



# the Parish of St. Dunstan

A CHILDREN'S CATECHISM TO ECHO GOD'S LOVE IN THE WORLD

PART II: Our Church

Lesson 19: Liturgy

This is the prayer we use to begin our church service:

**Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hidden. Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.**

## What do we do at church?

Going to church is like going to a play. We call the play a **liturgy** which means that it is **something we all do together for the world**. There are 4 parts to the **liturgy**. Each part is meant to help us connect with one another and with God.

### 1 We gather together

The first part of the liturgy is when we all **meet together** in a new way to listen to God and pray for the world. The priest begins by saying,

The grace of our  
Lord Jesus Christ,  
and the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.  
*And everyone responds, **And also with you.***  
*(the people always respond with the bold words.)*



Every week we are called to be **God's Great Family** in a new way.

*Activity: Write down the names of three friends from Church you look forward to meeting every Sunday.*

# 2.

## We listen together



God's story of love is read at every church service. We **listen** to readings from Holy Scripture, we **listen** to a sermon, we **listen** to the words of our spiritual ancestors in the creed, we **listen** to our confessions, and we **listen** to the needs of the world in prayer. After we read from Holy Scripture, the reader says,

Listen for God's Word.

And everyone responds, **Our hearts are open.**

**Activity:** Ask an adult what their favourite story from the Bible is.

# 3.

## We eat together

Jesus gave his followers a **meal** of his body and blood to feed our hearts so that we do not become afraid. Whenever we meet, if it is possible, we share this **meal**. The body of Christ looks like **bread**. The blood, or life, of Christ looks like **wine**, or **juice**.

When we receive the bread or the wine we say, **Amen.**  
*This means "Yes, Got it! I agree!"*



**Activity:** prepare a snack for your family.

# 4.

## We leave together

After we meet, listen, and eat together, God **send us out** to share the love of God in our homes, schools, with our friends and neighbours. Followers of Jesus are like rivers, we spread the water of God's love everywhere we **go**. Before we **leave**, we pray together,

Glory to God, **whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

**Activity:** Write down the many places you go to in a week.



**Activity:** Draw a picture of the inside of your church.

What is your favourite part of Church?