

WEEK 2: WORSHIP IN HOMES

PRE-K - KINDERGARTEN

GOALS

When was the first celebration of Holy Communion?
Where did Christians worship during the early Church?

LESSON

Learn about the First Divine Liturgy
Learn about Christians & Where Christians Worshipped
Sing: "Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John"

Icon of the Mystical Supper - <https://www.goarch.org/documents/32058/2133587/mystical-supper-icon-large.jpg/c91da120-3e79-4fdc-be77-ed072d337a84?t=1439323728000>

Show the picture of the Mystical Supper to your students and explain to them that:

This was the very first Divine Liturgy! Jesus took a loaf of bread and blessed it. Then he tore it into pieces and gave it to his disciples. He told them that this was his Body. Next Jesus took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God. Then he shared that cup of wine with each of his disciples and told them that this is His Blood.

Who served the very first Divine Liturgy? (Jesus)

The apostles celebrated the Divine Liturgy just as Jesus had taught them and they taught others as well. We still receive Holy Communion every single Sunday, just like they did a long, long time ago! Isn't that amazing? It's so important that we pray the way Jesus taught His disciples (His students) and the way the apostles taught others after that.

Who is a Christian? (Someone who believes that Jesus Christ came to save the world)
Who here is a Christian? (You and me!)

A long, long time ago, the Christians didn't have churches like we do today. They all went over to someone's house on Sundays and would listen & learn about the stories of Jesus Christ, which would later become our epistle and gospel readings. They would say the prayers that were instructed to them by the apostles and they would all receive Holy Communion.

Every Sunday Father reads a small part of the gospel. *What is the gospel?* It is the part of the Bible that was written by the apostles - Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Sing: "Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John" with your students -
<https://youtu.be/nRK-v9M-CAI>

WEEK 2: WORSHIP IN HOMES

1ST - 2ND GRADE

GOALS

When was the first celebration of Holy Communion?
Where did Christians worship during the early Church?

LESSON

Learn about the First Divine Liturgy
Learn about Christians & Where Christians Worshipped
Sing: "Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John"

Show an icon of the Mystical Supper and read the following from pg 240 of the Children's Bible Reader:

"As they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread and blessed it and broke it into pieces and gave it to the disciples saying, 'Take and eat, this is My Body.'

Then He took a cup of wine, gave thanks to God, and gave it to each of them to drink a sip. 'This is My Blood,' he said, 'that seals the new covenant, and it is poured out for everyone.' After this, they sang the Passover hymns and went to the Mount of Olives."

This was the very first Divine Liturgy! Jesus took a loaf of bread and blessed it. Then he tore it into pieces and gave it to his disciples. He told them that this was his Body. Next Jesus took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God. Then he shared that cup of wine with each of his disciples and told them that this is His Blood.

Who served the very first Divine Liturgy? (Jesus)

The apostles celebrated the Divine Liturgy just as Jesus had taught them and they taught others as well. We still receive Holy Communion every single Sunday, just like they did 2,000 years ago! Isn't that amazing? It's so important that we pray the way Jesus taught His disciples (His students) and the way the apostles taught others after that.

Who is a Christian? (Someone who believes that Jesus Christ came to save the world)
Who here is a Christian? (You and me!)

Two thousand years ago, the Christians didn't have churches like we do today. They all went over to someone's house on Sundays and would listen & learn about the stories of Jesus Christ which would later become our epistle and gospel readings, they would say the prayers that were instructed to them by the apostles, and they would all receive Holy Communion.

Every Sunday Father reads a small part of the gospel. *What is the gospel?* It is the part of the Bible that was written by the apostles - Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Review Questions:

Who celebrated the very first Divine Liturgy? (Jesus)

Who is a Christian? (People who believe that Jesus Christ came to save the world)

Are we Christians? (Yes)

Where did Christians celebrate the Divine Liturgy 2,000 years ago? (In someone's home)

Where do we celebrate the Divine Liturgy today? (In a church)

Sing: "Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John" with your students -

<https://youtu.be/nRK-v9M-CAI>

Icon of the Mystical (Last) Supper - <https://www.goarch.org/documents/32058/2133587/mystical-supper-icon-large.jpg/c91da120-3e79-4fdc-be77-ed072d337a84?t=1439323728000>

WEEK 2: WORSHIP IN HOMES

3RD - 5TH GRADE

GOALS

When was the first celebration of Holy Communion?
Where did Christians worship during the early Church?

LESSON

Learn about the First Divine Liturgy
Learn about Christians & Where Christians Worshipped
(Optional) Sing: "Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John"

Icon of the Mystical Supper - <https://www.goarch.org/documents/32058/2133587/mystical-supper-icon-large.jpg/c91da120-3e79-4fdc-be77-ed072d337a84?t=1439323728000>

Show the Mystical Supper and read the following from pg 240 of the Children's Bible Reader:

"As they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread and blessed it and broke it into pieces and gave it to the disciples saying, 'Take and eat, this is My Body.'

Then He took a cup of wine, gave thanks to God, and gave it to each of them to drink a sip. 'This is My Blood,' he said, 'that seals the new covenant, and it is poured out for everyone.' After this, they sang the Passover hymns and went to the Mount of Olives."

This was the very first Divine Liturgy! Jesus took a loaf of bread and blessed it. Then he tore it into pieces and gave it to his disciples. He told them that this was his Body. Next Jesus took a cup of wine and gave thanks to God. Then he shared that cup of wine with each of his disciples and told them that this is His Blood.

Who served the very first Divine Liturgy? (Jesus)

The apostles celebrated the Divine Liturgy just as Jesus had taught them and they taught others as well. We still receive Holy Communion every single Sunday, just like they did a 2,000 years ago!

Who is a Christian? (Someone who believes that Jesus Christ came to save the world.)

Who here is a Christian? (You and me!)

Two thousand years ago, the Christians didn't have churches like we do today. They all went over to someone's house on Sundays and they would listen & learn about the stories of Jesus Christ, which would later become our epistle and gospel readings. The Christians would listen to a sermon, they would stand and say the prayers that were instructed to them by the apostles (and later elders/priests), they would all receive Holy Communion, and they would collect money from people in order to give it to people who needed food, medical treatment, or help in some way.

Every Sunday Father reads a small part of the gospel. *What is the gospel?* It is the part of the Bible that was written by the apostles - Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

Review Questions:

Who celebrated the very first Divine Liturgy? (Jesus)

Who is a Christian? (People who believe that Jesus Christ came to save the world)

Are we Christians? (Yes)

Where did Christians celebrate the Divine Liturgy 2,000 years ago? (In someone's home)

Where do we celebrate the Divine Liturgy today? (In a church)

(Optional) Sing: "Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John" with your students -

<https://youtu.be/nRK-v9M-CAI>

WEEK 2: WORSHIP IN HOMES

MIDDLE SCHOOL

GOALS

When was the first celebration of Holy Communion?
Where did Christians worship during the early Church?

LESSON

Read: pages 42 - 46 of “The Orthodox Christian Church Through the Ages”
by Sophie Koulomzin

Read: pg 34 of “A History of the Church” from GOA Dept. Religious Ed.

The Orthodox Christian Church Through the Ages, begin at: “Preaching of the Apostles” and stop at the end of page 46

Try to provide your students with a copy of the text, if at all possible. (page 42 of the book or page 56 on the page bar on the screen) This book is out-of-print, but there is a digital version available online at: <https://babel.hathitrust.org/cgi/pt?id=inu.32000003394477&view=1up&seq=56>

From the description given to us by St. Justin the Martyr, create an outline of worship in the early Church.

- Gather on Sunday
- Read the writings of the apostles and prophets
- Listen to a sermon
- Stand and pray
- The priest offers up the gifts
- Receive Holy Communion
- An offering is collected

Do we do these same things during the Divine Liturgy today?

A History of the Church (7th Grade Part 1), begin at: “Life of the First Christians” pg. 34-

“At first, the Apostles restricted their preaching to Palestine. But within a few short years Christianity spread over the entire civilized world of that time. One of the cities to become a large Christian center was Antioch, where, for the first time, the followers of Christ were called ‘Christian.’

Wherever the Apostles went, they preached the word of God, baptized new believers and ordained successors (Bishops). The Bishops, in turn, ordained priests to perform the functions of worship, while the Bishops, remained administrators and preachers. They also ordained deacons to assist in worship and to serve in various capacities of benevolence and charity.

The Apostles and those whom they ordained to assist them and succeed them, carried out Jesus’ commandment to re-enact the Last Supper, which they called “Agape,” Love Feast.

At the Last Supper, Jesus gathered His disciples and blessed bread and wine and said, ‘Take, eat; this is my body...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.’ “

(Matthew 26: 26-28). He gave them of the holy gifts and commanded them, ‘Do this in remembrance of me.’

The early Christians gathered in private homes in small groups and reenacted this event with psalm-readings, prayer and sermon on a particular event in the life of Christ. Bread and wine were brought along with other foods. During this service, which is known as Holy Eucharist, the Bishop or senior clergy would bless the bread and wine, and ask God to transform it into the Body and Blood of Christ. Each person would partake of the Holy Eucharist, (Holy Communion). Another important thing which took place during this service was that all the participants ate together in a spirit of love and brotherhood. This is why this ceremony was called ‘Agape,’ Love Feast.”

Where were people first called Christians? (Antioch)

What was the role of bishops (administrators, preachers, and ordained priests & deacons), priests (perform functions of worship), deacons (to assist in worship and to serve/help the poor and needy).

When was the first Divine Liturgy celebrated? (The Mystical Supper)

Where did the early Christians gather for worship? (Private homes)

WEEK 2: WORSHIP IN HOMES

HIGH SCHOOL

GOALS

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Where did Christians worship during the early Church?

LESSON

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by Sophie Koulomzin

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The Orthodox Christian Church Through the Ages, begin at: “Preaching of the Apostles” and stop at the end of page 46

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From the description given to us by St. Justin the Martyr, create an outline of worship in the early Church.

- Gather on Sunday
- Read the writings of the apostles and prophets
- Listen to a sermon
- Stand and pray
- The priest offers up the gifts
- Receive Holy Communion
- An offering is collected

Do we do these same things during the Divine Liturgy today?

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Where were people first called Christians? (Antioch)

What was the role of bishops (administrators, preachers, and ordained priests & deacons), priests (perform functions of worship), deacons (to assist in worship and to serve/help the poor and needy).

When was the first Divine Liturgy celebrated? (The Mystical or Last Supper)

Where did the early Christians gather for worship? (Private homes)
