Eucharist: A Child's Story
Louis liked to listen to big words. He liked to say big words, too.

The family was surprised about such words coming from a little boy.
One of Louis' favorite words was Eucharist. He liked the way it sounded—so important, so special.

Other people used different words. His grandmother would say Holy Communion and Aunt Jean said the Lord's Supper. Louis liked all those words, but Eucharist was still his favorite.
When he heard the word Eucharist, or said it to himself,

Louis thought of church and the altar, and his friend the priest.
He also thought of Jesus.

Jesus is what Eucharist is all about.
When Louis had bread and wine at the altar, he felt closer to Jesus than at any other time.

It was really special to be there with his loving family.
Louis remembered the time his little sister, Anna, first put out her hands to receive the bread. She was so little, but the smile on her face was big. So was the smile on the priest’s face.
Their mother talked to Anna about it after church. Anna said she felt close to Jesus, too.

Both Anna and Louis knew that church was the place where people went to pray to God, and to listen to stories about God and Jesus.
They also knew that church was a quiet place, except when there was singing, because lots of people were praying.

They tried very hard to be quiet, even though they had to sit still for a long time on Sundays.
Louis liked to watch as the altar was prepared for Eucharist.

He listened carefully to the prayers so he would be ready for what would happen next.
His favorite part was when the priest held up the bread and wine and said, "The Gifts of God, for the People of God."
Louis and his family would leave the service feeling loved by God and ready to share that love with others.