

## Looking Ahead

In this chapter, the Holy Spirit invites you to ►



**EXPLORE** the life of Saint Marguerite Marie Alacoque.



**DISCOVER** how the Church is the sacrament of Salvation.



**DECIDE** how your life will be an image of the Church for others.

# The Mystery of the Church

? If you were describing a member of your family or a friend, what image would you use to help others understand that person's best qualities?

In this prayer, the psalmist used an image to describe God. Quietly read and reflect on this passage:

*The LORD is my strength and my shield,  
in whom my heart trusted and found help.  
So my heart rejoices;  
with my song I praise my God.  
LORD, you are the strength of your people. . . .  
Save your people, bless your inheritance;  
feed and sustain them forever!*

PSALM 28:7-9

? What image would you use to describe God?

Disciple Power

Peace

Peace is one of the twelve Fruits of the Holy Spirit. Peace on Earth is a reflection of the peace of Christ. Christ has reconciled humanity with God and made the Church the sacrament of unity and peace. Disciples of Jesus are called to be peacemakers.

# Saint Marguerite Marie Alacoque

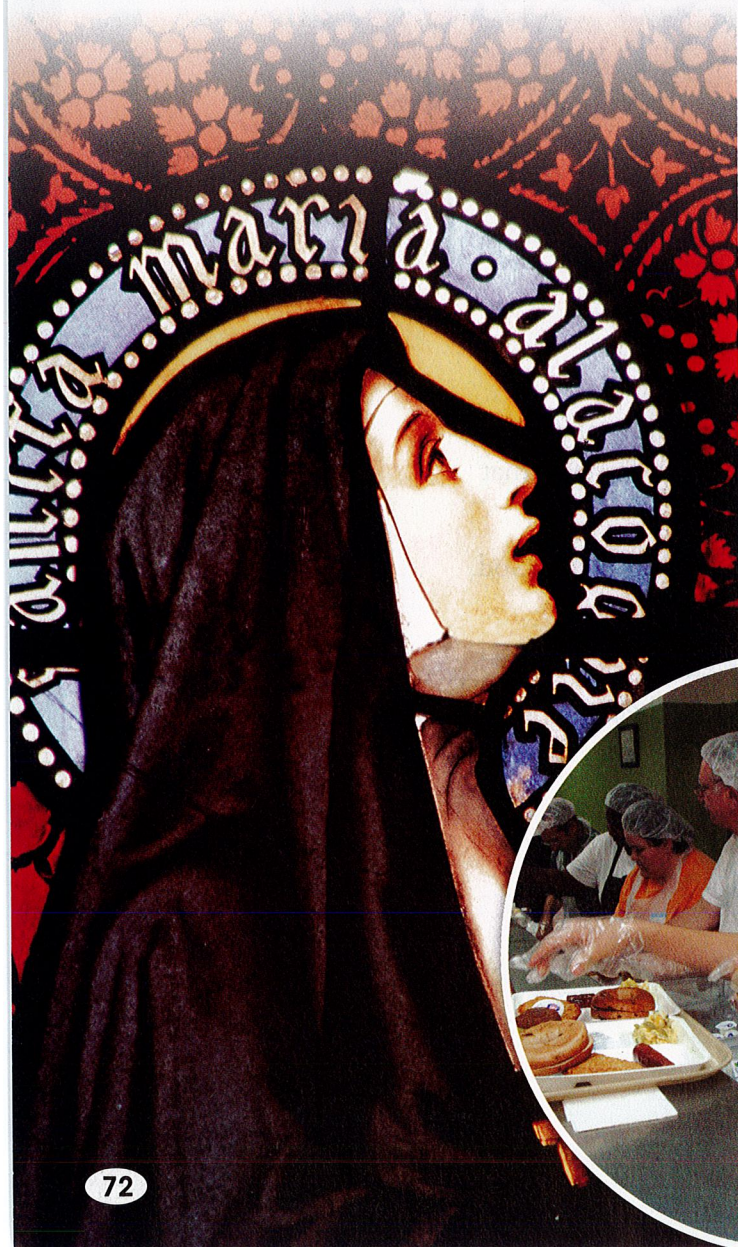
When Marguerite Marie Alacoque was a child in Burgundy, France, more than 360 years ago, she had a strong devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. In fact, she preferred to pray in the peace of silence before the Blessed Sacrament instead of playing with other children. At one point, she became ill and was paralyzed. After four years of being confined to her bed, she decided to devote her life to the service of God and the Church. As a result, she was instantly cured and began her life's work.

At the age of twenty-five, Marguerite joined the Salesian Sisters. At a young age, she had visions of Christ and of Mary. While a Salesian Sister, Marguerite Marie had visions of Christ's heart. In these visions, the Lord told Marguerite Marie to set aside a special time for peaceful prayer, a holy hour, in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

When the Catholic Church honors the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Church is honoring Jesus and his intense love for all of us. The Church honors the Sacred Heart of Jesus with traditional practices of praying before the Blessed Sacrament on the first Friday of the month. It celebrates the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on the Friday following the second Sunday after Pentecost.

We can also honor Jesus with acts of charity toward those who suffer. This is a Christian way of bringing a sense of peace to those in need.

**?** What images remind you of Christ's love and peace?  
Tell a partner.



# The Kingdom of God

Jesus Christ established the **Church** with his Apostles and disciples. After the Ascension, the Holy Spirit became the principal guide within the Church. In his writings, Saint Paul teaches that the Church is the Body of Christ, a community of Saints, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, and the Bride of Christ (see 1 Corinthians 12:27).

These images help us to understand the mystery of the Church as the sacrament of Salvation. We, as members of the Church, are a communion of “holy people” who participate in God’s plan of Salvation. The Church is the Communion of Saints. The Communion of Saints includes all of the faithful members of the Church on Earth and those who have died. The Church has four essential characteristics, or Marks. The Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.

**The Church is *one*.** She professes there is “one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all” (Ephesians 4:5-6).

**The Church is *holy***—a “holy nation” living in communion with God the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit (see 1 Peter 2:9). We share in the Seven Sacraments, above all the Eucharist.

**The Church is *catholic*,** or universal, inviting all people to become disciples of Jesus, who is the Savior of all people. We share with all people the goods and the blessings that God bestows on us.

**The Church is *apostolic*,** that is, rooted in what the Apostles taught in the name of Jesus. The baptized members of the Church share in the charisms of the Holy Spirit. There is an unbroken connection, called apostolic succession, made visible by the Pope, the successor of Saint Peter the Apostle, and the other bishops who are the successors of the other Apostles.

**Activity** Choose one of the Marks of the Church. Decorate a banner with words and images that symbolize that Mark.

## FAITH FOCUS

What is the Church?

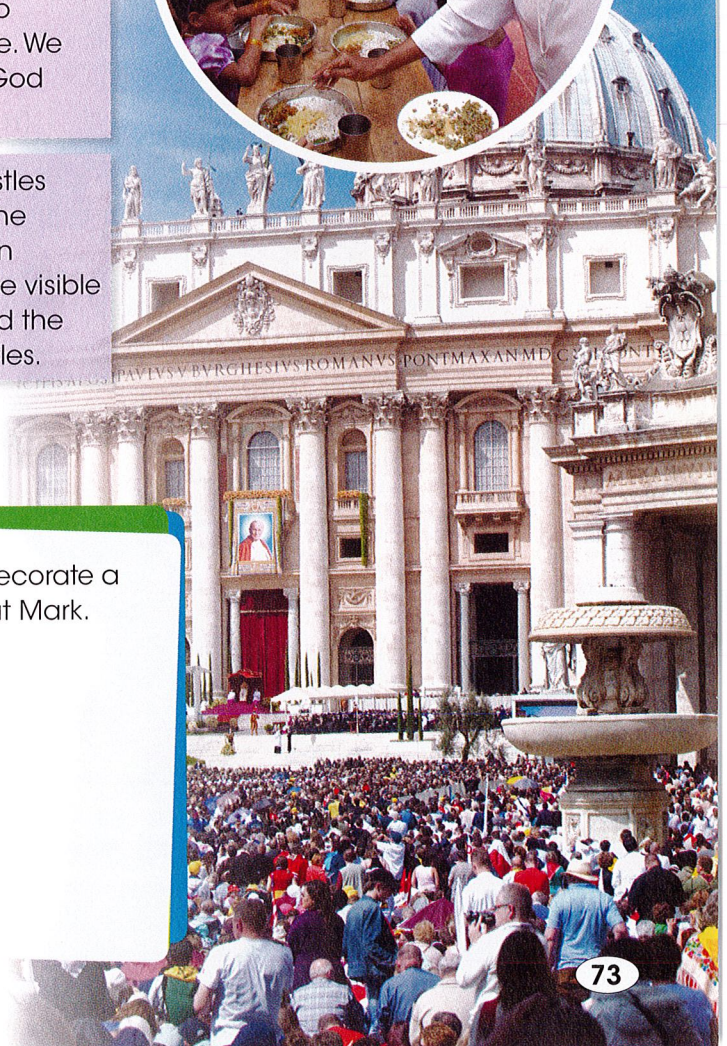
## FAITH VOCABULARY


### Church

The Church is the new People of God, the Body of Christ, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, and the Bride of Christ, called together in Jesus Christ by the power of the Holy Spirit.

### Kingdom of God

The Kingdom of God is the fulfillment of God’s plan for all creation in Christ at the end of time when Christ will come again in glory.





## Faith-Filled People

### Saint Timothy

Timothy was the child of a Greek father and Jewish mother. Paul baptized him. Timothy traveled with Paul on missionary journeys and became the first bishop of Ephesus. There are two letters in the New Testament addressed to Timothy. He was stoned to death in A.D. 97 because he refused to worship the Roman Emperor Dionysius.

## God's Reign of Holiness

Like our Old Testament ancestors in faith, who journeyed from slavery in Egypt to freedom in the Promised Land, the Church is a people on a journey of faith. Our destination is the **Kingdom of God**. It will come to completion by God himself at the end of time when Christ will come again in glory.

The Church is both physical and spiritual, both human and divine. Christ is the Head of the Body, and we are the members. All baptized members of the Church—the ordained, the consecrated, and the laity—make up the one Body of Christ. Each member has unique gifts and different responsibilities to build up the Church.


All the baptized, according to their role in the Church, share in the responsibility to evangelize and proclaim the truth of God revealed in Jesus Christ to those who have not heard it or need to hear it again. We are to be Christ to others by living the Commandments and the Beatitudes. Jesus commanded,

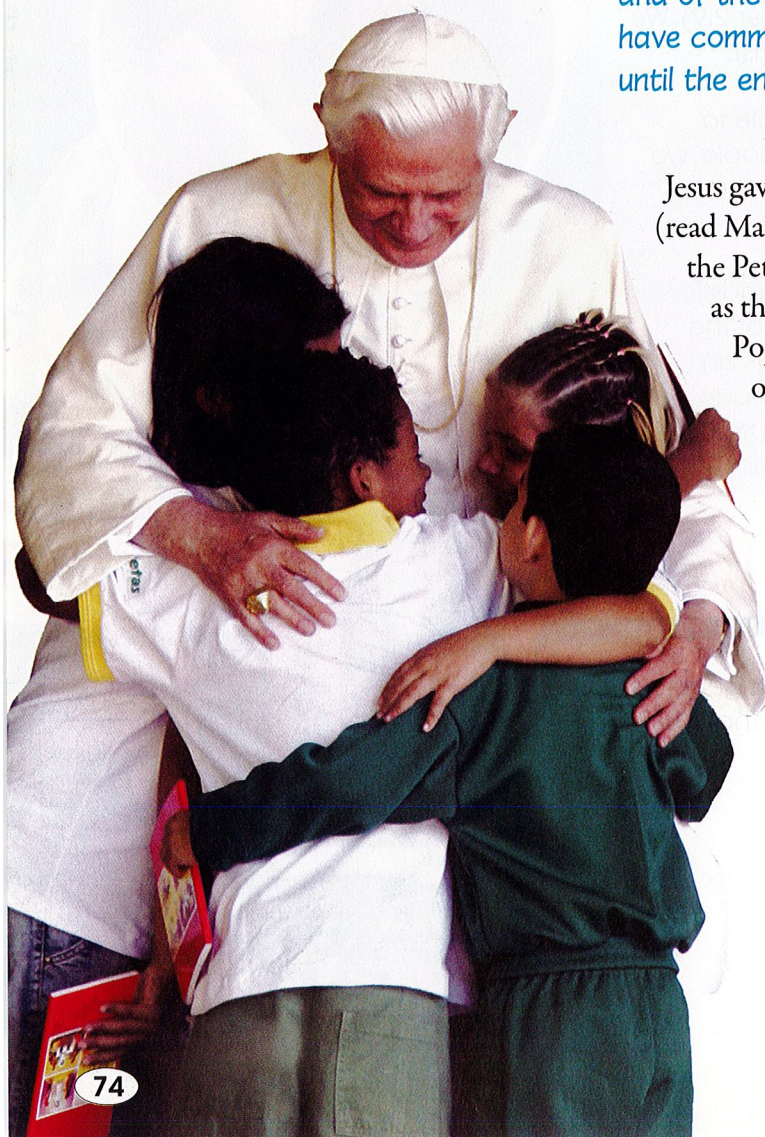
*“Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age.”*

MATTHEW 28:19-20

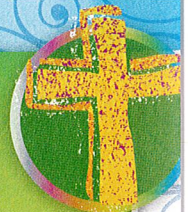
Jesus gave Saint Peter a unique responsibility in the Church (read Matthew 16:18-19). This unique responsibility is known as the Petrine ministry. Today, the Pope continues this ministry as the successor of Saint Peter and the bishop of Rome. The Pope is the immediate and universal pastor, or shepherd, of the whole Universal Church.

The Pope's ministry includes the responsibility to keep the Church together as one Body of Christ. The Pope also insures that the teachings of the Church are faithful to the truth of Jesus handed down by the Apostles. The Pope supports and encourages all members of the People of God to faithfully proclaim the Gospel.

 What are you doing to build the Kingdom of God?



# Catholics Believe



## Last Judgment

On the last day, at the end of time, the lives of everyone will be judged. This is called the Last Judgment. On this day, God will invite all the faithful to everlasting life in the kingdom. Our risen bodies will be reunited with our immortal souls. We will rise from the dead just as Christ was raised from the dead.

## Life After Death

The Gospel proclaims that God invites all people to live with him forever. When a person dies, life is changed not ended. At the moment of death, Christ will judge the way that person has lived his or her life (read Matthew 25:31–32). This is called the particular judgment.

Those who have been faithful to God on Earth will be invited into the Kingdom of God (see Matthew 25:34–40). This is everlasting life in communion with God, the Holy Trinity, and with the Blessed Virgin Mary, the angels, and all the holy men and women who have lived before us. This perfect life with God is called Heaven.

Some people who die are not ready to receive the gift of eternal life in Heaven. After death, they are purified of their weakness and given the opportunity to grow in their love for God. This is called Purgatory.

Sadly, some people choose to turn themselves completely away from God's love. They do this by sinning seriously and not asking God for forgiveness. When people do this and die, they choose to stay separated from God forever (read Matthew 25:41–46). This eternal separation from God is called hell.

### Activity

Read Matthew 25:31-40. List the actions Jesus names as ways to minister to others in his name. Working with a partner, prepare a skit illustrating a way to serve others.

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# I FOLLOW JESUS

You are a sign, or image, of the Church. At Baptism, you received the responsibility and the grace to help bring about the Kingdom of God. Peace is one essential characteristic of the kingdom. As Jesus is the Prince of Peace, the Church is to be a people of peace.

## SEEING THE CHURCH

Use symbols, images, and words to create a billboard advertisement that tells others about the Church and how she is a sign of peace in the world.

## MY FAITH CHOICE

This week, I will be a peacemaker. I will be a clear image of what the Church is. I will

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Think of yourself as an image of the Church. Pray, "Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen."

# Chapter Review

Use the words below to complete each sentence. Not all words will be used.

**blessings**

**Kingdom of God**

**charisms**

**ordained ministers**

**Communion of Saints**

**Petrine ministry**

1. Bishops, priests and deacons are \_\_\_\_\_.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ are graces of the Holy Spirit given to help the Church fulfill her work in the world.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ is the special ministry of the Pope.
4. The \_\_\_\_\_ includes all the faithful members of the Church, those on Earth and those in Heaven and in Purgatory.
5. The \_\_\_\_\_ is all people and creation living in communion with God.

## TO HELP YOU REMEMBER

1. Jesus Christ is the Head of the Church, the Body of Christ. The laity, the ordained, and members of the consecrated life are her members.
2. The Holy Spirit strengthens the Church to be one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.
3. The Kingdom of God begun by God the Father and announced in the Gospels is mysteriously present in the Church and will come about in fullness at the end of time.

# Prayer of Vocation

All members of the Church, young people and adults, are called to continue the work of Jesus. We all have the vocation to live our life in Christ.

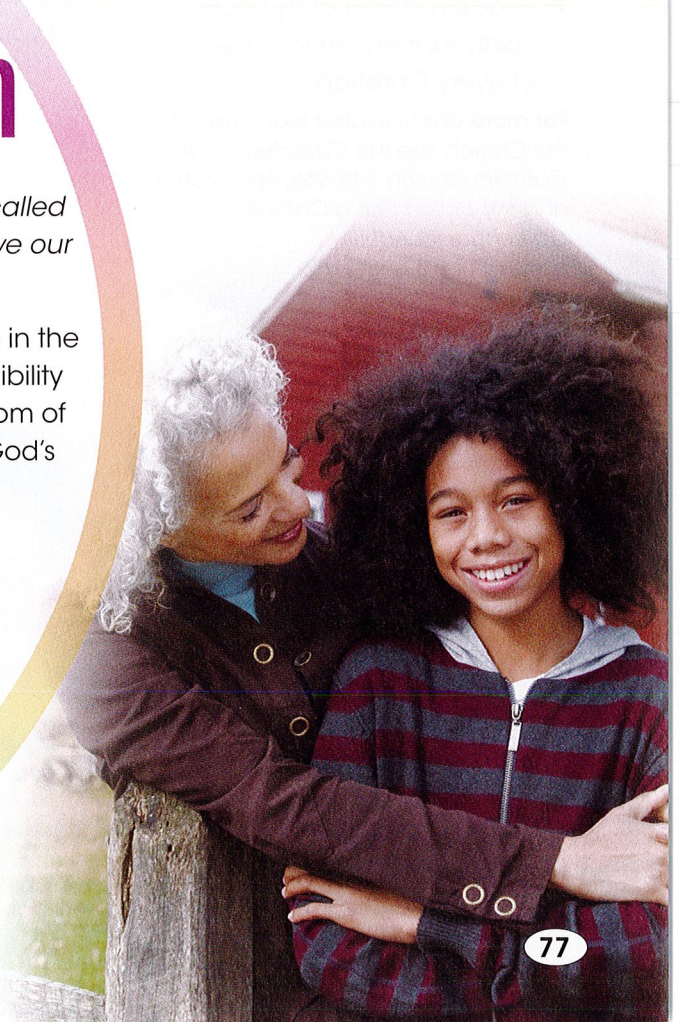
**Leader:** God calls each member of the Church to share in the work of Christ. All the baptized have the responsibility to prepare the way for the coming of the Kingdom of God. Let us pray that we hear and respond to God's invitation to spread the Gospel.

**Reader:** Proclaim Matthew 9:35-38.

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

**Leader:** Lord God, we pray that all the members of the Church may hear your call to serve your people. We ask this in the name of Christ, our Lord.

**All:** Amen.



# With My Family

## This Week . . .

**In Chapter 8**, "The Mystery of the Church," your child learned:

- ▶ The Church is the new People of God, the Temple of the Holy Spirit, and the Communion of Saints.
- ▶ Called by God the Father, all the baptized are joined to Christ through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- ▶ The whole Church, Christ the Head, and all the members (the laity, the ordained, consecrated religious, and lay ecclesial ministers) are the Body of Christ.
- ▶ There are four Marks, or characteristics, of the Church. The Church is one, holy, catholic, and apostolic.
- ▶ Peace is a Fruit of the Holy Spirit. Peacemaking is the call of every Christian.

**For more** about related teachings of the Church, see the *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 748–962, 988–1060, and the *United States Catholic Catechism for Adults*, pages 111–139, 151–162.

## Sharing God's Word

**Read together** Matthew 25:31–40. Emphasize that Jesus clearly teaches that those who faithfully follow his teachings will be invited to join him in the Kingdom of God.

## We Live as Disciples

**The Christian home** and family is a school of discipleship. Choose one of the following activities to do as a family, or design a similar activity of your own:

- ▶ Discuss the four Marks of the Church: one, holy, catholic, and apostolic. Talk about the meaning of each and the ways each of the Marks of the Church is a characteristic of your family.

- ▶ Read Matthew 25:31–40 at the beginning of a family meal. Decide how your family can join with other members of your parish to follow the teachings of Jesus.
- ▶ Discuss a way that your family can be an image of the Church in your neighborhood. Put your idea into action.

## Our Spiritual Journey

**Sharing** our material and spiritual blessings helps bring about the peace that Christ proclaimed, the peace that comes from all people living in right relationship with God and with one another. What might your family do to bring about this peace within your family and among others?



For more ideas on ways your family can live as a disciples of Jesus, visit

[www.BeMyDisciples.com](http://www.BeMyDisciples.com)



# Unit 2 Review

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## A. Choose the Best Word

Read each statement and circle the best answer.

- Where in the Bible do you find stories about the early Church?
  - Wisdom Books
  - New Testament
  - Old Testament
  - Pentateuch
- The events of Jesus' life that make up the Paschal Mystery are his:
  - public ministry
  - arrest and Passion
  - Passion, Death, Resurrection, and Ascension
  - birth, baptism, healing miracles, and parables
- Which of the following is not an image of the Church?
  - Breath of God
  - Body of Christ
  - Communion of Saints
  - Temple of the Holy Spirit
- Which of the following is not one of the canonical Gospels?
  - Matthew
  - Thomas
  - John
  - Luke
- The four Marks of the Church are:
  - one, holy, catholic, and apostolic
  - death, judgment, hell, and Heaven
  - prudence, justice, fortitude, and temperance
  - Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

## B. Show What You Know

Match the items in Column A with those in Column B.

### Column A

- Jesus Christ
- Incarnation
- Hail, Holy Queen
- Apostles' Creed
- Nicene Creed

### Column B

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. The creed we usually profess at Mass
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. One of the earliest creeds
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The center of God's plan of Salvation
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. The prayer at the end of the Rosary
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. The belief that the Son of God became man

## C. Connect with Scripture

Reread the Scripture passage on page 45.

What connection do you see between this passage and what you learned in this unit?

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## D. Be a Disciple

1. Review the four pages in this unit titled *The Church Follows Jesus*. What person or ministry of the Church on these pages will inspire you to be a better disciple of Jesus? Explain your answer.

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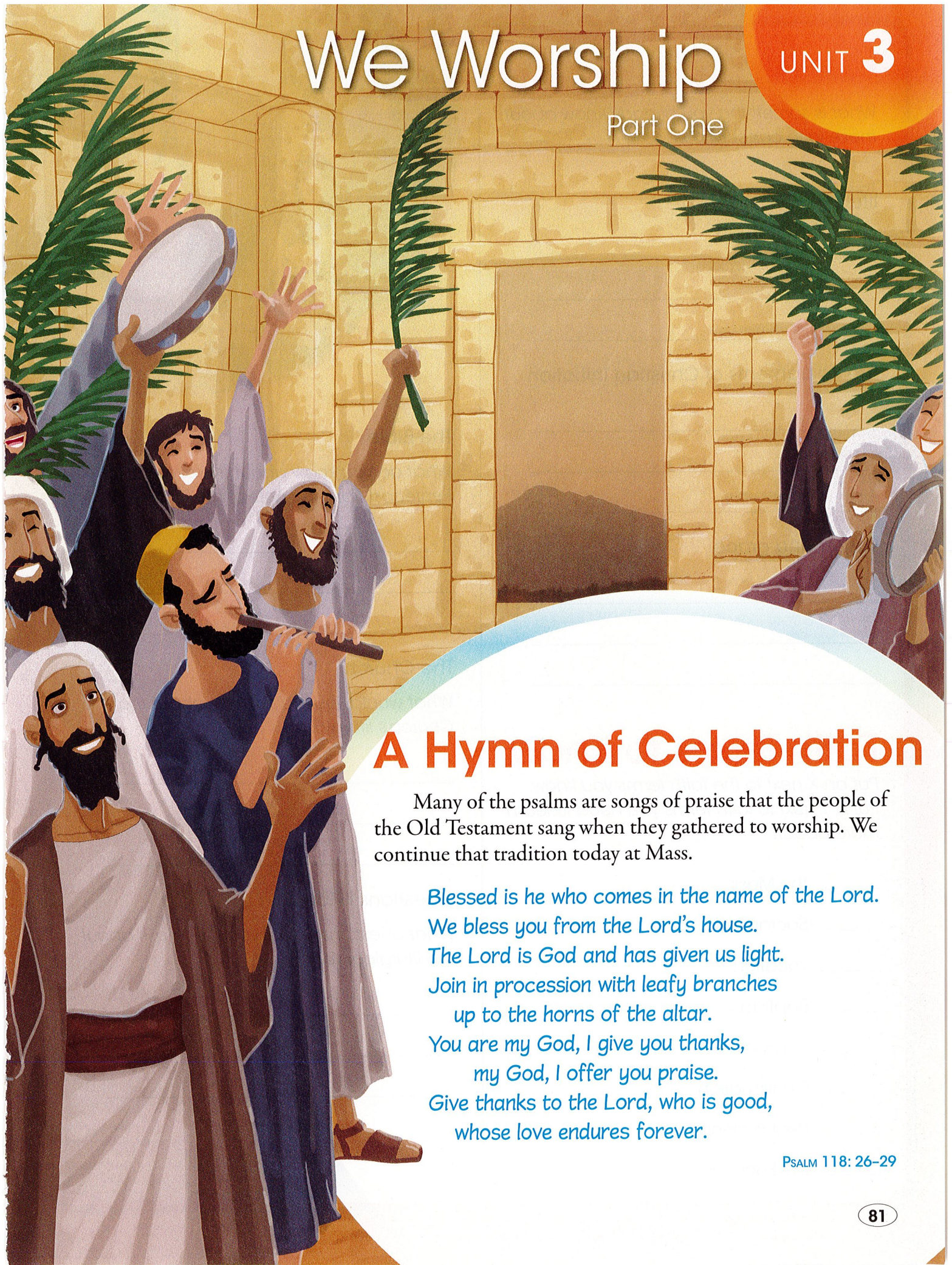
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2. Work with a group. Review the four Disciple Power virtues, or gifts, you have learned about in this unit. After jotting down your own ideas, share with the group practical ways that you will live these virtues day by day.

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## A Hymn of Celebration

Many of the psalms are songs of praise that the people of the Old Testament sang when they gathered to worship. We continue that tradition today at Mass.

*Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.  
We bless you from the Lord's house.  
The Lord is God and has given us light.  
Join in procession with leafy branches  
up to the horns of the altar.  
You are my God, I give you thanks,  
my God, I offer you praise.  
Give thanks to the Lord, who is good,  
whose love endures forever.*

PSALM 118: 26-29

# What I Have Learned

What is something you already know about these faith concepts?

liturgy

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the Sacraments of Christian Initiation

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sanctifying grace

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## Faith Terms to Know

Put an X next to the faith terms you know.  
Put a ? next to faith terms you need to learn more about.

- \_\_\_\_\_ the Mass
- \_\_\_\_\_ Sacrament
- \_\_\_\_\_ vocation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Baptism
- \_\_\_\_\_ consecrate
- \_\_\_\_\_ Confirmation
- \_\_\_\_\_ Real Presence
- \_\_\_\_\_ the Eucharist



### The Bible

What do you know about the event of Pentecost from the Acts of the Apostles?

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### The Church

What would you like to know about the Church's liturgy?

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### Questions I Have

What questions would you like to ask about the liturgical year?

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