

The Holy Eucharist

A Child's Guide to the Eucharist

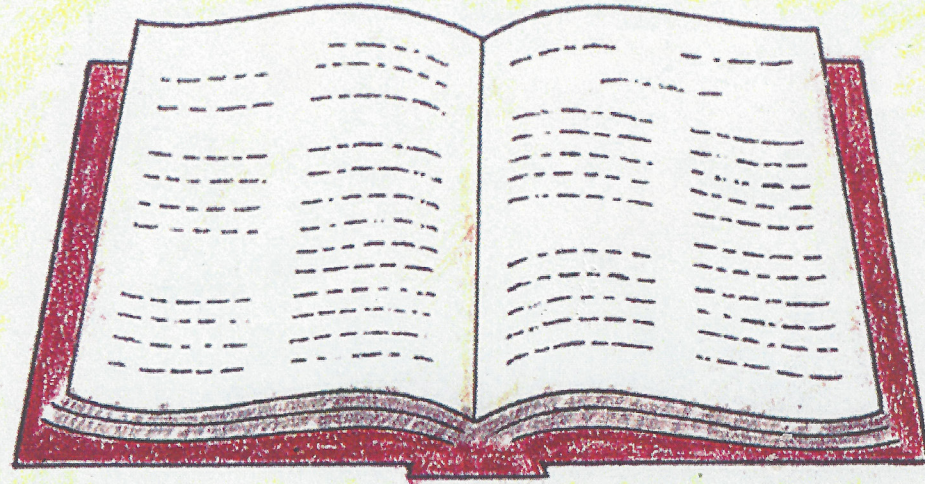
This brochure was conceived and written by
the *Rite in the Middle* Sunday School Class
during Epiphany 2012 to help you
understand and better follow along with our service.

Welcome to Trinity

The Church is in the shape of an anchor, and the ceiling looks like the bottom of a boat. This is because when Jesus called his first disciples, he told them “come, and I will make you fishers of men”.

The main part of the Church where you sit is called the Nave. During the service, we stand to praise, we sit to learn and we kneel to pray.

The idea of this brochure came from the Rite in the Middle Sunday School Class during Epiphany 2012 to help you understand and follow along with our service better.



The Word of God

The Word of God

The Word of God is the first part of the service. We hear stories about God's people and say prayers for ourselves and others. It helps us get ready for the second part when we get communion. We sing songs, called Hymns, out of the blue book in the pews. We say prayers out of the red book, called the Book of Common Prayer.

The service starts with everyone walking in. This is called the Procession. We sing a Hymn while they come in. The Crucifer carries a cross to lead the way because we are to all follow Jesus. The priest comes at the end of the procession to remind us that a shepherd always follows his flock in order to watch after them. Jesus was called "the Good Shepherd".



Opening
and *The Collect of the Day

Opening and The Collect of the Day

At this time, we are standing. The priest says words to start the service. Then we sing a special song called a "Gloria".

After that, the priest says a special prayer called the "Collect of the Day". There is a different Collect for each Sunday in the year, and special Collects for each holy day. They are all printed in the back of the Book of Common Prayer.



***The Lessons**
The Old Testament - The Letters

The Lessons

The Old Testament - The Letters

We sit to hear stories from the Bible. First a story from the Old Testament is read. We then say or sing parts of a Psalm. Then we hear a story from the New Testament.

The stories are read from the right side of the church from a place called "The Lectern". The person who reads the stories is called a Lector.

Gospel



Lesson
Gospel

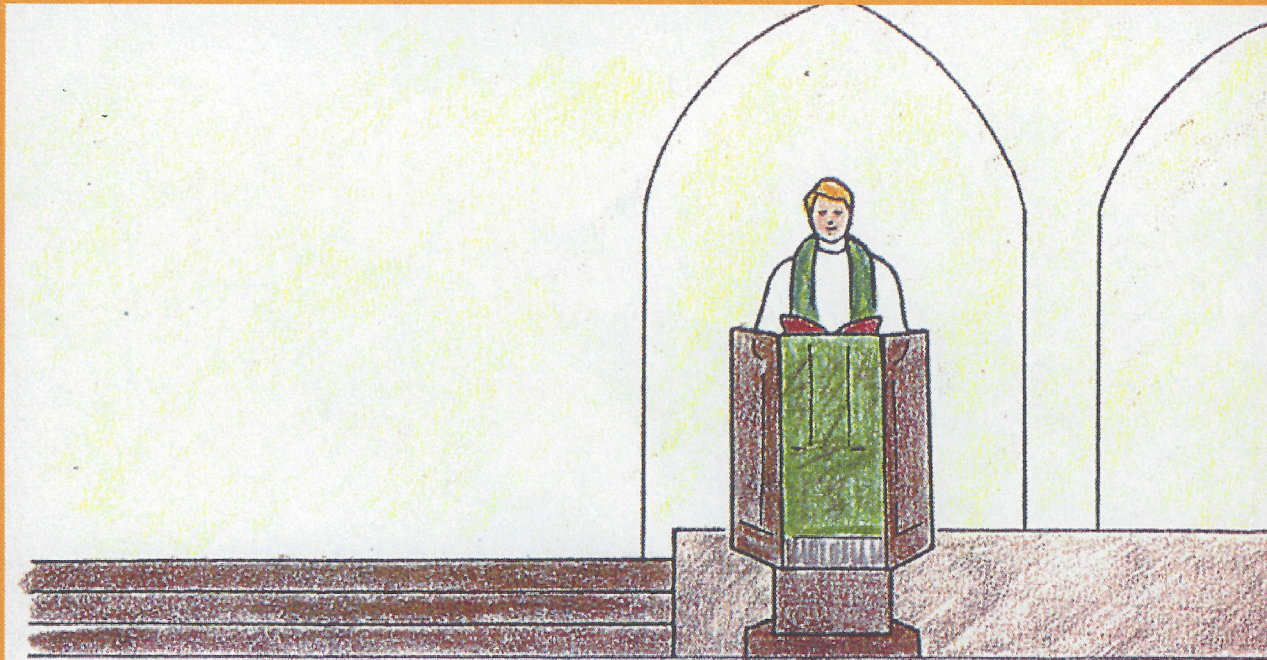
Gospel

During this time, we stand and sing a hymn while the priest comes to the middle of the church.

We hear a story about Jesus from the Gospel books of the Bible. This story is read from the middle of the church because the priest is bringing the Good News of Christ to the people.

The Crucifer leads the way to the center of the church because we are led by Christ. The Gospel is read from the Gospel Book.

We carry candles to light the way to remember early churches. Candles were the only lights, so the candles had to be brought to the middle of the church so the priest could see to read!

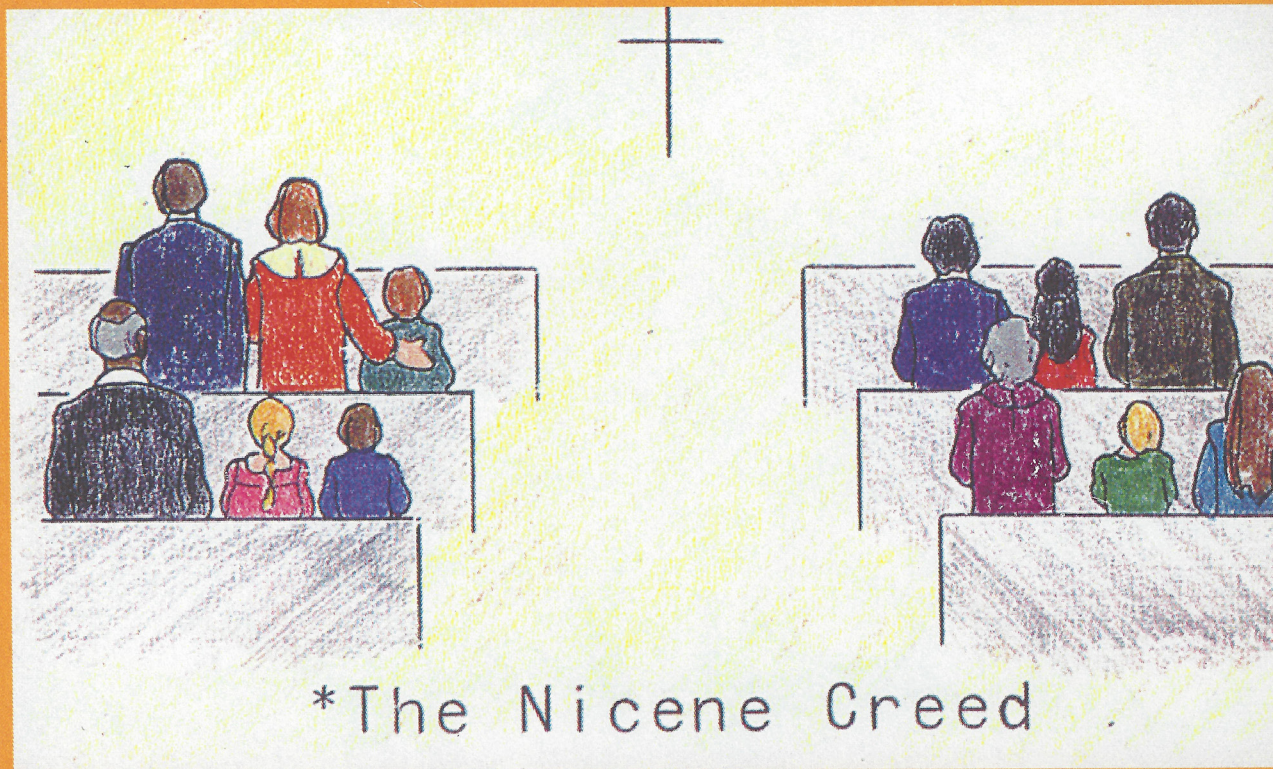


*The Sermon

The Sermon

The priest stands and speaks during this time. We get to sit, but the priest stands in a special place called the Pulpit. The priest will talk to us about God and Jesus and how we can be good Christians.

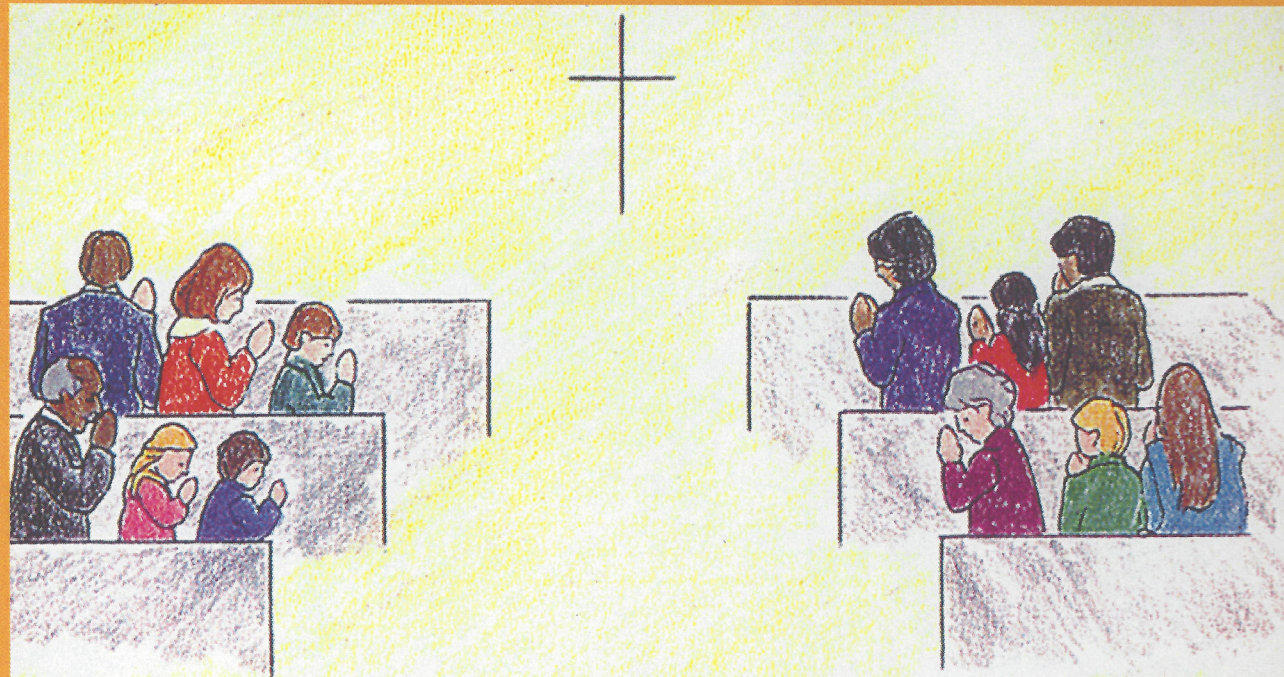
Usually the priest talks about one of the lessons or the Gospel reading and what it means for us today.



The Nicene Creed

Always stand when you hear this. We stand because we are proclaiming our faith. Everyone says this prayer out loud together.

The Nicene Creed is a statement of basic beliefs about God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. It is what we believe as Christians.



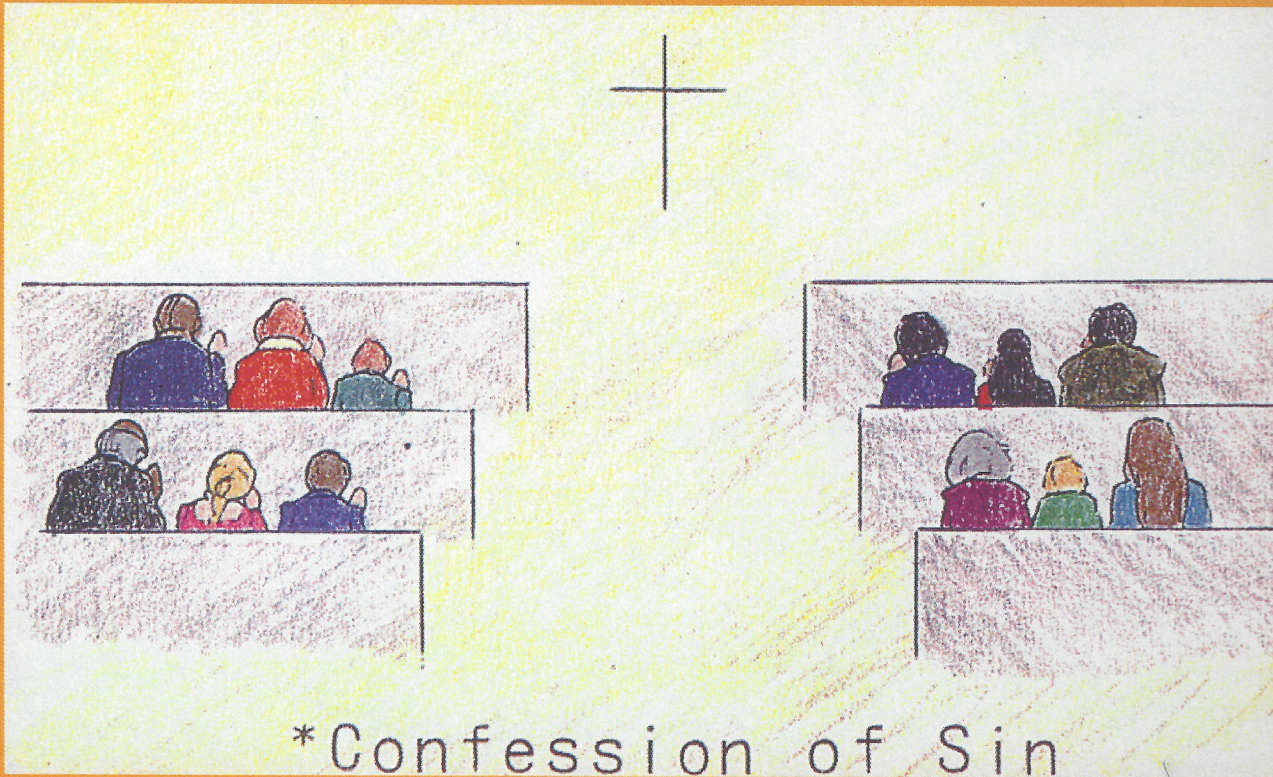
*The Prayers of the People

The Prayers of the People

We kneel for this. We pray special prayers for us, people in the church who are sick, for the world, for people who are suffering, for people who run the church, for people who run our country, and sometimes for people who have died.

We give thanks for the good things in our lives and for people who have birthdays and couples who have a wedding anniversary. We sometimes give thanks for babies being born!

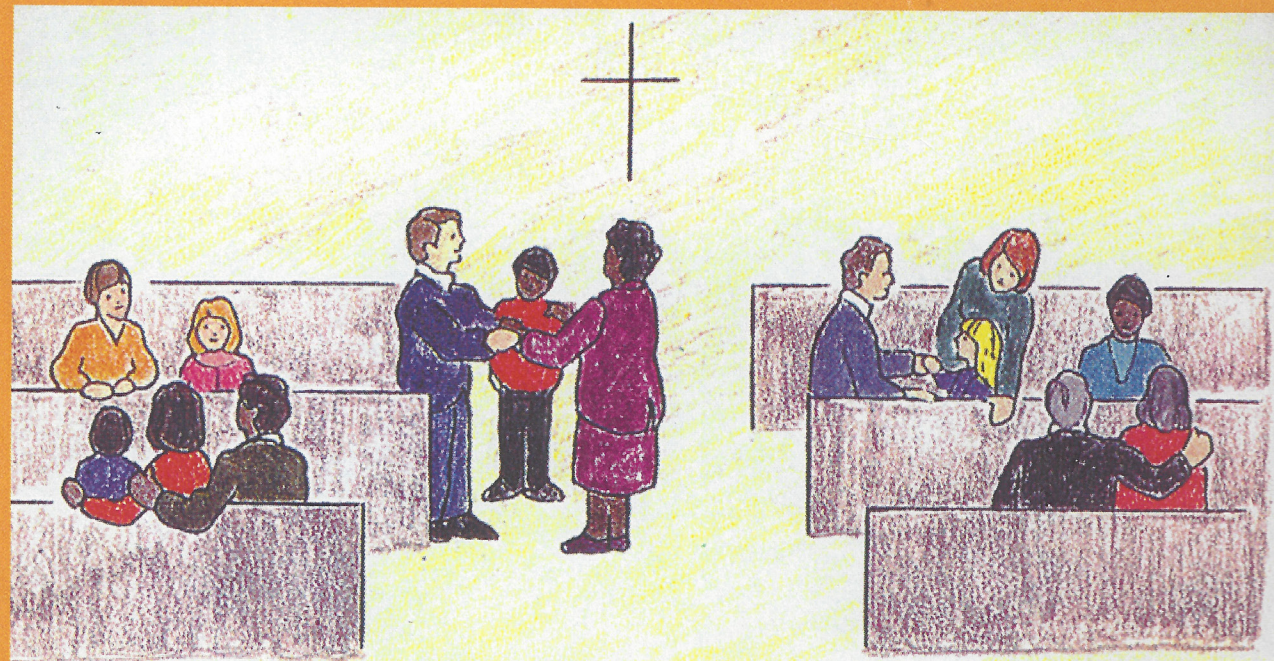
The person who reads these prayers is called an Intercessor.



Confession of Sin

We kneel and say a prayer telling God that we have been bad. We confess everything we have done wrong (but not out loud). We don't hear God say he forgives us. But because we have faith in God, we know that he does.

The priest stands up and makes the sign of the cross in front of the congregation to remind us that God forgives us. Some people will make the sign of the cross by touching their fingers to their head, shoulders, and heart. This is a reminder that Christ is with us and in us.

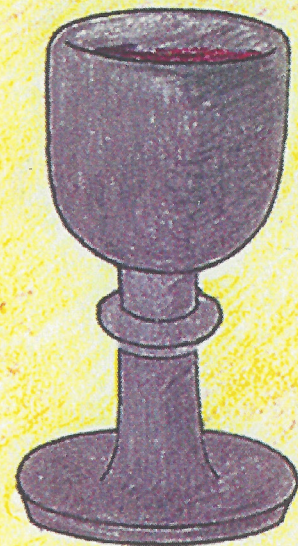
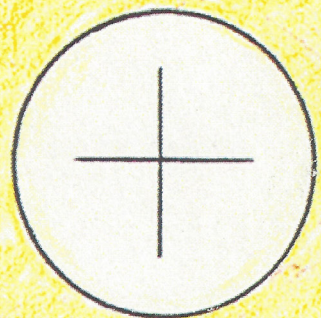


*The Peace

The Peace

We stand, and the priest says, "The peace of the Lord be always with you". We respond "And also with you."

Then we shake hands with the people around us in the pews and across the aisle. Sometimes people give hugs instead of handshakes. We do this to greet each other in the name of the Lord, and say "Peace be with you".



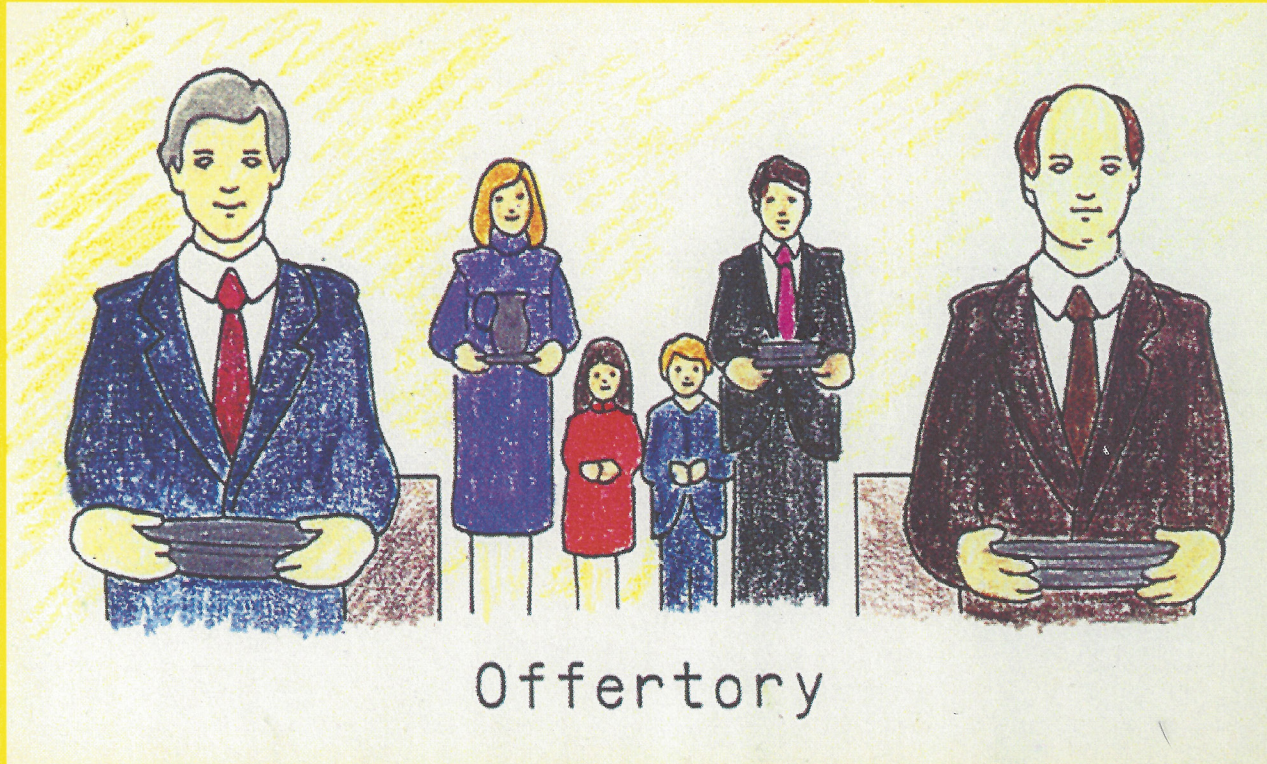
The Holy Communion

The Holy Communion

The second half of the service is Communion, or Eucharist. Now that we have learned about God, confessed our sins, and said what we believe, we are now ready to have communion.

The priest who says the communion prayers is called the Celebrant. He, or She, is the last person to come in during the opening procession. The Celebrant always wears a special long piece of clothing called a Chasuble.

We have a different color Chasuble for each season of the church year.



Offertory

We sit during the offertory. The ushers pass brass plates up and down each aisle to collect money. We use this money to help people at Trinity and others in need. Usually the choir sings a song while the ushers are working.

Then we stand and sing the Doxology, or some other song to give thanks while the ushers bring the plates to the altar. The priest then makes the sign of the cross over the plates to bless the money and give thanks.



*The Great Thanksgiving

The Great Thanksgiving

This is when we say prayers for communion. We start by standing. We sing a special song to praise God, then we kneel while the priest tells the story of Jesus' last supper.

Jesus gathered for a special meal with his disciples and blessed bread and wine, and shared it with everyone there. He said that the bread represented his body and the wine represented his blood. He said to "do this in remembrance of me".

We do this each Sunday to remember Jesus and have a meal together like the one Jesus had with his disciples.

Most people kneel, but some stand during this part as a symbol of honor and respect for what is happening.



Prayer of Consecration

Prayer of Consecration

This is the part of the story of the last supper when the priest mentions the bread and wine.

The priest blesses the bread and wine by putting his hand over each of them. When they are being blessed, we hear chimes play.

This is because a long time ago priests used to speak Latin during the church service. No one could understand what the priest was saying, so the chimes told you that something important was happening.

During this time we kneel.



*The Breaking of the Bread

Breaking of the Bread

The priest holds up a special piece of bread called a Host and breaks it in half. Sometimes you can hear it crack.

After that, someone says or sings “Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.” We then say “Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

If it is Lent, we do not say “Alleluia.



Communion

Each person gets to go to the altar to get bread and wine. The bread is called a wafer and is on a special plate called a Paten.

The wine is in a special cup called a Chalice. Some people like to dip their bread in the wine instead of drinking the wine. This is called intinction.

We use real wine. Some churches choose to use grape juice. It is up to each church to decide what to use.

We sit when it is not our turn to go up to the altar. The ushers tell us when to go. They let the people sitting in the sides and front go first.



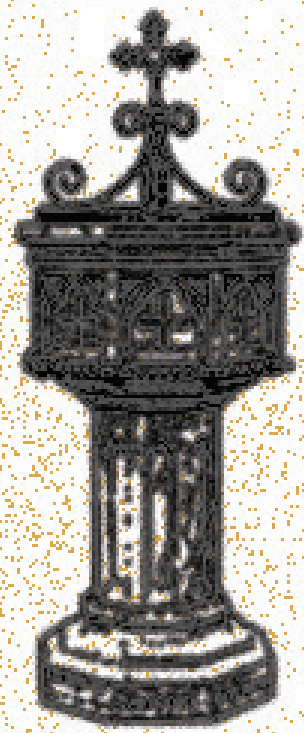
Blessing and Dismissal

Blessing and Dismissal

We kneel and say a prayer to thank God for the communion and the reminder of Jesus in our lives. The priest then blesses the people and makes the sign of the cross over them.

We then stand and sing a hymn and the priest, usually the Deacon, says "Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, alleluia, alleluia!"

Then we get to go to Tuton Hall for donuts and lemonade!

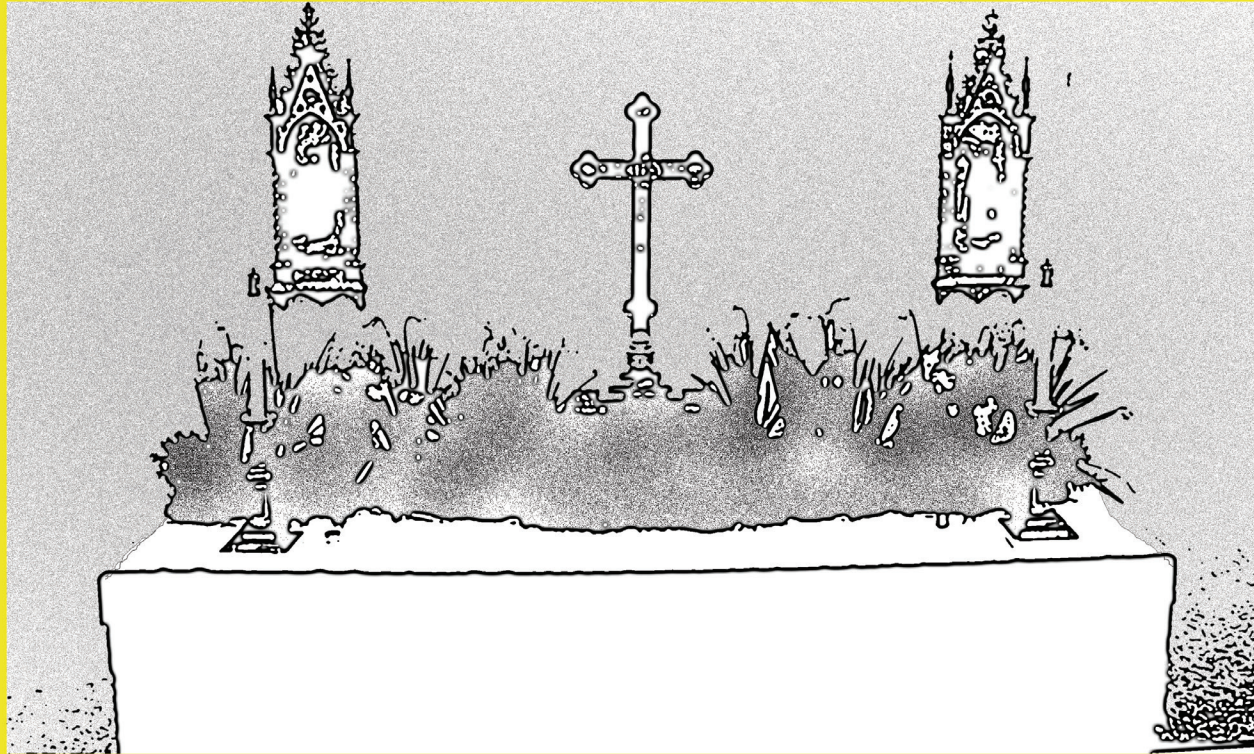


The Baptismal Font

There is a large marble object in the back of the church called the Baptismal Font. It is what is used to hold the water when someone is baptized.

The font is in the back of the church to welcome people into the church. It is also in the back to remind us that the way to God is through baptism.

This marble font has been used at Trinity for over 120 years. It even survived a fire! Think of all the people over the years that have been baptized here!



The Prayer Station

The prayer station is a special altar in the left side of the church.

People kneel while a person puts their hands on their head and says a prayer for them. It could be a prayer for healing or for thanks, and it doesn't have to be about them. They can pray for someone they know who needs a prayer. If you don't want to say who you are praying for, that's OK too.

The person makes a cross on your forehead using a special oil that has been blessed by a priest.

Candles can be used to say a prayer, too.

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