How do parents teach their children to love others and how other people show their love to them.

Ask them to think about this some more as they go about their daily life. Perhaps they can bring the things they made from the clay home and tell their parents about what they did in this liturgy and what it meant to them. They might also thank God for the gift of his love.



Liturgy Sheet: God is the potter

Opening Hymn

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me,
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Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.
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Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.
Fall afresh on me.

One or more children present what they have made from clay, and we sing

Abba, Abba Father, you are the potter;
we are the clay, the work of your hands.
Mould us, mould us and fashion us,
into the image of Jesus your son,
of Jesus your son.
Abba, Abba Father, you are the potter;
we are the clay, the work of your hands.
Father, may be one in you,
may we be one in you as he is in you,
and you are in me.
Abba, Abba Father, you are the potter;
we are the clay, the work of your hands.
Glory, glory and praise to you,
glory and praise to you – forever Amen
Abba, Abba Father, you are the potter;
we are the clay, the work of your hands.

Listen to God speaking in Isaiah 64:8:

“O house of Israel, can I not do with you
as this potter has done? says the LORD.
Behold, like the clay in the potter’s hand,
so are you in my hand, O house of Israel.”

The Word of the Lord. R/Thanks be to God.

The leader explains that God is like a potter
and we are like the potter’s clay.
God is always active in our lives, shaping
us into his people.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.
Thy kingdom come,
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those
who trespass against us
and lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Closing hymn

Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.
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Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me,
Spirit of the living God, fall afresh on me
Melt me, mould me, fill me, use me.
Fall afresh on me.

