



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

700 King Street West, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8P 1C7

CHILDREN'S LITURGY OF THE WORD



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Overview

The Solemnity of Corpus Christi ¹ centres on the Church's living encounter with Jesus Christ truly present in the Eucharist—an encounter expressed through adoration, thanksgiving, remembrance, and mission.

For children, Corpus Christi is a feast about Jesus who stays with us—so we thank Jesus, adore Jesus, remember Jesus, and love Jesus back.

CLoW is always about helping children enjoy and encounter Jesus. There is no greater way than helping them understand His Real Presence in the Eucharist. Leaders may want to simply say: Jesus comes to meet us, and we meet Jesus in Holy Communion.

Corpus Christi shows us the Paschal Mystery, ² which is about Jesus' death and resurrection. It's important to reinforce with children that Jesus loves them, and they can love Jesus back. This helps them see the Eucharist as a special gift from Jesus, something personal that He gave for them, not just an event that happened long ago or something that will happen in the future. It happens at every Mass.

On Corpus Christi, we particularly remember that God's love is made present, strengthening us on our journey, particularly in the Mass when the priest says: "Do this in memory of me."

Jesus welcomes children, and the Church teaches that children have a real place in the life of faith: "Let the children come to me!" ³ Prayer is an essential part of connecting with God every day. It's helpful to encourage children to pray daily and to know that their prayers are powerful and meaningful. Simple and heartfelt prayers can serve as a great example for adults, too.

Corpus Christi can also help children develop a kind and trusting heart focused on Jesus. When their hearts are filled with love, they feel closer to Jesus. This connects well to the Eucharist, where showing love leads to adoration.

¹ The Church celebrates Corpus Christi on the second Sunday after Pentecost in Canada. It is a high-liturgical celebration of the Real Presence of the Body and Blood of Christ in the Eucharist.

² The central mystery of Christian faith: Christ's passion, death, and resurrection, through which humanity is redeemed.

³ Mark 10:14

Corpus Christi helps children know that Jesus is present. Jesus gives Himself; we, in turn, give back thanks, we adore, we remember, we receive, and we pray with trusting love to Jesus, the Son of God.

Catechesis Corner

The Mass and Ritual Components

- † What specific items does the priest prepare on the altar for Mass?
 - *The priest or deacon prepares the altar with a clean white cloth, candles, a crucifix (before Mass), a corporal, a paten with bread, and a chalice with wine, then pours water into the wine to symbolize Jesus and the world united.*
- † What is the precise moment when bread and wine become Jesus's body and blood?
 - *The priest repeats Jesus's exact words from the Last Supper while praying for the Holy Spirit to come down upon the gifts, and by the power of the Holy Spirit, the bread and wine transform into the Body and Blood of Jesus.*

Participation and Meaning

- † How can children who cannot yet receive Eucharist participate meaningfully in Mass?
 - *Children can participate by closely watching the altar, observing the priest's gestures, listening to the words of Jesus, and saying thank you to Jesus for wanting to be close to them in this holy meal.*
- † What do "Corpus Christi" and "Eucharist" literally mean?
 - *"Corpus Christi" is Latin for "the body of Christ", while "Eucharist" means "thanksgiving."*

Key Messages for Children

- † Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist.
- † The Eucharist is Jesus' gift of love: He gives Himself so we can always be with Him.
- † Jesus lives in your heart when you receive Communion and become more like Him.
- † Jesus loves children and invites them close to Him: "Let the children come to me!" ⁴

Key Messages for Leaders

- † Jesus is really present in the Eucharist.
- † The whole purpose is worship.
- † Jesus loves children and draws them close.
- † The Eucharist is personal friendship: Jesus wants to "remain" with you.
- † Children's prayer has real power.

Leader's Personal Reflection Questions

- How do I live out my discipleship?
- Do I truly care for myself in order to care for others?
- What does Jesus ask of me right now?

Leader Takeaway

Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist—so we adore Him, receive Him, and let His love strengthen us.

⁴ ibid

Background

Deuteronomy 8 remembers Israel's forty years when God led the people, tested them, and fed them with manna,⁵ teaching that life depends on God's word, not on bread alone. Then, Moses warned: "Don't forget the Lord who humbled them and fed them, to humble you and to do you good."⁶ Corpus Christi answers that lesson: the Church shows Jesus' Body and Blood and invites public adoration and thanksgiving. In the Eucharist, God remains with us, gives us "living bread," and strengthens gratitude, humility, and fidelity to his commandments so we live from him and return thanks daily.

Psalms 147 praises God who strengthens Jerusalem and "fills you with the finest of wheat."⁷ On Corpus Christi, the Church proclaims Christ's Real Presence: in the Eucharist, the Bread of angels—Jesus—remains for adoration, nourishment, and thanksgiving.⁸

1 Cor 10:16-17 teaches that when the Priest consecrates the bread and wine, and we receive the Eucharistic species, we participate in Christ's body and blood, and become "one body" because there is "one bread." On Corpus Christi, the Church publicly shows the Real Presence, forming the Church as Christ's Body through communion.⁹

John 6:51-59 Jesus refers to himself as "the living bread" from heaven, promising eternal life to those who partake in it. He stresses the necessity of "eating the flesh" and "drinking his blood" to truly live, as his flesh and blood represent "true food" and "true drink." This Communion symbolizes the unity between Christ and believers, which is why the Church celebrates Corpus Christi. During this feast, the Church invites everyone to honour the Body of Christ. Pope John Paul II highlights that in the Blessed Sacrament, Christ offers himself as "Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity," serving as a "living memorial" of his saving sacrifice.

⁵ The bread God provided the Israelites during the exodus.

⁶ Deuteronomy 8:3.

⁷ Psalm 147:1-2.

⁸ St. John Paul II, Solemnity of Corpus Christi, June 14, 2001.

⁹ Pope Benedict XVI, Solemnity of Corpus Christi, June 23, 2011.

The Liturgy

Procession from the main Church

After the opening prayer, when all are seated, the leaders come forward and stand facing the altar.

Dear children, today, we celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, also known as Corpus Christ. Go with your leaders and listen to God's messages to you.

Once most of the children have formed a procession, the leader with the book proceeds to the celebration site. The second leader usually walks behind the children. Upon arrival at the CLoW room, the leader places the book on the prepared table.

Welcome

The leaders assist the children in sitting and preparing. **Begin with the Sign of the Cross.** Help the children think and connect their actions as they touch their foreheads, shoulders, and stomachs. The leader may offer the following prayer, in these or similar words.

Let's quiet our hearts and make the Sign of the Cross.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

**Lord Jesus Christ,
you gave us the Eucharist
as the memorial of your suffering and death.
May our worship of this sacrament of your body and blood
help us to experience your love for us
and the peace of the kingdom
where you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
God, forever and ever.
— Amen.**

Invite the children to listen to the readings. Proclaiming all the readings is unnecessary; however, the Gospel must be proclaimed.

READINGS

First Reading

Deuteronomy 8:2-8:3, 8:14b-8:16a

A reading from the Book of Deuteronomy

Moses spoke to the people:

Remember the long way that the Lord your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, in order to humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commandments.

He humbled you by letting you hunger, then by feeding you with manna, with which neither you nor your ancestors were acquainted, in order to make you understand that one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

Do not exalt yourself, forgetting the Lord your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, who led you through the great and terrible wilderness, an arid wasteland with poisonous snakes and scorpions.

He made water flow for you from flint rock, and fed you in the wilderness with manna that your ancestors did not know, to humble you and to test you, and in the end to do you good.

The word of the Lord

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20

R. Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

Praise the Lord , O Jerusalem!

Praise your God, O Zion!

For he strengthens the bars of your gates;
he blesses your children within you. **R.**

He grants peace within your borders;
he fills you with the finest of wheat.
He sends out his command to the earth;
his word runs swiftly. **R.**

He declares his word to Jacob,
his statutes and ordinances to Israel.
He has not dealt thus with any other nation;
they do not know his ordinances. **R.**

Second Reading

1 Corinthians 10:16-10:17

A reading from the first Letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians.

Brothers and sisters:

The cup of blessing that we bless, is it not a sharing in the blood of Christ? The bread that we break, is it not a sharing in the body of Christ?

Because there is one bread, we who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread.

The word of the Lord.

A period of silence is observed after the reading.

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John.

Jesus said to the people:

I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh."

The people then disputed among themselves, saying, "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?"

So Jesus said to them, "Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you.

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink.

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in them.

Just as the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats me will live because of me.

This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever."

Jesus said these things while he was teaching in the synagogue in Capernaum.

The Gospel of the Lord.

REIMAGINED READINGS FOR CHILDREN

The reimagined readings below are intended for use after the children have heard the original reading. The intent is to allow the children to listen to the original reading and help them better understand it (not replace it).

Read at a minimum, the Gospel, which has the highest priority, and then ask the children to sit down. You can then read the reimagined reading. Leaders may not have time to read all of the reading. If time permits, after the Gospel, proclaim the Psalm, and then the first reading, if time permits.

Reimagined readers must always remain faithful to the original Scripture's intent, making it age-appropriate for children to understand.

First Reading

Deuteronomy 8:2-8:3, 8:14b-8:16a

Moses told the people:

Remember the long journey you had with the Lord—forty whole years in the desert. God was asking you something important: would you obey Him, even when life felt difficult?

Sometimes you were hungry. But God didn't leave you hungry. He fed you with special food called manna—food you had never seen before. And God wanted you to learn that we don't live by bread alone. We also live by every word God says.

God also wanted us not to forget Him. He is the one who rescued you when you needed help—and led you through a scary, dry place, full of dangerous animals.

Even when there was no water, God made water come out of a rock. And He kept giving you what you needed, including manna, so you would learn to trust Him.

God did all of this to help you and do you good.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 147:12-13, 14-15, 19-20

R. Praise God.

Let us praise God.

He keeps us strong. **R.**

God gives peace.

He fills us with good things to eat. **R.**

God speaks—His word goes out quickly.

It travels all over the earth. **R.**

Children, here's what Jesus is teaching us:

When we bless the cup and drink from it, it is more than a drink—it means we are sharing in the blood of Christ. And when we break the bread and eat it, it means we are sharing in the body of Christ.

That's why this is such a special moment: one bread becomes a sign that we are one family. Even though many people come to Mass, we all receive the same Jesus, so we become one body together.

Think of it like this: when a whole team eats together from the same pizza, they become a "one team." Not because the pizza makes them friends, but because they're sharing the same food in the same moment. In Holy Communion, it's even greater—because we're being joined to Jesus, and also to each other, as part of His Church.

Jesus says,

"I am living bread that comes from heaven. When you receive Me in Holy Communion, you don't just get full for today—you are given life that lasts forever. And on the last day, Jesus will raise you up."

Jesus also explains how close this is: "If you eat My flesh and drink My blood, you belong to Me, and I belong to you. You're not eating just any food—you're receiving Jesus."

Then Jesus says, "This is different from the food your ancestors ate. They ate it, and they still died. But Jesus gives a bread that helps you live forever."

And this isn't ordinary bread anymore: after God blesses it for the Eucharist, it is no longer "just" normal bread. It truly becomes Communion, and it gives us hope of resurrection—because Jesus is really present with us.

Reflection

The leader may offer this reflection in these or similar words. Remember the amount of time available to return to the main assembly. The leader may wish to reduce the number of questions. An excellent place to begin is the question:

NB: NOT ALL CHILDREN HAVE RECEIVED FIRST COMMUNION. PLEASE BE SENSITIVE TO THOSE WHO HAVE NOT AND THOSE WHO HAVE, AS THE CHILDREN WILL HAVE DIFFERENT EXPERIENCES.

What did you hear?

Today we celebrate the Corpus Christi, also known as the Feast of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Jesus. In today's readings, God teaches children something important: when life feels hard, God still cares, and when we come to Jesus, He gives us real life.

In the first reading, Moses tells the people: "Remember the long way that the Lord your God has led you." That means: don't forget how God helped you in the past.

Moses says God led them for forty years in the wilderness—and it wasn't just to make them suffer. God was helping them learn what they truly trusted.

When something is difficult (like waiting), do you trust God more, less, or forget Him?

Moses explains that when the people were hungry, God gave them food. God taught them that our bodies need food, but our hearts also need God.

What do you feel when you hear God—safe, peaceful, brave, or loved?

In the Gospel, Jesus continues the same theme: God feeds His people, but Jesus goes even further. Jesus says: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven." And He promises: "Whoever eats of this bread will live forever." Jesus wants people to understand: this isn't ordinary bread. It's Jesus giving Himself.

If bread strengthens you, what do you think "living bread" could do for your heart?

If Jesus gives "life forever," does that mean we're also thinking about life after death?

Some people in the Gospel were confused: "How can this man give us his flesh to eat?" Jesus answers very clearly: "unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink his blood, you have no life in you." Eternal life means Jesus gives you God's life that lasts forever. And Jesus will raise you up when He comes again.

General Questions:

To conclude, you may want to consider this simple "heart checklist" (or adapt it) with the children, or perhaps use the questions below in these or similar words.

Thank You, Jesus, for loving me. Children repeat

Help Me: When I'm scared or hungry inside, help me trust You. Children repeat

Stay With Me: Jesus, stay close to me. Children repeat

What are some foods that help your body grow strong?

What do we do first at Mass before receiving Communion?

What are some ways Jesus showed love to people?

How can you show kindness to your friends, family or classmates this week?

Alternative Reflection

Many children participating in Children's Liturgy of the Word have not received their First Communion and may not be adequately prepared to understand Holy Communion. Below is an alternate reflection for your consideration.

Today, the Church celebrates a very special feast called Corpus Christi, which means "The Body of Christ." We remember that Jesus gives us the greatest gift of all—Himself in the Eucharist.

In the first reading, Moses spoke to God's people. He reminded them of the long journey they had taken through the desert. Sometimes the people were hungry and tired. But God never forgot them. God gave them a special food called manna to eat. This food appeared each day and helped them stay strong. Moses told the people that God was teaching them to trust Him and remember that God always cares for His children.

Where were God's people travelling? Through the desert.

How do you think they felt when they were hungry? Allow answers.

Did God forget them? No.

What special food did God give them? Manna.

Who helps take care of us every day? God.

In the Gospel, we heard that one day Jesus was teaching the people. He said something very important: "I am the living bread that came down from heaven."

What do we usually use bread for? Allow answers.

Bread helps feed our bodies. Jesus explained that He gives us something even more important. He gives us Himself. Jesus said that whoever receives Him will have life with Him forever. He wanted everyone to know that He would stay close to His friends through the gift of the Eucharist. After our First Communion, every time we come to Mass, Jesus invites us to His table. He feeds us with His love and helps us become more like Him.

So, let's recap:

What food did God give the people in the desert? Manna.

Who is the Bread from Heaven? *Jesus.*

Exactly! The manna helped people for one day. But Jesus gives us something even greater—His own life and love. When we receive Jesus in the Eucharist, He helps us grow in kindness, love, and faith.

Have you ever shared your snack with someone? *Allow answers.*

Have you ever helped someone who was sad? *Allow answers.*

Have you ever shown kindness to a brother, sister, or friend? *Allow answers.*

Every time we share, help, and love others, we are acting like Jesus. The Eucharist helps us become more loving and caring.

Following the reflection, the prayer leader invites everyone to stand to profess their faith. Recite the Creed or use the sample below to ask the children to respond.

The Creed

Depending on the time, a simple profession of faith may be made (see below).

Leader: Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, who gave his life for us?

All: I believe.

Leader: Do you believe in the Holy Spirit who lives in our hearts and gives us everlasting life?

All: I believe.

Leader: This is our faith. This is the faith of the Church. We are proud to profess it.

Prayer of the Faithful

Leaders may begin the intercessions by announcing the needs they know. The leader may need to repeat and paraphrase the petition, concluding it with the cue for the response: 'We pray.' All respond to each petition by saying, "Lord, hear our prayer." Sample intercessions are below.

The intercessions are said. The Leader introduces them, and an assistant announces them.

The leader says:

Father, thank You for leading us on a "long way" and for feeding us with what we truly need. Help us listen to Your words and come to Jesus, the living bread.

Assistant:

For God's Church: that we may remember the Lord and follow His commandments with grateful hearts. We pray to the Lord. R:

Assistant:

For children and families: when life feels difficult or confusing, may we trust that God is with us and will help us. We pray to the Lord. R:

Assistant:

For people who feel hungry inside—lonely, worried, or upset: may God feed their hearts with His word and His love. We pray to the Lord. R:

Assistant:

For those who forget God when things are going well: help us stay humble, bless You for every good gift, and not forget You. We pray to the Lord. R:

Assistant:

For all who come to Mass and receive Communion: may Jesus, our true food and true drink, help us abide in Him and He in us. We pray to the Lord. R:

The Leader says:

Lord our God, You feed us with Your word, and You give us Jesus, the living bread. Keep us close to You today, now and always. Amen.

Return to the church

Ask the children to return to the main assembly. Ask them to return quietly and reflect on what they have heard and what they are now doing. Be mindful of children who may have difficulty finding their families.



DIOCESE OF HAMILTON

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Readings: Lectionary Sundays and Solemnities,
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Bulletin: TheKidsBulletin.com – **Goodwill donation suggested**
John 6:51-58 - handout provided by thewordthisweek.net

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

Jn 6:51-58

1. What does Jesus call the bread from heaven?

- A. A magic stone.
- B. The life-giving bread.
- C. Just regular food.



5. How does Jesus describe his flesh?

- A. As the true food.
- B. As tough and old.
- C. As very sweet.



2. Who did Jesus say eats the bread and will live forever?

- A. Everyone who has nice clothes.
- B. Only smart people.
- C. Everyone who eats it.



6. What happens if someone eats Jesus' flesh and drinks his blood?

- A. They become a superhero.
- B. They are one with Jesus.
- C. They get tummy aches.



3. According to Jesus, what must people eat to have life?

- A. Veggies and fruit.
- B. The flesh of the Son of Man.
- C. Lots of candy.

7. Who sent Jesus and is the reason he has life?

- A. The angels in the sky.
- B. The living Father.
- C. His friends.



4. When does Jesus promise to raise people to life?

- A. On their next birthday.
- B. On the last day.
- C. At breakfast time.



8. How is this bread from heaven different from the bread ancestor?

- A. It tasted like chocolate.
- B. Everyone who eats it will live forever.
- C. It was much bigger.



The Body and Blood of Christ

Today we celebrate the feast day of the Body and Blood of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. At the Last Supper, Jesus knew that He was going to leave His friends. So He turned the bread into His Body and the wine into His Blood - even though they still looked like bread and wine - and told the Apostles to do the same.

Jesus gave the Apostles, who were the first priests, the power to change bread and wine into His Body and Blood in the Mass. Now at every Mass Jesus comes to us on the altar, Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity!

Of course we can't see any change happen when the priest consecrates the bread and wine, but we know that God can do things without us understanding them. He loves us so much that He wants to come to us hidden in Holy Communion. Now it is up to us to love Him back with our whole hearts!



Answer to puzzle on front: Living Bread
Answers to match-up puzzle:
A-2, B-6, C-7, D-4, E-1, F-5, G-3.

The Kids' Bulletin

Feast of the Body and Blood of Christ



What did Jesus say
in today's Gospel
reading?

Put the letters in
order to fill in the
blanks at the bottom.

6 G

3 V 5 N 11 D

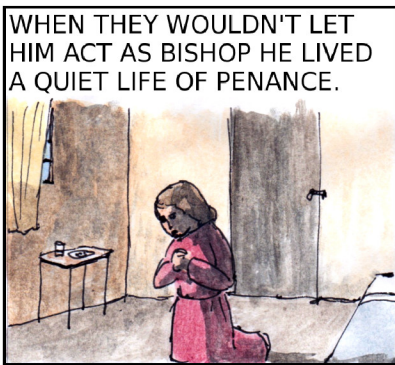
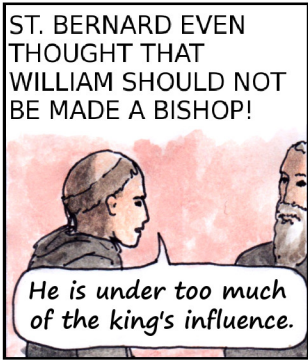
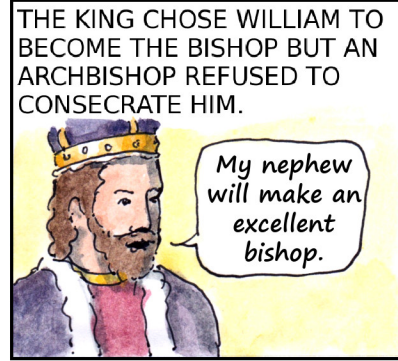
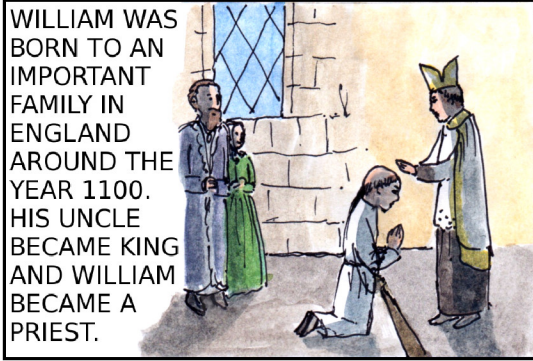
1 L 7 B 10 A

4 I 9 E 2 I 8 R

"I am the _____
which came down from Heaven."

Saint William of York

June 8



VERY SOON AFTER HIS DEATH MIRACLES STARTED HAPPENING AT THE TOMB OF ST. WILLIAM. WE CAN LEARN FROM HIS STORY THAT EVEN IF WE DON'T SEEM LIKE WE ARE SUCCESSFUL IN THIS LIFE WE CAN STILL BE HOLY AND PLEASE GOD. WE CAN ALSO LEARN NOT TO BE SPITEFUL TO THOSE THAT HURT US.

Gospel Match-up



How well do you know today's Gospel story?

See if you can match up the first parts with the second parts of what Jesus told the people.



I am the living bread

A

1 food indeed,

if any one eats of this bread,

B

2 which came down from heaven;

the bread which I shall give for the life of the world

C

3 abides in me, and I in him.

Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man and drink his blood,

D

4 you have no life in you

For my flesh is

E

5 is drink indeed.

and my blood

F

6 he will live for ever;

He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood

G

7 is my flesh.