

Lesson #12

Topic: The Divine Liturgy

Lesson Plan

Grade Level: 3rd & 4th (Ages 9-10)

Lesson Duration: 45-60 minutes

Lesson Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, students will:

- Understand the basic elements of the **Divine Liturgy** in the Orthodox Church.
- Learn the significance of each part of the Divine Liturgy.
- Appreciate the Divine Liturgy as a central part of Orthodox Christian worship.

1. Opening Prayer (5 minutes)

Begin with a short prayer:

"Lord, thank You for gathering us together in Your presence. Help us understand the importance of the Divine Liturgy and draw closer to You as we worship. Amen."

2. What is the Divine Liturgy? (15 minutes)

The **Divine Liturgy** is the primary form of worship in the Orthodox Church. It is the celebration of the **Eucharist** (Holy Communion), where we come together to pray, sing, and receive the Body and Blood of Christ.

Key Elements of the Divine Liturgy:

1. **Opening Hymn** – We start with a hymn to honor God and ask for His mercy.
2. **The Great Litany** – A series of prayers asking for God's help and blessings for the world, the Church, and all people.
3. **The Scripture Readings** – We hear passages from the **Bible**, including the Gospel and Epistle.
4. **The Sermon** – The priest or deacon explains the readings and how we can apply them to our lives.

5. **The Nicene Creed** – We recite this important prayer that states our belief in the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
6. **The Anaphora (Eucharistic Prayer)** – The priest prays a special prayer of thanksgiving, and we remember the Last Supper.
7. **The Holy Communion** – We receive the **Body and Blood of Christ** in Holy Communion to strengthen our relationship with God.
8. **The Dismissal** – The priest sends us out with a blessing, telling us to go in peace and live out our faith.

Activity:

- Show a **diagram or visual aid** of the Divine Liturgy, labeling each part and explaining its purpose.
- Explain the significance of **Holy Communion** and its importance to our faith.

3. The Significance of the Divine Liturgy (15 minutes)

- The **Divine Liturgy** is a way for a community to **connect with God**.
- It serves as a **reminder** of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection.
- **Holy Communion** helps us grow in faith and receive God's grace.
- The Liturgy helps us **worship together** and strengthens our relationship with the Church family.

Discussion Questions:

1. Why do you think we pray and sing during the Divine Liturgy?
2. How does Holy Communion help us feel more connected to God?
3. What is the purpose of the Nicene Creed, and why do we recite it together?

4. How We Participate in the Divine Liturgy (10 minutes)

- We participate by **praying, singing hymns, listening to Scripture, and receiving Communion**.
- **Attentiveness** – It is essential to be **attentive** and **respectful** during the Liturgy, as it is a special time to be in the presence of God.
- **Active participation** means singing, praying, and paying attention to the priest and the words being spoken.

Activity:

- **Role-play** a section of the Liturgy, such as the **Great Litany** or **The Creed**. Students can take turns acting as the priest, choir, or congregation, learning how each has a part in the service.

5. Closing Prayer & Take-Home Challenge

- End with a prayer:
"Lord, thank You for the gift of the Divine Liturgy, where we can worship You together as a Church family. Help us to always honor You in our hearts and lives. Amen."
- **Take-Home Challenge:** Have students **attend a Divine Liturgy** with their family and focus on one part of the service they hadn't noticed before, such as the prayers, hymns, or the reading of the Gospel. Then, have them share what they learned next time.



Worksheet 1

Lesson: The Divine Liturgy

ACTIVITY 1: ORGANIZE THE KEY ELEMENTS OF THE DIVINE LITURGY

Assign a number to each line to arrange the key elements in order.

The Nicene Creed – We recite this important prayer, which states our belief in the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The Holy Communion – We receive the Body and Blood of Christ in Holy Communion to strengthen our relationship with God.

1 **Opening Hymn** – We start with a hymn to honor God and ask for His mercy.

The Sermon – The priest or deacon explains the readings and how we can apply them to our lives.

The Great Litany – A series of prayers asking for God's help and blessings for the world, the Church, and all people.

The Scripture Readings – We hear passages from the Bible, including the Gospel and Epistle.

The Anaphora (Eucharistic Prayer) – The priest prays a special prayer of thanksgiving, and we remember the Last Supper.

The Dismissal – The priest sends us out with a blessing, telling us to go in peace and live out our faith.

ACTIVITY 2: TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE



What is the name of the “item” that the priest often utilizes during the Divine Liturgy?

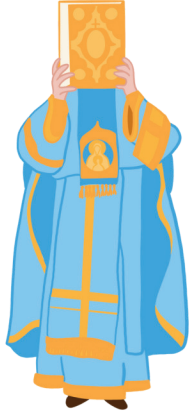
1. Blessing tool
2. Censer
3. Altar dresser
4. Greaser



Worksheet 2

Lesson: The Divine Liturgy

ACTIVITY 3: QUIZ



What is the procession with the Gospel during the Divine Liturgy called?

1. Beautiful Entrance
2. Censing
3. Preaching
4. Small Entrance

What is the procession with the Holy Gifts during the Divine Liturgy called?

1. Great Entrance
2. Small Entrance
3. Altar Boys Procession
4. Priest Procession



ACTIVITY 4: IDENTIFY AND CIRCLE ITEMS USED DURING THE DIVINE LITURGY

