

We Listen and Pray

FOCUS: In this chapter, you will be helping your child to understand that God speaks to us in the Mass readings, and we respond with a prayer of faith and prayers of petition.

The Liturgy of the Word offers us God's self-revelation and invites us to live more completely in God's love. If we open ourselves to God's Word, God cleanses our minds, our hearts, and our lips, thus enabling us to proclaim his Gospel with our lives. We pray for this grace as we make the Sign of the Cross on our forehead, lips, and heart while we say: "The Lord be in my mind, on my lips, and in my heart."

The Liturgy of the Word concludes with our profession of faith followed by our intercessory prayer for the needs of the Church and the world. The Prayer of the Faithful makes it clear that we desire to make Christ's saving love visible in the Church and in the world.

Scripture in This Chapter

Matthew 25:35–40 Works of Mercy

Luke 11:28 True Blessedness

Luke 11:28 Follow God's Word.

Catechism of the Catholic Church

185–187, 195, 1100–1103, 1154–1155, 1349

In this chapter, help your child to

- ✦ explain the importance of listening to God's Word at Mass.
- ✦ recite the responses from the Liturgy of the Word.
- ✦ describe the Creed as a statement of beliefs that all Catholics hold.
- ✦ explain that in the Prayer of the Faithful, we pray for the Church and world intentions.
- ✦ explain that Jesus wants us to ask for what we need.

Word Your Child Should Know

- ✦ ambo

Key Terms for Your Information

- ✦ believe—to accept something as true
- ✦ Bible—the Word of God
- ✦ Gospel—the life of Jesus as told in the Bible
- ✦ Homily—a talk after the Gospel at Mass in which the priest or deacon explains the readings and how to live God's Word
- ✦ Prayer of the Faithful—petitions to God during Mass for the needs of the Church and the world
- ✦ truths—what is real and taught by the Church