

# In the Divine Liturgy We Receive

**Objective:** The students will be able to state that we offer ourselves in the Divine Liturgy, and we receive Jesus through the words of the Gospel and in Holy Communion.

## **For the Catechist**

The present lesson complements the previous lesson on the Divine Liturgy. We not only remember the events of our salvation; but through receiving the Eucharist, we share them in a sacramental way. We are called to share in Jesus' Supper. The priest calls out to the people: "Approach with the fear of God and with faith." This is the invitation to approach the Holy Table to receive the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ. The present lesson is the culmination of the past five lessons which began with lesson 11, "The Feeding of the 5,000." It is in Holy Communion that we find the Bread of Life.

Gifts tell us that we are special in the eyes of another. In this lesson the children are taught that the greatest kind of gift is the gift of one's self. The student learns in this lesson that we offer ourselves to God as servants and handmaids.

Holy Communion is the ultimate gift of self—the gift of Jesus' body and blood. As with any gift, we say "thank You." When we offer the Divine Liturgy, we are saying "thank You" to God. The word Eucharist comes from the Greek and means "thanks." We offer our sacrifice of thanksgiving to God. The way we personally say thank You to Jesus is to receive Him in Holy Communion.

We say "thank you" for things, and we say "thank you" to people. When children say "thank you," they are thinking of the other person. The students are encouraged to think of God's love and all that Jesus has done as they approach Holy Communion. In receiving Holy Communion, we accept God's gift of life and salvation. It is the greatest honor we can offer Him. We stand in a debt of gratitude for all that we are and have become. To God is due all thanks-giving.

## **Lesson Plan Overview**

**Opening:** "Let our Mouths be Filled"

**Introduction:** Discussion on importance of words, on receiving Jesus' words, and Eucharist. **Need:** slips of paper on which are written affirming phrases.

**Read Text Aloud:** Have students read text aloud.

### **Activity Tracks:**

Choose a basic, group, or craft activity to reinforce the lesson (detailed on the pages that follow).

- *Basic:* In the Divine Liturgy I Receive Jesus
- *Group:* Eucharist Means "Thank You"
- *Craft :* "Chalice and Gospel" Stencil

**Closing:** "Let Our Mouths be Filled"

## **Come Bless the Lord Icon Packets:**

Packet I: Christ the Teacher,  
Mystical Supper

Packet II:

## **Teaching Pic:**

- #DL8 Little Entrance
- #DL10 Gospel Reading
- #DL21 With Faith and Love Draw Near
- #DL22 Holy Communion

## ***Background Reading***

*(Direct quotations from the sources noted.)*

### **God Teaching Us**

"The second part of the Liturgy is taken up with the Word; it is the catechetical synaxis or liturgy of the word, the descendant of the Jewish synagogue service mentioned above. But again, what is happening: the Lord has brought us together; now He teaches us. We hear the word proclaimed in the New Testament readings and hear it explained in the homily. This is not simply Bible story time: tales of what God did in the past. Rather, it is the Lord teaching us now and showing us that in the past He did bring about salvation for all time. He showed Himself, worked signs, filled people with His love. And He does it now. He did it then, and He continues to do it with those who come to Him, in faith. He has brought us together and is now forming us into a people who know that He is with us" (*LW* 79).

### **The Four Gospels**

"Each Gospel has basic insights which are woven through the many incidents presented. Each applies certain shades or hues to the image of Christ found in them. Mark's purpose, echoing throughout his Gospel, is to demonstrate that Jesus was indeed the Christ (Messiah) who inaugurates the kingdom of God. Matthew's Gospel expands this presentation to show this Jesus as truly divine and truly human. Luke in his Gospel and his Acts of the Apostles shows the message of salvation as meant to go beyond the borders of Israel. He highlights the vast sweep of Christianity's universal mission ranging from humble beginnings in Jerusalem to a glorious fulfillment in Rome. In John's Gospel, a mystical approach constantly finds sacramental meaning in ordinary facts and events. John is imbued with the overwhelming realization that 'The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us,... and we have seen his glory' (Jn -1: 14)" (*LLI* 48-49).

### **Communion in the Holy Spirit**

"The goal and completion of the Divine Liturgy is Communion: unity between God and humanity and unity among the believers. We pray in the anaphora to join those partaking of the consecrated gifts to have "communion in the Holy Spirit." The Liturgy unites God and human beings cooperatively (in Greek, *synergy*). The divine part is the work of salvation accomplished in Christ's death and resurrection. The work of the Holy Spirit mysteriously makes our ritual action the manifestation of God's love for us. The anaphora addresses the Father, '[who] so loved Your world that You gave Your only-begotten Son, that everyone who believes in Him should not perish, but should have life everlasting' (citing Jn 3:16). Our part is the offering of the gifts: bread and wine from our hands, a sacrifice of praise from our lips, the remembrance of Christ with our minds, and our expression of love for God and one another from our hearts. We lift up our hearts; we remember; we offer. Yet God is the One who loves and "remembers," making the past events real today. He both 'offers and is offered' (Prayer of the Cherubikon). He sent His Son; He created the gifts of bread and wine; and He makes them His Son as the 'real, heavenly bread' (Jn 6:32)" (*LLII* 65).

### **By partaking we are a new people**

"By partaking of the Eucharistic mystery, we enter into this new covenant with God: not an external agreement between two parties, but a union which makes us truly a new people sanctified by His Word. In it we are truly united with God and able to join in the one sacrifice which is able to transform us and make us holy" (*LLII* 59).

# The Lesson Plan

## Opening

[Gather at the icon corner.] *Remember how we pray "To You, O Lord"? Let's pray with our hands outstretched and say the words "To You, O Lord."*

## Introduction

[Have phrases "Great job!" "You are so terrific!" "I love you" and others printed on slips of paper and folded. Pass them out to the students and instruct them not to open the papers until you say.] *Our last lesson taught us something about the Divine Liturgy. What is one thing we do in the Divine Liturgy? [Allow responses.] (We remember) What do we remember? (We remember all that God has done for us: especially the Incarnation, the Crucifixion, and the Resurrection.*

*In the past few years you have learned that when we worship, we offer ourselves. You learned how to pray with your hands outstretched and the words "To You, O Lord." With those words we offer ourselves and are ready to receive. Today we will learn what we receive in the Divine Liturgy. Any ideas? What do we receive in the Divine Liturgy? [Allow responses.] Let's discuss these.*

*We all know that we need food, water, and air to live. What if one day things changed? What if one day we had all those, but no one ever said anything nice to us? No one ever said . . . [Have each student read the slip of paper.] Can you imagine that—going day to day with air, food, and water, but no special words. Here is my question. Would you miss those words? Why? [Allow a few minutes and then responses.] Words can be very important. Words can feed our spirit. Good words, like those I mentioned, make your spirit feel good. Words that help you solve a problem make you feel better, too. Words that teach help you know what to do.*

*In the Divine Liturgy we receive the words of Jesus in the Gospel. They are very important to us. They tell us how to live as God wants. Can you imagine having food, water, and air but not knowing how to live as your Creator wants? [Allow responses if any.] Jesus' words are like light for our lives. The words of the Gospel are the first of the two important things we receive in the Divine Liturgy.*

*Let's think about the second thing we receive. It's a special food. What is it? (Holy Communion) Holy Communion is food, but it is small. It doesn't feed us and make us full, like food at our dinner table. It is truly food, but it feeds or nourishes our spirit. It keeps us united to God. Just like food becomes part of us, through Holy Communion we become one with God.*

*Do you remember how we learned in the last lesson to say "thank You" to God? Holy Communion has another name. It is a Greek word. Holy Communion is called Eucharist or "thanksgiving." We offer bread and wine to God in thanksgiving for all Jesus has done for us. Can you say Eucharist with me? "Eucharist." What does it mean? (Thanksgiving)*

*Let's see what's in our lesson.*

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## In the Divine Liturgy We Receive

In the Divine Liturgy we remember all Jesus has done for us. We are thankful. We are thankful that He brought us the kingdom of God. It is wonderful to be in the kingdom of God.

Sometimes, however, it is difficult to live in the kingdom. It can be difficult to remember all that Jesus wants us to do. Listen carefully to the Gospel and you will learn what Jesus taught. In the Divine Liturgy we receive Jesus through the words of the Gospel.

They teach us how much God loves us. They show us how to love God. They teach us how to live united to God. The words of the Gospel are very important. They are as important as food.



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Unit 5: The Kingdom in the Church

### Reading of Text

*As the children read aloud, help them interact with the text using the comments or questions below which are keyed to the text phrases (in bold type).*

**It is wonderful to be in the Kingdom of God.**

*When we come to worship, we remember all Jesus has done for our salvation. We are remembering about what Jesus has done? (The cross, tomb, resurrection)*

**In the Divine Liturgy we receive Jesus through the words of the Gospel.**

*How do you know when the Gospel is being read? (Priest holds or reads from large Gospel Book.) Whose words do we hear in the Gospel? (Jesus) We hear His words and learn about His life.*

**The Divine Liturgy is the mystical supper in which we participate.**

*In our last lesson we thought about remembering so that it's as if we were in the memory seeing it happen again. That's how we remember the Last Supper during the Divine Liturgy—as if we were there. When we celebrate Holy Communion, we say it is the "mystical supper."*

**We receive Holy Communion.**

*What is another word for banquet? (Meal)  
What food do we receive at the Divine Liturgy? (Holy Communion)*

**When we receive Holy Communion, we say "Yes" to Jesus.**

*This is an important sentence. When we receive Holy Communion we say "Yes" to Jesus. We learned that at our Baptism we said "Yes" to Jesus through our parents and godparents. We were too small to speak for ourselves. BUT now we have our chance. Each time we receive Holy Communion, WE are saying "Yes" to Jesus.*



We offer ourselves to God. We also offer the bread and wine. The priest offers the bread and wine to God for all of us.

The Divine Liturgy is the Mystical Supper in which we participate. Father says the words that Jesus said at the Last Supper. We remember all that He did for us.

Every Divine Liturgy is an invitation. We are invited to a banquet or meal. We receive Holy Communion.

Holy Communion nourishes our body and our spirit. We are united to God. When we receive Holy Communion, we say "Yes" to Jesus.

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**Eucharist means "thanksgiving."**

*What does Eucharist mean? (Thanksgiving)*

**We receive Jesus in Holy Communion.**

*What two things do we receive in return for our offering? (The words of Jesus and Holy Communion) When you receive Jesus through the words of the Gospel, it is so you can learn how to serve Him. When you receive Holy Communion, it is so you can be strengthened to serve Him better.*

*Let's review. We learned another word for Holy Communion today. Who can remember what it is? (Eucharist) What does it mean? (Thanksgiving) What do we offer in the Divine Liturgy? (We offer ourselves. We offer bread and wine.) What do we receive? (We receive Jesus through the words in the Gospel and in Holy Communion.)*



We offer and we receive. Our offering is a way of saying "thank you" to God. We are thankful for all Jesus has done for our salvation.

In fact, the Liturgy and Holy Communion have another name. They are called the "Eucharist." Eucharist means "thanksgiving."

In the Divine Liturgy we offer ourselves. We receive Jesus Christ. We receive Jesus in the words of the Gospel. We receive Jesus in Holy Communion.

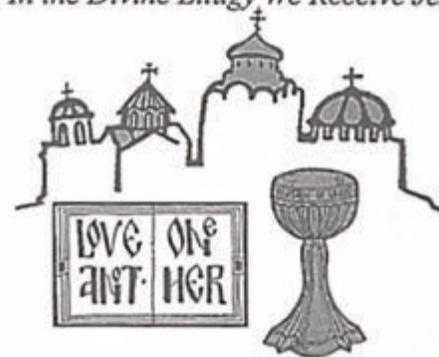
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**Activity Tracks**

**Basic:** In the Divine Liturgy I Receive Jesus

[Have the following words on the board or index cards: taste, hear, gold, listen, united, light, servant, Body, Blood, words, lessons, thanksgiving] *Let's look at the illustration. What do you see? (Church, Gospel, chalice) We learned today that we receive Jesus through the words of the Gospel and in Holy Communion. We've learned a lot about each. Here are some cards that have words that I think of when I think about the Holy Gospel and Holy Communion. [Have a child pick up a card to read the word.] Do you think about the Holy Gospel or Holy Communion when you see that word? [Repeat with all cards and then have them available for students to use.] Think about the Holy Gospel and Holy Communion. Fill in words that you think of when you think of them. You may look in the last lesson and this lesson if it will help you choose your words. [If you have time, have children share their work.]*

*In the Divine Liturgy We Receive Jesus*



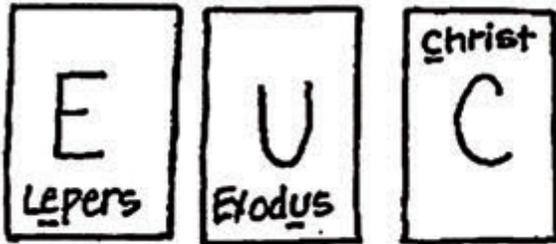
*What words do you think of when you think of the Holy Gospel or Holy Communion?*

<i>Holy Gospel</i>	<i>Holy Communion</i>
<i>book</i> _____	<i>chalice</i> _____
<i>gold</i> _____	<i>spoon</i> _____
<i>Jesus</i> _____	<i>Jesus</i> _____
<i>words</i> _____	<i>receive</i> _____
<i>listen</i> _____	_____
_____	_____

**Group:** "Eucharist" Thank You

**Materials:** One or more children's Bibles, construction paper, markers

*Jesus told the disciples to continue Holy Communion after He went back to His Father. Holy Communion received the name Eucharist, which means "thanksgiving." When the disciples celebrated Holy Communion, they were thankful for all Jesus had done for them and for all God had done before Jesus came to walk with us. They thought of the many stories of the Bible where God acted to help and save His people. Do you know any of the stories from the Bible? Who are the people in the stories? [If necessary, show pages from the children's Bible to aid their recollection.] All these stories make up salvation history—God acting to save His people. Let's use the word "Eucharist" to say "thank You" to God. We'll divide into small groups. Each group will have a sheet of construction paper. Write the word "Eucharist" in large letters spaced out in the middle of the paper. [Hold up sample.] Next, find names from the Bible that you can write with one of the letters of Eucharist. You may also use the names of events, like the Resurrection. The Table of Contents is a good place to look. If you can't find a word beginning with the letter, find a word that uses the letter. We'll share our work at the end of class.*

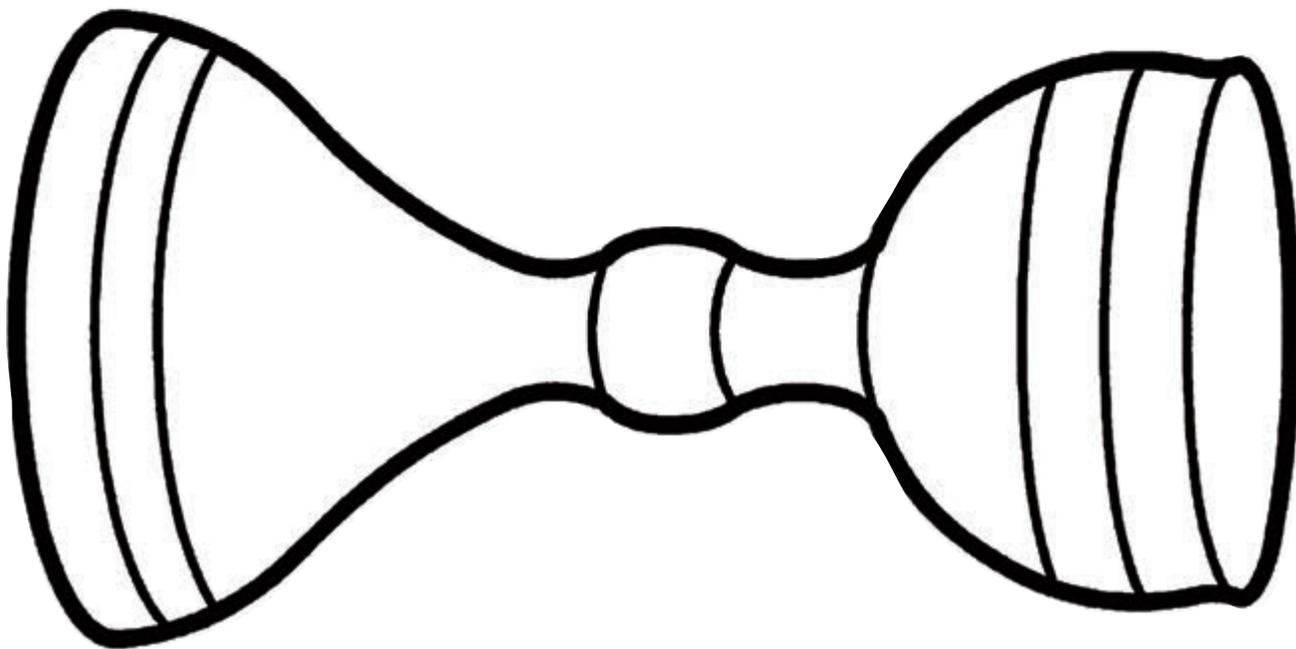
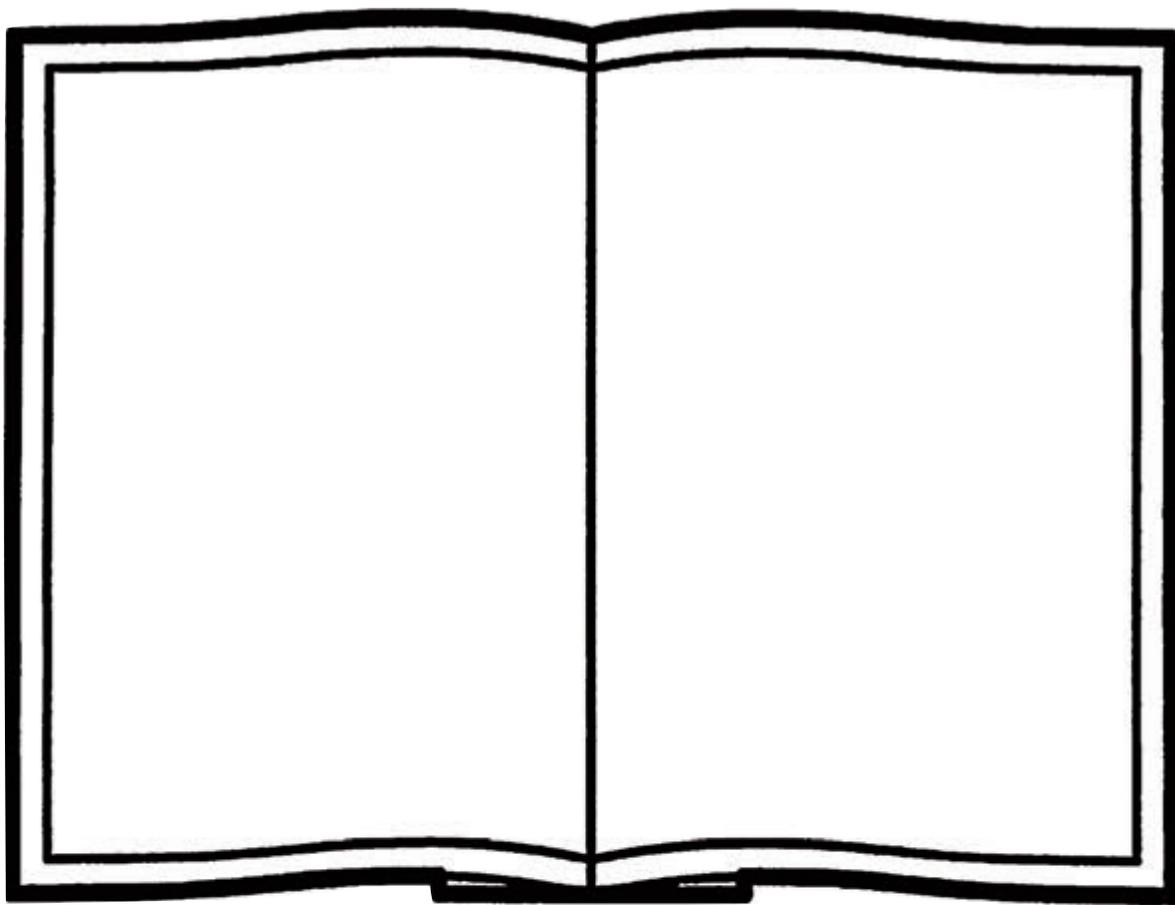


**Craft:** "Chalice and Gospel" Stencil

**Materials:** "Chalice and Gospel" stencil worksheet copied onto heavier paper, paper (perhaps construction paper), tape, scissors, crayons

[Have sample ready to show children.] *Today we learned that we receive Jesus through the words in the Gospel and in Holy Communion. We learned that Holy Communion is also called "Eucharist" which means "thanksgiving." For our project, we'll work with two stencils to create a piece of art. First, cut out the Gospel Book and the Chalice. Then decide where you want to place them on your paper. You can choose to make one overlap the other if you wish. Then I'll help you tape them to your paper with tape circles on the back. Next, hold the edge of the stencil, and then take your crayon and stroke outward from the stencil. You'll get a picture that outlines the objects with "rays." After you lift the stencils, you can write in one of them, "In the Divine Liturgy I Receive Jesus."*

**Closing:** *Let's see if we know "Let Our Mouths Be Filled" by heart.*



# Unit 3 Review

*1. Who made us and loves us?*

*(Lesson 1: God made us and loves us.)*

*2. Why did God create us?*

*(Lesson 1: God made us to live united to Him now and forever.)*

*3. What is the phrase we use to describe Mary?*

*(Lesson 4: Mary is called the "Mother of God" or "Theotokos")*

*4. Who were Jesus' disciples?*

*(Lesson 5: Jesus' disciples were the twelve Jesus called to follow Him.)*

*5. Name two of the four reasons why we pray.*

*(Lesson 14: We pray to talk to God, to get help when we're hurt, to thank Him, to praise Him.)*

*6. What is our privilege as God's people?*

*(Lesson 14 & 15: We can call God "Father")*

*7. What is our responsibility as God's people?*

*(Lesson 15: We must stay close to God.)*

*8. What do we remember at the Divine Liturgy?*

*(Lesson 16: We remember all that God has done for us)*

*9. Why do we worship?*

*(Lesson 16: We worship to remember all God has done for us and to say "thank You.")*

*10. In what two ways is Jesus present to us in the Divine Liturgy?*

*(Lesson 17: We receive God's word through the Gospel reading. We receive Jesus Christ in Holy Communion.)*

*11. What does Eucharist mean?*

*(Lesson 17: Thanksgiving)*