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INTRODUCTION

For Parents

This Children's Mass Book has been prepared to accompany children as they pray at Mass. Words in italics offer brief explanatory notes, and the people's responses according to the Revised Order of Mass (introduced 2011) are included.

For Children

Every week, the parish community gathers to celebrate the Eucharist. The word "Eucharist" means "thank you." It is our way of saying **thank you** to God for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

In this book you will find five main headings. These will help you understand each stage of the Mass:

- ① **We Gather** to praise God
- ② **We Listen** to God's word in the Bible
- ③ **We Give Thanks** for the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ
- ④ **We Receive** the Body and Blood of Jesus Christ in communion
- ⑤ **We Go** out to be peacemakers and hope-givers



THE ORDER OF MASS

We Gather

INTRODUCTORY RITES

We gather together as a family of faith.

As we sing the Entrance Song, the priest and other ministers process to the altar and bow reverently.

*The altar represents Jesus Christ.
The Priest kisses the altar.
Then he goes to the chair.*

When the Entrance Song is concluded, we sign ourselves with the Sign of the Cross, while the Priest says:

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

People **Amen.**

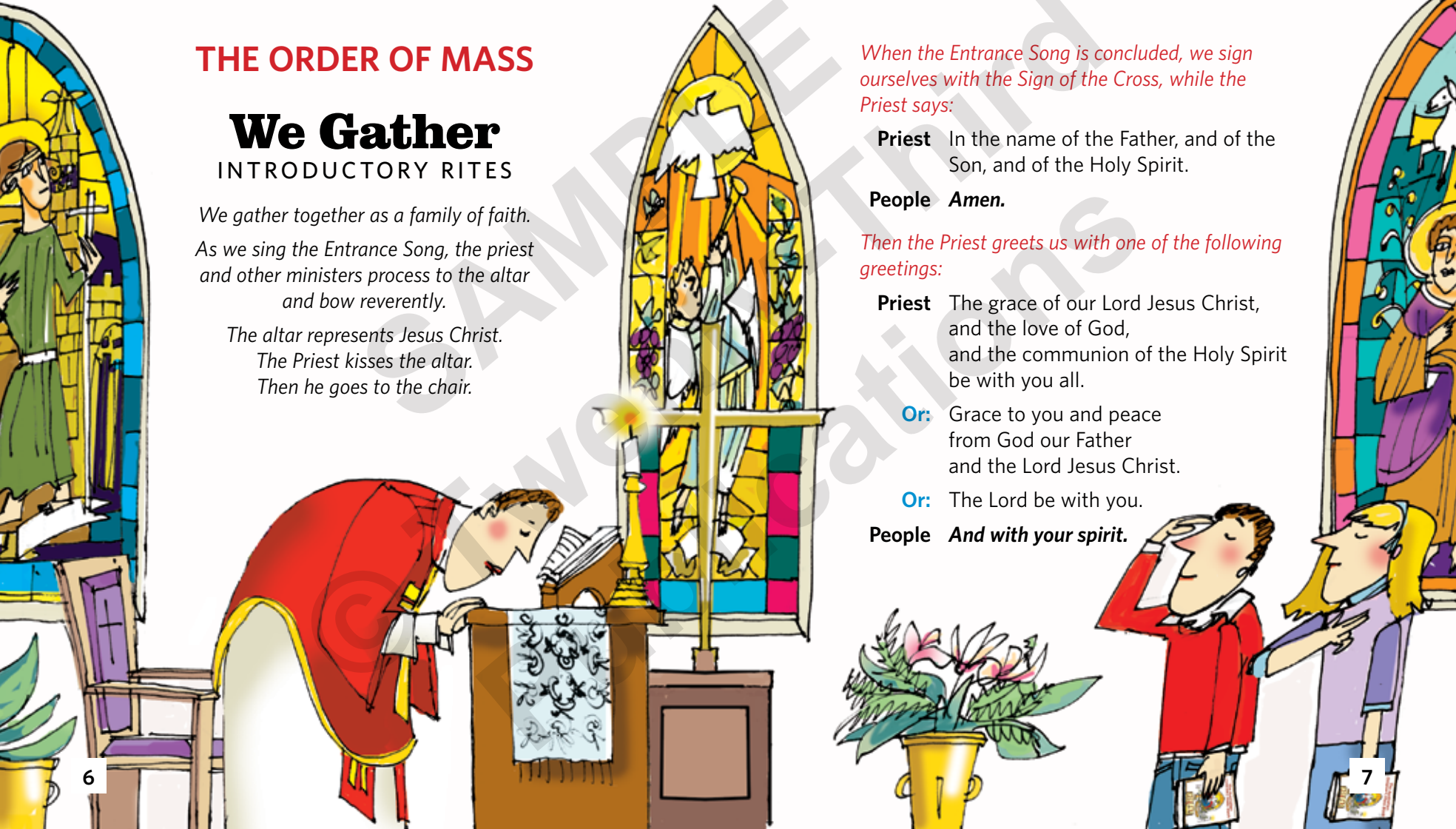
Then the Priest greets us with one of the following greetings:

Priest 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.

People **And with your spirit.**



Penitential Act

The Penitential Act calls for a change of heart as we reflect on the way we live as a Christian community.

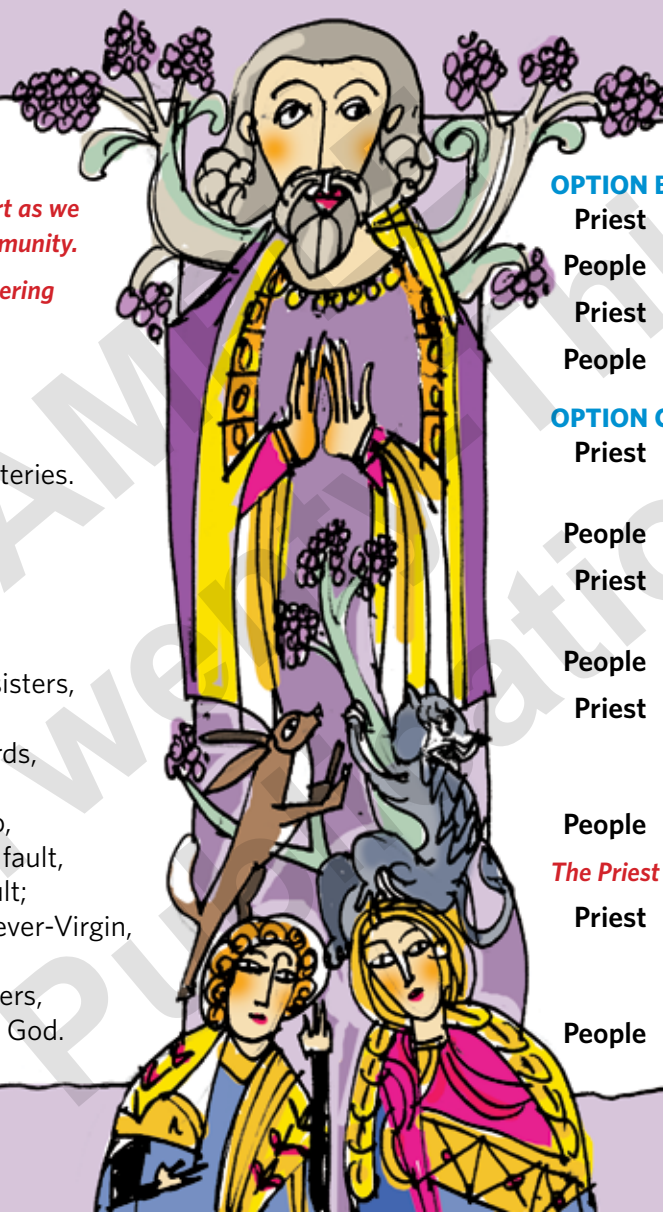
We call to mind our failures, always remembering God's loving forgiveness.

Priest Brothers and sisters,
let us acknowledge our sins,
and so prepare ourselves
to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

*There is a brief pause for silent reflection.
Then we pray one of the following options:*

OPTION A

All I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done
and in what I have failed to do,
through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;
therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.



OPTION B

Priest Have mercy on us, O Lord.

People *For we have sinned against you.*

Priest Show us, O Lord, your mercy.

People *And grant us your salvation.*

OPTION C

Priest You were sent to heal the contrite of heart:
Lord, have mercy.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

Priest You came to call sinners:
Christ, have mercy.

People *Christ, have mercy.*

Priest You are seated at the right hand
of the Father to intercede for us:
Lord, have mercy.

People *Lord, have mercy.*

The Priest asks God to forgive us all:

Priest May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins
and bring us to everlasting life.

People *Amen.*





The Gloria

*We pray this song of praise to God
on feast days and Sundays, except in Lent
and Advent:*

All Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people
of good will.
We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.
Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,

Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand
of the Father,
have mercy on us.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High,
Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.