



Primary Collective Worship Resources

The Mass 2: the bread and wine

Step 1: We gather

Gather the children and begin your session by saying that we are going to learn more about the Mass. In this second session, we will focus on how the bread and wine are offered to God, who transforms them into Jesus during the Mass.

Bread is so ordinary that families all over the world have some form of it on their tables every day. Show the children some different types of bread, from a baked loaf, to a sliced one, from pitta bread to naan and various types of wrap and tacos. Include a communion host and explain to the children what it is.

Consider the possibility of making some bread as part of your activity. You will need aprons, a glass bowl, flour, water, yeast, salt, oil, a spoon and wet towel for a simple recipe for bread. If this is not possible, have a loaf of fresh bread available, together with these ingredients to show the children:

- a piece of wheat, telling the children that the grain of wheat falls to the earth and it grows if it has soil, sun and water given to it
- some flour, which comes from the crushed wheat
- some water, since water is essential to everything
- some yeast, which will help the bread rise
- a little oil, to keep the bread moist
- some salt, which adds taste to the bread

Show the children how this mixture will have to be kneaded, then covered to let it rise before it can be baked.

We share meals and we break bread – in our communities with friends and family. Jesus broke bread with his friends and we read stories about him doing that in the Bible.

Step 2: What the Bible says

Now, move to the Sacred Place for the Scripture reading. Invite the children, if they want to participate, to copy you as you trace the sign of the cross on yourself with your thumb and pray:

God be in my mind (sign the forehead)
God be on my lips (sign the lips)
And God be in my heart (sign the chest).

Explain to the children that Christians believe that God speaks to humans through the words of the Bible. Read this simplified version of the Gospel of Matthew 26:26—29:

While they were eating, Jesus took a piece of bread. He said thank you to God, broke it into pieces and gave it to his disciples. He said, ‘take it and eat it. It is my body.’
Then he took a cup of wine, said thank you to God, and gave it to them. He said, ‘All of you drink some of it. It is my blood, which proves God’s promise to you for the forgiveness of sins.’

The leader says, “The Gospel of the Lord”. The response is “Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ”.

After putting the Holy Book back in its Special Place, tell the children a little about the passage they have just heard. The last meal that Jesus had with the disciples, his closest friends and followers, is known as the Last Supper. While they were gathered together, Jesus gave bread and wine to the disciples, which they shared between them. Jesus told them to gather together to share bread and wine in the future, and to remember him every time they did.



Step 3: Our life experience

As you move to the Sacred Place, remind them that the focal point is as they left it after the first session on the Mass with its white cloth, flowers and candles. In this session, the children will continue to “set” the table for the Mass. Play the Michael Joncas song, “We come to your feast” and ask the children to listen carefully to the words

We place upon your table a humble loaf of bread:
the gift of field and hillside, the grain by which we’re fed;
we come to taste the presence of him on whom we feed,
to strengthen and connect us, to challenge and correct us;
to love him word and deed.

Invite the children to join in with the refrain:

We come to your feast, we come to your feast:
the young and the old, the frightened, the bold,
the greatest and the least.
We come to your feast, we come to your feast
with the fruits of our lands and the work of our hands
we come to your feast.

Pause now to ask the children if they have noticed how the gifts of bread and wine are brought forward to the priest, and then placed upon the altar in the Offertory Procession at Mass. Invite one of the children to place the loaf of bread or a dish with hosts in it on the table.

Listen now to the second verse:

We place upon your table a simple cup of wine:
The fruit of human labour, the gift of sun and vine;
we come to taste the presence of him we claim as Lord,
his dying and his living, his leading and his giving,
his love in cup outpoured.

Again, invite the children to join in with the refrain:

We come to your feast, we come to your feast:
the young and the old, the frightened, the bold,
the greatest and the least.
We come to your feast, we come to your feast
with the fruits of our lands and the work of our hands
we come to your feast.

Now invite one of the children to place the chalice of wine (or grape juice) on the table.

Explain to them that Christians believe that Jesus is here with them right now at this present time, and every time when they gather together. These preparation prayers that are said in the Mass are very like the prayers Jesus prayed to God:

Blest are you, Lord, God of all creation,
thanks to your goodness this bread we offer:
fruit of the earth, work of our hands,
it will become the bread of life.

The response is: Blessed be God!

Blest are you, Lord, God of all creation,
thanks to your goodness this wine we offer:
fruit of the earth, work of our hands,
it will become the cup of life.

The response is: Blessed be God!

You might finish with the refrain of “We come to your feast”.



Step 4: How God's word affects our lives

Discuss with the children what it was like to bring the bread and wine and place it on the altar. You might ask them if they realised before today that this is what is done during the Mass. And that the hosts are actually bread, or that we offer the bread and wine that we have made with our human hands to God, who transforms them into the body and blood of Jesus.



Liturgy Sheet: The Mass 2

Hymn

We place upon your table a humble loaf of bread:
the gift of field and hillside, the grain by which we're fed;
we come to taste the presence of him on whom we feed,
to strengthen and connect us, to challenge and correct us;
to love him word and deed.

The children join in with the refrain:

We come to your feast, we come to your feast:
the young and the old, the frightened, the bold,
the greatest and the least.
We come to your feast, we come to your feast
with the fruits of our lands and the work of our hands
we come to your feast.



Listen now to the second verse:

We place upon your table a simple cup of wine:
The fruit of human labour, the gift of sun and vine;
we come to taste the presence of him we claim as Lord,
his dying and his living, his leading and his giving,
his love in cup outpoured.

Again, the children to join in with the refrain:

We come to your feast, we come to your feast:
the young and the old, the frightened, the bold,
the greatest and the least.
We come to your feast, we come to your feast
with the fruits of our lands and the work of our hands
we come to your feast.

Now invite one of the children to place the chalice of wine (or grape juice) on the table.

Preparation prayers

Blest are you, Lord, God of all creation,
thanks to your goodness this bread we offer:
fruit of the earth, work of our hands,
it will become the bread of life.

And we reply: Blessed be God!

Blest are you, Lord, God of all creation,
thanks to your goodness this wine we offer:
fruit of the earth, work of our hands,
it will become the cup of life.

And, again, we reply: Blessed be God!

You might finish with the refrain of "We come to your feast".