Supplies:
- cross & stand
- lectionary
- paschal candle
- musical instruments
- Eucharist Banner
- LCD projector
- music
- laptop
- portable microphone
- handouts
- pens & pencils
- attendance list
- treat sign-up list
- letters
- posting of mass times
- posting of sign up sheets
- post information for correction
- unconsecrated hosts
- props for play
- Jesus costume
- disciple costume x2
- white table cloth
- bread
- grape juice
- plate & cup
- script for play
- coffee
- tea
- juice
- sugar
- cream
- coffee cups
- dixie cups
- serviettes

1. Housekeeping:

Go over housekeeping details such as
- Practice Date
- Bibles and Children’s books that have been ordered

2. Review

Ask the children if they have been practicing their “listening” to God.

Have you been trying to listen with your heart to God?
Have you seeds sprouted and started to grow yet?

Review the parts of the liturgy that we have learned about so far:

- Gathering Together
- Listening to God’s Word

Now we are going to talk about “Sharing a Sacred Meal”
3. **What do we Do? The Liturgy of the Eucharist**

*Parts of the Liturgy of the Eucharist*

**What do we do?**

Go over briefly the order of the Liturgy of the Eucharist. More depth can be given later.

- Give Thanks and Praise
- Remember the Last Supper
- Offer and Receive Gifts

**Preparing the Gifts**
- We offer gifts
- We ask the Holy Spirit to come up on the gifts and make them holy (Eucharistic Prayer)
- We tell the story of the Last Supper
- We pray the prayer that Jesus taught
- We offer one another peace
- We break the bread and pour the wine
- We eat and drink the Body and Blood of Jesus.

4. **Liturgical Celebration**

**Opening Song & Procession:** Come All You People

(Members of the procession go to the back of the room where someone hands them the objects they will carry - Cross, Candles, Children’s Lectionary (or large Bible), Bread, Wine (juice), Wheat, Grapes, Musical Instruments.)
**OPENING PRAYER:**

Presider: In the name of the Father...

All: Amen.

Presider: The Lord be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Presider: As we gather together today to remember the last meal that Jesus had with his friends, we ask you to bless us as we learn about your great gift of Eucharist.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Presider: As we prepare to listen to the Gospel story of the last supper, let us raise our voices in a joyful Easter Alleluia.

(It can be beautiful to have the children ring bells during the Gospel acclamation as a sign of our joy in the resurrection.)

**Honduras Alleluia**

**WORD OF GOD - DRAMATIZATION OF LAST SUPPER**

Presider: During Holy Week, which we just celebrated the church told the story of Jesus last days from beginning to end. And the church will tell this story again and again at every celebration of the Eucharist during the Eucharistic prayer.
Dramatization

The Story of the Last Supper

Narrator: It was the feast of Unleavened Bread - which is also called Passover - and the disciples came to Jesus and asked him:

Jesus: Where should we prepare for you to eat the passover?

Narrator: Jesus told them to go to a friend and ask to use the his large upper room and the disciples went and did as he said.

Narrator: That evening, Jesus sat at the table with the twelve disciples. While they were eating, he told them,

Jesus: One of you is going to betray me.

Narrator: The disciples were very upset. They looked around the table trying to figure out who could possibly betray their friend. They asked Jesus who he was talking about,


Narrator: Jesus said,

Jesus: “Yes, it is one of you who is eating with me now.

Narrator: While they were eating the passover, Jesus took bread. He blessed it. He broke it and he shared it with his disciples. He said,

Jesus: "Take, eat; this is my body."

Narrator: Then Jesus took a cup. He gave thanks to God and then he gave it to his disciples, saying,

Jesus: "Drink of it, all of you; for this is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.

Do this in memory of me!
Narrator: After the supper, Jesus got up did something astonishing. He poured water in a basin and began to wash the disciples feet and wipe them with a towel. He told them that he was giving them an example.

Jesus: I am your Teacher and your Lord. If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.

Narrator: Jesus taught the disciples and he teaches us today to

Jesus: Love one another as I have loved you.

Narrator: The Gospel of the Lord! Praise to you, Lord, Jesus Christ!

CLOSING PRAYER

Presider: After Jesus died and rose to new life, his friends remembered what he had done at the last supper. They remembered the bread and the wine that was shared. They remember that he had asked them to remember him.

And so the early Christians did what Jesus asked. They gathered together in thier homes. They took bread and wine. They gave thanks to God. They broke the bread, poured the wine and shared it with one another. They knew that when they did that Jesus would be truly present with them.

Today, we also gather together and do what Jesus asked us. We are not in an upper room and not usually in our homes. We come together as Jesus friends to our church.

Loving God, we ask that you be with us as we are faithful to the command of your son Jesus, remembering him in gifts of bread and wine, blessed, broken and shared with one another.

We ask this through Christ, our Lord.
All: Amen

5. Catechesis - Breaking Open of the Word

1. We Obey Jesus Command to “Do this in Memory of Me”

Do what? share bread & wine
- act like he did, sharing ourselves

Do what? eat & drink
- why do you think Jesus chose a meal?
- not some other action like blowing bubbles
- or some other “thing”

- why bread and wine
  - basic food (bread)
    - everyone has bread in every home, in every culture
    - what breads do you have in your culture?
  - celebration food (wine)
    - wine is special, it reminds us of joy.
- bread and wine reminds us that God wants us to have our needs met (bread)
  but also for our lives to be a celebration (wine).

2. We Give Thanks (meaning of the word Eucharist is "Thanks")

- for what do we give thanks?
  - ask the children what they are thankful for.

- sum up that the most amazing gift of God ever is the gift of Jesus.
- for that we give thanks!

God's Gift & Our Effort

- bread: which earth has given and human hands have made
- wine: fruit of the vine & work of human hands
- back to the idea of thanks...

  God gives us grapes & wheat"
  We say, "Gee Thanks God."
  We take it make wine & bread.
  We give it to back to God,
  God says, "Gee, thanks people."
  God takes it makes it into Jesus' body and blood
  God gives us it back to us in Eucharist.
  We say (whispering in a reverent way), "Gee, thanks God."
  We take the Eucharist and turn it into God's body and blood
  working in the world.
  We offer that back to God.
  God says, "Gee, thanks people."

- and it starts all over again the next week.

3. We Practice Being Catholic

- we do this in memory of Jesus EVERY SINGLE WEEK?
- why?
- we are practising Catholics
- we come to church to learn how to act as the body of Christ in the world.
- the more you practice, the better you become, but you never become so good that you stop practising.
- if you become an Olympic athlete you practice more than if you're just a good athlete; same goes for Professional Dancer, etc.

4. We Give Food and Drink to Everyone!

Everybody is welcome.

- one of the reasons people were upset with Jesus is because he welcomed everyone, even the people they didn't approve of.
- they wanted to belong to a special club
- The “God-loves-us-best” club.
- But God loves everyone, especially the hurting, the lonely, the ones that no one else loves.
- Jesus said, “Love your enemies, don’t think you’re better than anyone else, share, be kind, don’t judge... “

5. We Receive Jesus who is Really Present

- Jesus is really present to us in some mysterious way in the gifts he gives us of bread and wine.
- this can be hard to understand.

- we have experience of people's presence in things all the time each time we receive a gift.

- I use the story at the end of the this lesson plan (which was written into an article). This works brilliantly. The kids and often the parents have a new appreciation of the true presence.

6. Housekeeping

- parent’s sign up sheet for responsibilities at First communion liturgy.
- Children’s sign up sheet

- check information regarding baptismal records, spelling of names, etc..

- answer questions regarding what to wear, parking, etc.

- discuss the “how-to” of going to communion (practice with unconsecrated hosts broken in half or quarters)
- communion under both species
- fasting before communion
Because of our great Aunt Nell, we came to a new understanding of the Real Presence. Nell used to be a prize-winning quilter. As time passed, however, the arthritis she suffered with had made quilting difficult, but not, at least for Nell, impossible. She wanted to be sure that each of her grandchildren had one of her handmade quilts and so, despite her pain, she continued to quilt. Her “later” quilts were easily recognizable. The stitches were uneven; the patterns - random. But to those of us who saw the effort she put into making each of us a quilt, they were beautiful. One day, while visiting one of our relatives, we were horrified to see one of Nell’s quilts being used as a doormat - her hours of work, sitting crumpled up on the floor, covered with filth and snow. What kind of person could conceive of using this gift that took so much time and effort for such a lowly purpose? It was clear to us that this relative didn’t understand the gift of love that the quilt was. He didn’t understand that Aunt Nell’s quilts contained the presence of Aunt Nell. It was clear that he didn’t understand Real Presence.

Later, cuddled up under yet another of Aunt Nell’s many quilts, we talked about gifts. We noted how each time we give a gift, we wait with bated breath, hoping that the recipient will like it. We recalled our anxiety, the time we had made and given the wine for a wedding party. Why is this? We realized that, when given as a gift, an object ceases to be simply a collection of the atoms and molecules which comprise it. Somehow it comes to hold within it the presence of the giver. The more effort, time and love that goes into that gift, the more of the giver is held within.

One day in a class of families preparing for First Communion, Christine was searching for a way to teach them about the Real Presence of Christ in Eucharist. This is a difficult concept for children grasp. Then, she remembered Aunt Nell and her quilts. She asked a young boy, how he was enjoying his First Communion classes.

“Fine,” he answered.

Then she asked him if he thought that a “thank you” gift to the teacher might be a good idea.

“Yes ...?,” the child said, unsure of where this line of questioning was headed.

“Well, did you bring me a gift?” Christine asked.
Of course, the child had no gift to give so Christine suggested getting a piece of paper from the pile of handouts that were on the table and pretend to give it to her as a gift. The child walked over got the paper and handed it to Christine and said, “Thank you for being my first communion teacher.” Christine made a big deal about how thoughtful the child was as the class smirked. Then she tore up the paper and continued with the lesson. The children were horrified! They understood that even if someone pretends to give you a gift, it cannot be treated as garbage. The gift paper, though visibly identical to the ones in the pile across the room, commanded a different attitude.

If this is true of a mock gift of paper, how much more true is it of gifts that are given out of love and sacrifice? When the Giver is the Son of God and the gift, the Eucharist, the depth of Presence is beyond comprehension. The night before he died, Jesus wanted to give his friends a gift - a gift whereby he could continue to be present in their midst forever, a gift which could be passed on to all who would call themselves his friends in the future. The gift he gave was not a “thing” but an action - to break bread, to pour out wine and to share it. He promised that this bread and wine would be transformed. They would become his presence in body and blood. Jesus gave the gift of himself, not only by dying on the cross for us, but in this sacrificial, memorial meal which we celebrate each Sunday. When we receive the Gift, we truly receive the Giver. At this time of year when we celebrate the Feast of Corpus Christi, we might take a few moments to stand in silent awe of such a Gift.