



A Picture Book of

The

Mass



THE ENTRANCE PROCESSION

The priest, the altar servers, and the lector enter the church and process to the altar. Mass is beginning, and this is when we begin to pay close attention.

THE SIGN OF THE CROSS

We make the Sign of the Cross to remind us of our Faith. This short prayer reminds us that we believe in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. We make this sign of our Faith with meaning.



GREETING

The priest greets us with the same words used in the Old Testament and the same words that Saint Paul used when he began many of his letters to the new churches: “The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all” (or: “Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ” or “The Lord be with you.”) We reply, “And with your spirit.”

PENITENTIAL RITE/GLORIA

Now is a time to think of our sins and ask God’s forgiveness. This gives us the opportunity to celebrate Mass with a clean heart. We are so happy to be forgiven that we sing “Glory to God in the highest” with all the angels and saints!



LITURGY OF THE WORD

The first major part of the Mass is called the Liturgy of the Word. It begins when the lector reads two passages from Scripture. The first reading is usually from the Old Testament. The Old Testament was written long before Jesus was born and contains God's messages to the ancient Jewish believers and to all who believe in God today.

This reading is followed by a Psalm which can be read or sung. Can you find the book of Psalms in your Bible?

The second reading is from the New Testament. The New Testament was written by Jesus' followers after he ascended into heaven. Jesus wants you to listen to the readings carefully so you can hear the messages He has for you. He wants to speak to YOU through the Scriptures!



THE GOSPEL

We stand as the Gospel is read to us by the priest or deacon. The Gospel readings tell us the real words that Jesus spoke while He was on Earth. Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John wrote what they saw and heard about the life of Jesus for us to remember forever.

Before we hear the Gospel, we all make a small cross on our forehead, our lips, and our hearts as we pray that we will understand, speak, and love God's Word.



THE HOMILY

The homily is given right after the Gospel by the priest or deacon. God speaks to us as we listen to the message given about the Bible readings, and He shows us how we can live this teaching out in our own lives. We need to pay close attention during the homily. It is not a time to daydream, get a drink, or go to the bathroom. Sometimes, it is hard to listen, but it is important that we do, so we never miss an opportunity to grow closer to Jesus. It is good to discuss the homily with your family on the way home from church. This will help you to remember and understand what was said.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

Now that we have heard the Word of God and learned how we can make it part of our own lives, we are excited to stand and tell everyone what we believe! By reciting the Nicene Creed or the Apostles' Creed, we are reminding ourselves, and telling everyone else present, about the truths of our Faith.



THE LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

The altar is now prepared for the Liturgy of the Eucharist. Candles near the altar are lit, and gifts of bread, wine, water, and money are brought forward to the priest or deacon. These gifts represent the giving of our lives to God and are brought forward by the people to show that our offerings will be joined with the perfect offering of Jesus to be given to God the Father. This is a good time to silently "give" all your thoughts, actions, and prayers of the past week to God as part of the offering.



EPICLESIS

Epiclesis is a Greek word that means to “invoke upon.” The first epiclesis during the Eucharistic Prayer asks God the Father to send his Holy Spirit upon the gifts of bread and wine so that they may become for us the Body and Blood of our Lord.



THE CONSECRATION

Soon after we have offered ourselves to God, the Consecration takes place. As the priest lifts the host, he says the same words that were used by Jesus at the Last Supper: This is my Body. At this time, Jesus is truly with us in a way we can see and touch. The bread and wine have become the Body and Blood of Jesus. Soon, we will be joined with Him in Holy Communion.



THE GREAT AMEN

The priest offers the Body and Blood of Jesus to God in what we call the threefold praise, "Through Him, and with Him, and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is Yours, Almighty Father, forever and ever.

With Jesus, we now give praise and honor to God the Father in the Great Amen!



THE LORD'S PRAYER

The "Our Father" is the prayer Jesus taught us, and we pray it with great reverence as we remember that Jesus used this prayer to talk to His Father. This prayer teaches us how to praise God, how to thank Him, and how to forgive others before we ask God to forgive us. It teaches us to ask God to take care of us by giving what we need each day and states that we trust in God to keep us from evil.



THE SIGN OF PEACE

We give the sign of peace to our fellow Christians to show that together we are all part of the Body of Christ. We use this time to offer peace to those we need to forgive, and to ask forgiveness of others. We need to be at peace with others before we can receive Jesus in Holy Communion.



BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We recognize that Jesus Christ is the Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world. We pray that God would have mercy on us as we prepare our hearts to receive Him in Holy Communion.



COMMUNION

We pray that the Lord would strengthen us through the Holy Eucharist, and make us more like Him.

We must remember that this is Jesus we are receiving, and it must be done with great love and respect. When the priest, deacon or extraordinary minister says, "The Body of Christ," and we answer, "Amen," we are saying "Yes, I believe, this really is Jesus!"

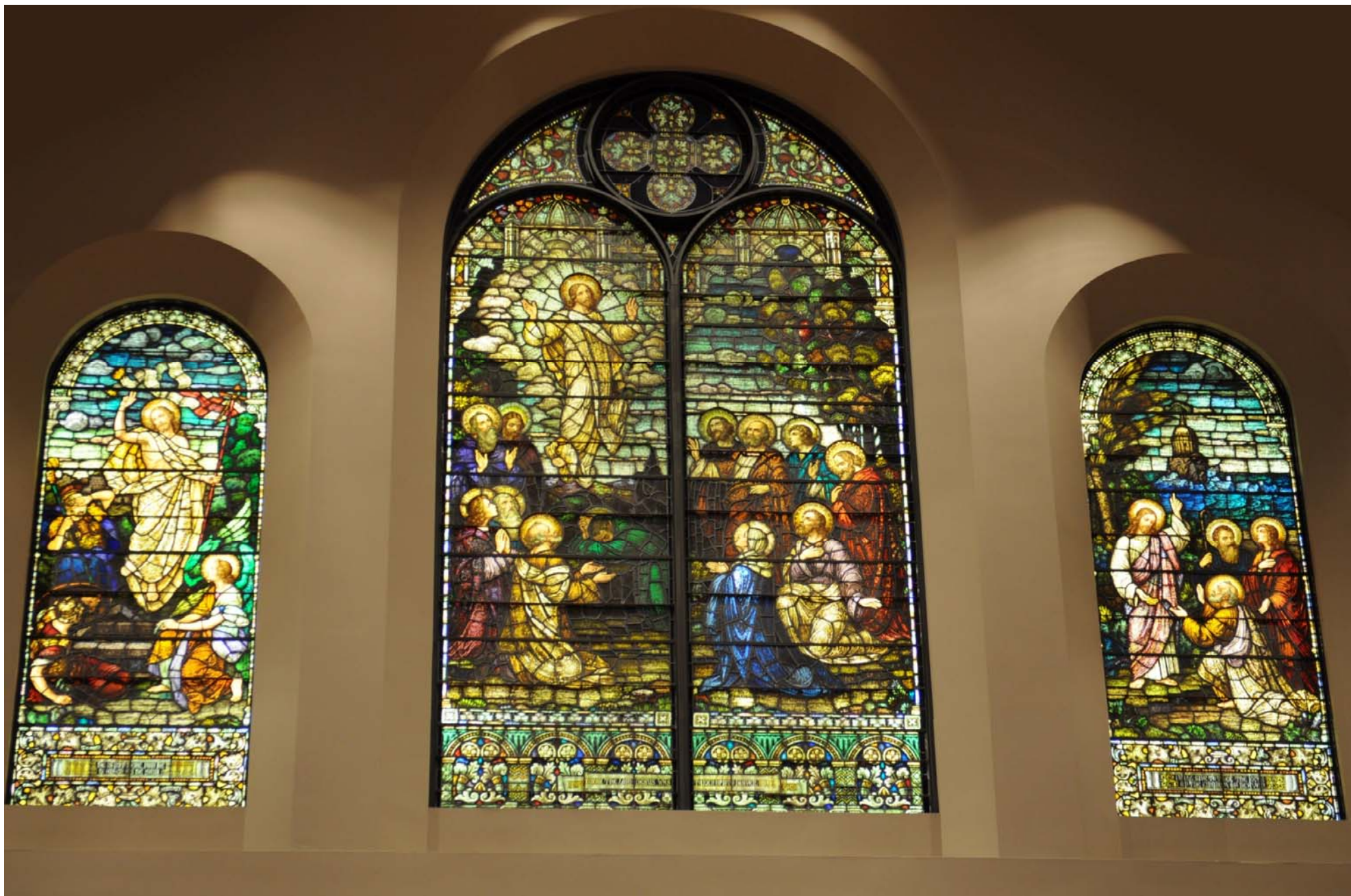


BLESSING

After the closing prayer, the priest will say, "The Lord be with you," and we respond, "And with your spirit." As the priest prays, "May Almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit," we make the Sign of the Cross and receive the blessing by saying, "Amen."

COMMISSIONING

The priest or deacon says, "Go forth, the Mass is ended" (or: "Go and announce the Gospel of the Lord," or "Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life," or "Go in peace.") Our response is, "Thanks be to God!" We thank God for this wonderful banquet and agree to take Jesus to all we meet. We want to be more like Jesus, and the blessings received at Mass energize us to do so.



*Special thanks to our Celebrant Father Scott Kallal at Church of the Ascension.
Summer, 2011*