

Children's Liturgy of the Word – Corpus Christi (Year A)

Theme: Jesus gives Himself to us in Holy Communion

Gospel: John 6:51–58

Main Message: Holy Communion is Jesus Himself. Jesus comes to feed our souls and stay close to us.

1. Welcome & Gathering

(Gather the children calmly.)

Leader:

Today is a very special feast called **Corpus Christi**.

That means:

The Body of Christ.

Today we celebrate that Jesus gives Himself to us in Holy Communion.

Some children in our parish are receiving First Holy Communion around this time too, which is very exciting.

But today is not mainly about us.

Today is about Jesus.

Let us begin with the Sign of the Cross.

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

Leader:

Jesus, thank You for loving us.

Jesus, thank You for coming to us in Holy Communion.

Help us always stay close to You.

Amen.

2. Opening Conversation

Ask gently:

What foods help us grow strong?

(Help them answer:
fruit, vegetables, bread, milk, healthy food)

Then ask:

What happens if we never eat?

(We become weak/sick/tired)

Then say:

Just as our bodies need food,
our souls need food too.

And today Jesus tells us:
He Himself is the food for our souls.

3. Gospel (Simplified – John 6:51–58)

Leader reads slowly and clearly:

Jesus said:

“I am the living bread that came down from heaven.

Anyone who eats this bread will live forever.

The bread that I will give is My flesh for the life of the world.”

Then Jesus said:

“My flesh is real food,
and My blood is real drink.

Whoever receives Me lives in Me,
and I live in them.”

Leader:

The Gospel of the Lord.

Children:

Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ.

4. Reflection

Say slowly:

Today Jesus says something astonishing.

He does not say:

“I will give you ordinary bread.”

He says:

“I am the living bread.”

Jesus gives us Himself.

That is what Holy Communion is.

When we receive Holy Communion,
we receive Jesus Christ truly present.

Not pretend.

Not just a reminder.

Jesus Himself.

That is why Catholics treat the Eucharist with great love and reverence.

Say:

When someone loves you very much,
they want to stay close to you.

Jesus loves us so much
that He comes close to us in Holy Communion.

He comes into our hearts.

He feeds our souls with His love and grace.

Built-In Activity 1: Hands Ready

Leader:

When we receive a special gift,
how should we act?

(quiet/careful/grateful)

Then say:

Holy Communion is the greatest gift of all,
because Jesus gives us Himself.

Practise quietly making hands ready for Communion.

Built-In Activity 2: Echo Prayer

Leader:

Jesus is with us.

(Children repeat)

Jesus loves us.

Repeat.

Jesus feeds our souls.

Repeat.

Jesus stays close to us.

Repeat.

Deepening the Gospel

Say:

Long ago,
God fed His people in the desert with manna — bread from heaven.

But today Jesus gives something even greater.

He gives Himself.

That is why the Mass is so important.

At Mass,
Jesus comes to His people.

Built-In Activity 3: Mass Actions

Leader asks:

What do we do at Mass?

Possible answers:

- pray
- sing
- listen
- kneel
- receive Holy Communion

Then say:

Everything at Mass leads us closer to Jesus.

Quiet Prayer Moment

Leader:

Let us close our eyes quietly.

Jesus,
thank You for loving me.

Pause.

Jesus,
help me stay close to You.

Pause.

Jesus,
help me love the Mass.

Pause.

Living the Gospel This Week

Leader:

This week,
you can stay close to Jesus by:

- praying every day,
 - coming to Mass,
 - being kind at home,
 - saying sorry when you do wrong,
 - and remembering that Jesus loves you.
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Built-In Activity 4: What Is the Greatest Gift?

Ask:

What are some gifts people like to receive?

(toys/chocolate/games/etc.)

Then say:

Holy Communion is greater than every other gift,
because Jesus gives us Himself.

Built-In Activity 5: Reverence Practice

Leader:

When we come into church,
how do we show love for Jesus?

Possible answers:

- genuflect
- kneel
- be quiet
- pray

Then say:

Jesus is truly here in the tabernacle.

That is why we act differently in church.

Children's Intercessions

Leader:

Let us pray to Jesus,
who gives Himself to us in Holy Communion.

For the Church —
that people everywhere may grow in love for the Eucharist.
Lord, hear us.

For children receiving First Holy Communion —
that they may stay close to Jesus all their lives.
Lord, hear us.

For families —
that our homes may be filled with prayer and kindness.
Lord, hear us.

For people who are lonely or sick —
that Jesus may comfort them.
Lord, hear us.

For ourselves —
that we may love Jesus more each time we come to Mass.
Lord, hear us.

(Optional Hail Mary.)

Closing Prayer

Leader:

Jesus,
thank You for giving Yourself to us.

Help us love You,
pray to You,
and stay close to You always.

Amen.

Sending Back

Leader:

Today we heard:

Jesus is the Bread of Life.

Holy Communion is Jesus Himself.

Jesus comes to stay close to us.

Let us go back quietly now
and thank Jesus for His great love.

(Sign of the Cross.)

Additional Optional Activities

1. “Who Comes to Us at Mass?”

Best place: After Reflection

Leader:

“Who do we receive in Holy Communion?”

Children:

“Jesus!”

Repeat several times joyfully.

2. Communion Reverence Practice

Best place: Midway

Practise:

- folding hands
- bowing head
- saying “Amen”

Explain:

“Amen means: ‘I believe.’”

3. “Food for the Soul”

Best place: Early

Leader:

“What happens if we never eat food?”

Then ask:

“What happens if we never pray or come to Mass?”

Explain gently:

“Our souls grow weak without Jesus.”

4. Tabernacle Reminder

Best place: Before Sending Back

Leader:

“Why is the little red candle near the tabernacle important?”

Explain:

“It reminds us Jesus is here.”

5. “Jesus Stays Close”

Best place: Before Quiet Prayer

All repeat slowly:

“Jesus is with me.
Jesus loves me.
Jesus stays close to me.”

6. Eucharist Actions

Best place: Energy dip

Teach:

- Bread — hands open
- Cup — pretend holding cup
- Heart — hands on heart

Repeat:

“Jesus feeds my soul.”

7. Saints Loved the Eucharist

Best place: Near ending

Leader:

The saints became holy because they loved Jesus in the Eucharist very much.

8. “What Is Most Important?”

Best place: Reflection

Leader:

“What is the most important thing at First Holy Communion?”

Guide toward:

“Receiving Jesus.”

9. Holy Silence Practice

Best place: Before Quiet Prayer

Leader:

“Let us practise being completely quiet for ten seconds for Jesus.”

10. Final Memory Line

Best place: Just before returning

Repeat slowly together three times:

“Jesus loves me.
Jesus feeds me.
Jesus stays with me.”