

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

D3

YOU WILL NEED

- Basket, Bible, bookstand, candle
- Cloth underlay - colour of the season
- White felt cut into four quadrants
- Cards, printed and laminated:
 - Liturgy of the Word
 - First Reading
 - Responsorial Psalm
 - Second Reading
 - Gospel
 - Homily
 - Creed
 - Prayer of the Faithful
- 3D figures
 - 10 people
 - 1 Priest - white material to represent the Alb, with colour of the season to represent the chasuble and the stole

PREPARATION - Invite the children to enter the storytelling space, have them seated in a semicircle, ready to listen to the story. Ensure that all materials are prepared in a gold box and that a Bible is in close proximity, elevated off the floor on a book stand.

TELLING THE STORY - Story is a key part of our faith tradition. Young children, with their capacity for intuitive learning, are particularly able to find meaning through story.

Lay seasonal cloth down. Place the quadrants on top of the underlay to form a circle as in illustration above. Place the peg figures around the circle facing inwards to represent the community gathered. Trace your finger around the circle as you say:

At Mass we gather together as a community of believers. We listen and respond to Sacred Scripture, the Word of God. We celebrate and give thanks to God for his gift of Jesus. We are called to go out to the world and live a Christian life.

Point to each quadrant as you say:

We can look at the Mass as being made up of four parts: The Introductory Rites, the Liturgy of the Word, the Liturgy of the Eucharist, and the Concluding Rites.

Hold 'Introductory Rites' as you say:

The first part, called the Introductory Rites, gathers us together into the community that is the body of Christ.

Place 'Introductory Rites' in quadrant 1. Hold 'Liturgy of the Word' as you say:

The second part of the Mass is called the Liturgy of the Word.

Place 'Liturgy of the Word' in quadrant 2. Hold up the Bible as you say:

During the Liturgy of the Word we listen to the Scriptures, the Word of God.

Place the Bible beside you. Hold 'First Reading' as you say:

During the First Reading we listen to God's word, which is usually taken from one of the books of the Old Testament in the Bible.

Place 'First Reading' in quadrant 2 below 'Liturgy of the Word'. Show the Old Testament section to the class. Place the Bible beside you. Hold 'Responsorial Psalm' as you say:

The First Reading is followed by the Responsorial Psalm.

Place 'Responsorial Psalm' in quadrant 2 below 'First Reading'. Show the Book of Psalms in the Old Testament to the class as you say:

The Responsorial Psalm usually comes from the Book of Psalms, which is also in the Old Testament.

Place the Bible beside you. Hold 'Second Reading' as you say:

Sometimes there is a second reading.

Place 'Second Reading' in quadrant 2 below 'Responsorial Psalm'. Show the Acts of the Apostles and Letters in the New Testament as you say:

The Second Reading usually comes from the Acts of the Apostles or from one of the letters in the New Testament of the Bible.

Place the Bible beside you. Hold 'Gospel' as you say:

The priest then reads a story from one of the Gospels.

Place 'Gospel' in quadrant 2 below 'Second Reading'. Show the Gospels in the Bible to the class as you say:

The Gospels are the stories about what Jesus said and did when he was on earth. These stories are in the New Testament.

Place the Bible near quadrant 2. Hold 'Homily' as you say:

In the homily the priest helps us to understand God's word in the readings.

Place 'Homily' in quadrant 2 below 'Gospel'. Hold 'Creed' as you say:

We pray the Creed on Sundays and some feast days. In the Creed we say what we believe, as Catholics.

Place 'Creed' in quadrant 2 below 'Homily' card. Hold 'Prayer of the Faithful' as you say:

In the Prayer of the Faithful we pray for the Church, the world and its people.

Place 'Prayer of the Faithful' in quadrant 2 below 'Creed'. Point to 'Liturgy of the Word' as you say:

The second part of the Mass is called the Liturgy of the Word. During the Liturgy of the Word we listen to the Scriptures, the Word of God.

Point to the people, as you say:

In the celebration of the Mass, Jesus is present in the community gathered,

Point to the priest, as you say:

in the priest,

Point to the Bible, as you say:

and in the Word of God.

WONDERING - Following the story, “I wonder” statements engage children with the story and invite reflection. Wondering together teaches the art of dialogue, of listening to others, accepting and learning from others’ ideas and contributions.

Sit back, pause for a moment, look up at students, and then wonder about the story together.

I wonder...

- if you know anyone who reads at Mass
- what your favourite story is from the Old Testament
- what your favourite story is about Jesus
- what it means to say Jesus is present in the Word of God
- if you know any of the beliefs we proclaim in the Creed

Carefully pack the story materials back into your basket. Ensure that children are watching so they know how to pack the materials away should they choose to engage with the story during exploring.

EXPLORING - Provide an opportunity for individual/small group exploration in order to respond to the story. This provides students with time to focus on and explore the story or aspects of it, which have significance for them. For this reason, students choose from a variety of material and types of work. This is an opportunity for students to respond to what they have heard in whatever way they choose, it should be seen as an prayerful opportunity for dialogue between the student and God.

PRAYER - Conclude the session with prayer. Children come closer to God through the experience of prayer. Teachers help students to pray by praying with them, providing a variety of prayer experiences. These may include laying of hands over students' works, spontaneous prayer, prayer related to the Scripture, prayers found in KWL, informal or formal prayers, or a hymn.

Carefully pack story materials back into your basket. Ensure that children are watching so they know how to pack the materials away and where to find them.