

# ALIVE IN CHRIST

GRADE 2

Sacraments of Penance and Eucharist

[aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com)



**Our Sunday Visitor**

# Listen to God's Word

## Let Us Pray

**Leader:** Lord, your Word gives us hope.

“I wait for the LORD,  
my soul waits  
and I hope for his word.” **Psalm 130:5**

**All:** God, open my ears so I can  
better hear your Word. Amen.

## God's Word

Jesus said, “What is God's Kingdom like? What can I compare it with? It is like what happens when a woman mixes a tiny little bit of yeast into a batch of flour. The yeast makes the whole batch of dough rise.”

**Based on Luke 13:18–21**

### What Do You Wonder?

- How are the stories in the Bible different from other stories?
- Can the Word of God in the Bible really change my heart?



# God's Word Proclaimed

## What do you hear at Mass?

### Catholic Faith Words

#### Liturgy of the Word

the first main part of the Mass during which we hear God's Word proclaimed.

Jesus learned the stories of the Jewish people. He studied Scripture and talked about God's law with wise teachers. Jesus was a wonderful teacher, too.

He told many parables. Parables are stories about everyday life that Jesus told to help his followers learn how to love and follow God. Jesus wanted everyone to know that the Kingdom would grow with prayer and sharing in God's work of love, peace, and justice. Here is one parable Jesus told.

### God's Word

#### The Mustard Seed

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a person took and sowed in a field. It is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants. It becomes a large bush, and the 'birds of the sky come and dwell in its branches.'" **Matthew 13:31-32**



1. Color in the picture.
2. Underline the name of the parable it illustrates.

## The Scripture Readings Begin

The first main part of the Mass is the **Liturgy of the Word**. The assembly listens to God's Word from the Bible.

- The reader steps forward to proclaim the first reading. It is usually from the Old Testament.
- Next, a singer, called a cantor, leads everyone in singing a psalm. Remember, psalms are prayers found in the Old Testament.
- Then, either another reader or the same reader stands and reads the second reading from one of the letters in the New Testament.
- At the end of each reading, the reader says, "The word of the Lord." The assembly answers, "Thanks be to God."

After each reading, everyone quietly thinks about what they have heard.



1. Circle the part of the Bible where the first reading comes from.
2. Underline the part of the Bible where the second reading comes from.

### Share Your Faith

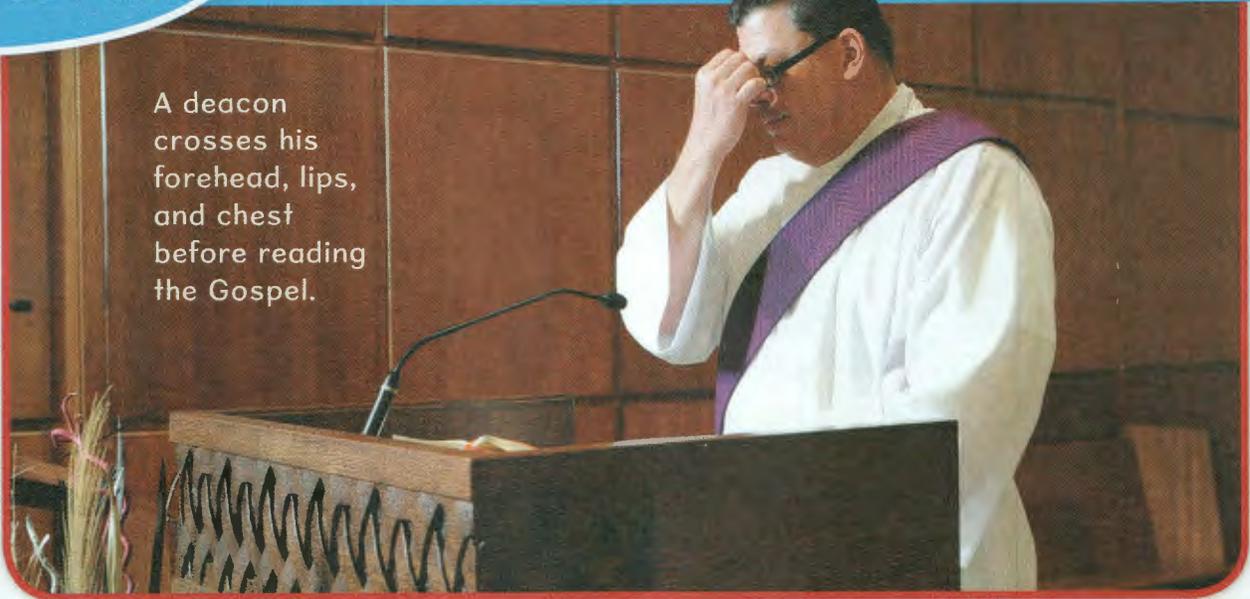
**Think** Complete the sentence:  
"I learn about God's Word by..."

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**Share** Talk about different ways you learn about God's Word.





A deacon crosses his forehead, lips, and chest before reading the Gospel.

## Jesus' Good News

### What happens after the First and Second Readings?

Now, everyone stands and sings “Alleluia!” It is time to hear the Good News of Jesus Christ.

“The Lord be with you,” says the priest or deacon. The assembly immediately replies, “And with your spirit.”

The priest or deacon announces what Gospel is going to be read. The Gospels contain stories about Jesus, the words of Jesus, and stories that Jesus told. The priest or deacon reads the Good News of Jesus from one of the Gospels.

At the end of the Gospel, the priest or deacon says, “The Gospel of the Lord.” Everyone says, “Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.”

After the Gospel reading, the priest or deacon gives a **homily**, a short talk about the readings that helps explain what it means to follow Jesus.

### Catholic Faith Words

**homily** a short talk about the readings at Mass

**creed** a statement of the Church's beliefs

**Prayer of the Faithful** prayer at Mass for the needs of the Church and the world

## The People Speak

The assembly then stands to pray the **creed**. We say proudly that we believe in God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. We say that we believe in the Church and her teachings.

Next, the assembly stands together and prays the **Prayer of the Faithful**.

As a leader says each prayer, we respond with our answer, such as “Lord, hear our prayer.”

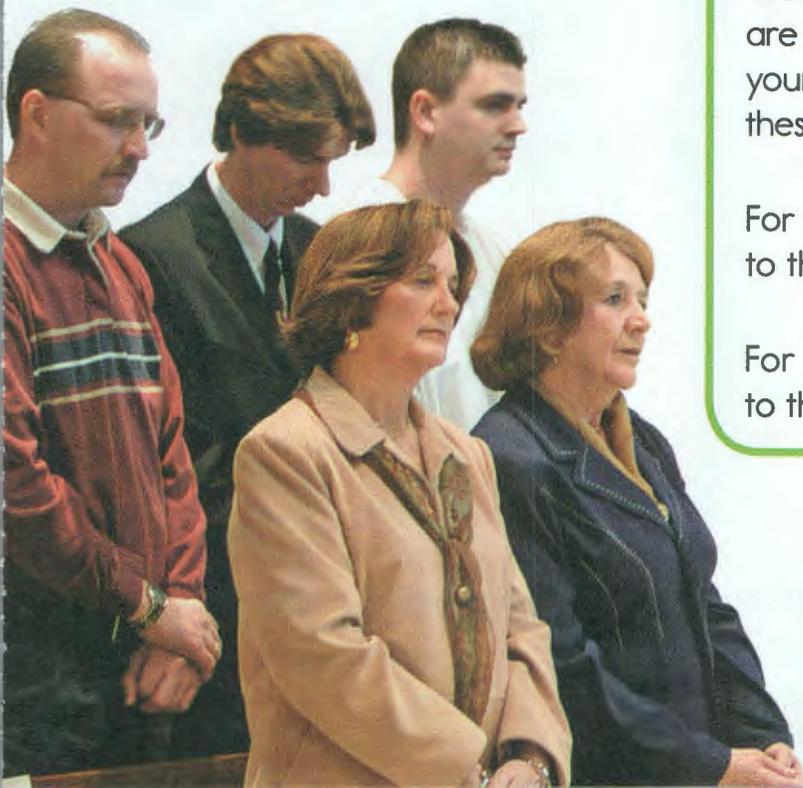
- We pray for the leaders of the Church and of our country.
- We pray for those who are sick and those who have died.
- We pray for people all around the world who have needs at this time.

### Connect Your Faith

**Write Prayers** Think of things that are happening in your family or in your neighborhood. Fill in the blanks in these prayers.

For \_\_\_\_\_, we pray to the Lord.

For \_\_\_\_\_, we pray to the Lord.



# Our Catholic Life

## How did Jesus use stories to teach?

Jesus was a great storyteller. He used lots of details and characters that were familiar to his listeners. Often his parables had surprise endings to make people think. Jesus' stories taught people about God the Father's love and ways to love God and others. This year you have read some of these parables.

### Parables You've Heard



Match the story on the left to the description on the right.



**The Good Samaritan**

- God will always forgive and welcome us when we show that we are sorry for our sins.



**The Lost Sheep**

- Every person is our neighbor. We show love for God when we care for our neighbors in need.



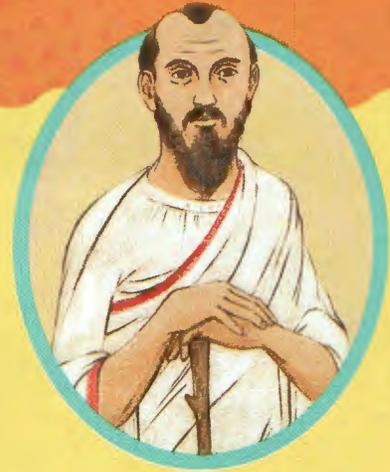
**The Prodigal Son**

- God's love for each person never ends.
- God goes out and searches for us when we lose our way.

# People of Faith

## Saint Paul, first century

Saint Paul did not always like Christians. He helped put them in jail. Then one day, Paul heard a voice from above say, "Why do you persecute me?" It was Jesus. Paul realized that he had done wrong. That very minute, Paul stopped hurting Christians. Instead, he went everywhere telling people about Jesus. He started many churches. He traveled and wrote letters to teach about God. He gave people advice on how to love Jesus. Now we read his letters at Mass. They are called "Epistles."



June 29

**Discuss:** If you were writing a letter about Jesus, what would you write?



Learn more about  
Saint Paul at  
[aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com)

## Live Your Faith

**Act It Out** With a small group, choose one of Jesus' parables to act out. Use these steps to help you plan your play.

1. Choose one of Jesus' parables you have heard.
2. Make a list of the people and the animals in the story.
3. Decide who will play each part.

**Talk It Over** With your group, talk about ways people today can follow the message of this story.



 Let Us Pray

# Celebration of the Word

Gather and begin with the Sign of the Cross.

**Leader:** Gracious God, open our hearts and minds to hear your Word.

**Reader 1:** A reading from the First Letter of John.

Read 1 John 5:13–14.

The Word of the Lord.

**All:** Thanks be to God.

Sing together the refrain.

**Reader 2:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Matthew.

Read Matthew 7:7–8.

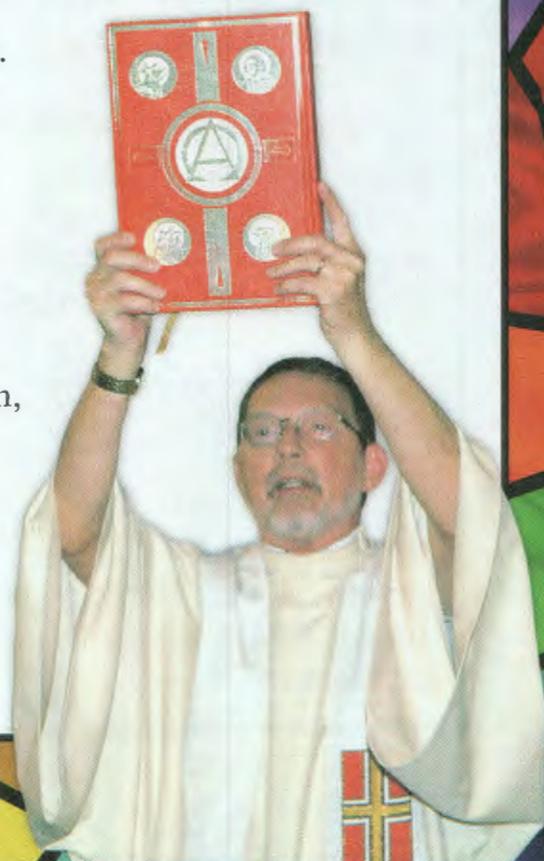
The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Say together the Apostles' Creed on page 304.

I believe in God,  
the Father almighty,  
Creator of heaven and earth,  
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son,  
our Lord...

 Sing "Gospel Acclamation"



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## YOUR CHILD LEARNED >>>

This chapter focuses on the Liturgy of the Word, the first main part of Mass in which we hear God's Word in the Bible.

### God's Word



Read **Luke 13:18–21** to find out what Jesus said about the Kingdom of God.

### Catholics Believe

- In the Liturgy of the Word, God's living Word is read.
- We profess what we believe about God and pray for the needs of the Church and the world.

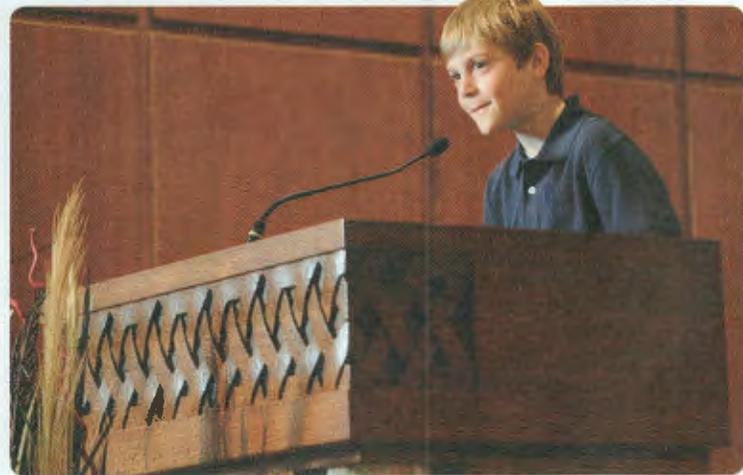
To learn more, go to the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* #1154, 1349 at [usccb.org](http://usccb.org).

### People of Faith

In this chapter, your child met the great Apostle, Saint Paul. He wrote many letters that are part of the New Testament.

## CHILDREN AT THIS AGE >>>

**How They Understand the Liturgy of the Word** Second-graders might not have yet picked up the connection between the Lectionary readings in Mass. Paying attention to the relationship between each Sunday's passages from the Old Testament, Psalms, New Testament, and Gospel will help your child's overall understanding of the Scriptures and will encourage more active participation in the Mass. Some discussion about the readings prior to Mass can help to facilitate this. The readings for each Sunday can be found on the U.S. Bishops' site at [usccb.org/nab](http://usccb.org/nab).



## CONSIDER THIS >>>

Do you long to hear God's voice?

Longing for God's presence is part of our human experience. Our desire for God is written in our hearts, because man is created by God and for God. "Every human person seeks to know the truth and to experience goodness. Moral goodness appeals to us... The more we become aware of these truths, the more we are drawn to the reality of God who is the Supreme Good. These are the seeds of eternity within us that have their origins only in God" (*USCCA, p. 4*).

## LET'S TALK >>>

- Ask your child to describe what happens in the Liturgy of the Word, the first main part of the Mass (readings, homily, creed, Prayer of the Faithful).
- Talk about times you have read the Bible as a family or when you were a child or adult.

## LET'S PRAY >>>



Saint Paul, help us understand the Bible and listen carefully to the readings at Mass. Amen.



For a multimedia glossary of Catholic Faith Words, Sunday readings, seasonal and Saint resources, and chapter activities go to [aliveinchrist.osv.com](http://aliveinchrist.osv.com).

# Chapter 17 Review

**A Work with Words** Match the description in Column A to the correct word or words in Column B.

## Column A

1. Short stories about everyday life that Jesus told.
2. The first main part of the Mass.
3. Jesus used parables to do this.
4. A short talk by the priest or deacon about the readings at Mass.
5. A statement of the Church's beliefs.

## Column B

- teach
- parables
- homily
- Liturgy of the Word
- creed

**B Check Understanding** Circle the correct answer.

6. Jesus was a great \_\_\_\_.

storyteller

farmer

follower

7. Jesus' stories had lessons about God's \_\_\_\_.

family

friends

love

8. We say the Prayer of \_\_\_\_ together at Mass.

contrition

the Faithful

the people

9. Jesus' parables teach you how to \_\_\_\_.

go to Mass

read

follow God

10. The \_\_\_\_ is like a mustard seed.

Kingdom of God

land

Bible

