



The Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast

An Order for the Administration of Communion Under Special Circumstances

This service may be celebrated at a service on Sunday morning or on other occasions with the Bishop's permission. It is intended primarily for rural congregations where no priest is available and not for congregations where there are priests available in nearby towns. This adapted use of Communion Under Special Circumstances is authorized for use beginning July 1, 2021.

The Presider for this liturgy shall be a diocesan licensed Lay Worship Leader or Deacon and is denoted throughout this worship with the title 'Leader'.

The consecrated elements are reverently placed on the altar before the congregation arrives. The elements shall be placed in a chalice and paten unveiled and without a burse. No other vessels or missal shall be placed on the altar.

*Rubrics not intended to be printed in a bulletin are printed in red. Additional directions and rubrics are found in a separate document entitled Rubrics for Communion Under Special Circumstances. An opening hymn with or without a procession may be used at the discretion of the Leader. The service may begin with the penitential order found on page 351 of *The Book of Common Prayer*. Because this is not a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the Gloria or a Song of Praise is omitted. A white alb or cassock/surplice shall be worn by the leader.*

The Leader begins the service with the following directions,

Dear friends in Christ, we have come together in the presence of God to offer praise and thanksgiving, to hear and receive the Word of God, to bring before God the needs of the world and to ask for the forgiveness of our sins. Today the bread and wine for our Communion were consecrated as part of a Eucharist celebrated at another time and place. For centuries, the church has reserved consecrated elements in order to include those unable, because of infirmity or distance, to be present at Eucharist, and also to include worshiping communities on occasions when no priest is available to preside.

Opening Hymn

Opening Sentences

The people standing, the Leader says

Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

Or in Penitential seasons

Bless the Lord who forgives all our sins

People God's mercy endures forever

Or in Easter Season through the Day of Pentecost

Alleluia. Christ is Risen

People The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.

All Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Collect of the Day *Insert*

The Leader says to the people

The Lord be with you.

People

And also with you.

Leader

Let us pray. *The congregation prays the collect of the day in unison*

The Readings *A minimum of one reading from the Bible and a maximum of three are read. A reading from the Gospel is always read.*

After each reading the following is said,

Reader

The Word of the Lord.

People

Thanks be to God.

The First Lesson: A reading from_____. *Insert*

The Psalm *Insert*

The Second Lesson: A reading from _____. *Insert*

A Hymn may be sung

The Gospel Lesson: A reading from_____. *Insert.*

Because this is not a celebration of the Holy Eucharist, the congregation shall remain seated during the reading of the Gospel

The Homily *A licensed lay preacher may comment upon the lessons or the occasion. Alternatively, the congregation may be invited to share their reactions to the text. The reading of a sermon crafted by others not familiar with the congregation is discouraged.*

The Nicene Creed *As able, all stand.*

Leader As able, let us stand and affirm our faith in the words of the Nicene Creed.

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father,

God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.

Through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit

he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son.

With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People *The Leader or person appointed leads the congregation in prayer. The content of the prayers must include intercessions per instructions on page 383 of The Book of Common Prayer. It is preferable for the congregation to compose their own form of these prayers, and it is particularly desirable that the form of prayers used at this service be different from the form or forms customarily used by the congregation at the celebration of Holy Eucharist; the prayer forms in the Book of Common Prayer may be used.*

At the conclusion of the prayers, the Leader adds a concluding Collect from BCP pages 394-395, such as:

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my own peace I leave with you." Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly City, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and for ever. *Amen.*

The Confession of Sin *If the penitential order was not said at the beginning of the service, the confession may be said. The congregation may kneel or stand for the confession. The Leader says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Silence is kept.

Leader and People

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. *Amen.*

The Leader says

Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Peace *The Leader says to the people*

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

The people greet each other with signs and words of peace. An offering may be collected for the work of the church at this service, but it shall be placed on the empty altar without ceremony. Minimal preparation is to be made at this time from behind the altar.

All stand. The leader stands in an appointed place near the altar but that is not behind the altar and says:

Sisters and brothers, on the _____ day of _____, in the year of Our Lord, _____, the people of (name of parish and city), gathered as the Body of Christ to celebrate the Holy Eucharist. A portion of the Sacred Bread and Precious Blood was reserved from that Eucharist, and have been reverently kept for us, that we may this day join with those who gathered then, in communion with God and all Christians of every place and every time to share in this foretaste of the Heavenly Banquet.

Leader Sisters and brothers, the cup of blessing that was blessed

People is the communion of the Blood of Christ.

Leader For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body

People and all made to drink of one Spirit.

Leader The Bread that was broken

People is the Communion of the Body of Christ.

Leader Because there is One Bread

People we who are many are one body, for we all share in the One Bread.

All: Almighty Father, whose dear Son on the night before He suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood; Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, Who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and Who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen*

The Lord's Prayer

Leader So, with all who are gathered together today, everywhere throughout the world, and with the great procession of your Saints, we pray to you as our Savior has taught us:

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy Name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come, your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.

Give us today our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and for ever. Amen.

Leader The gifts of God for the People of God.

Administration of Communion *Communion is then administered to all who choose to receive. If someone present comes forward but does not wish to receive, it is appropriate to say a brief prayer of intercession for that person, but not to pronounce a blessing. It is appropriate to offer anointing for healing and prayers for intercession before or during the administration of Communion.*

Communion is received last by those who are to administer it to the people. After Communion has been administered, the altar is cleared with minimal ceremony. Any remaining bread and wine are placed on the credence table. The leader shall not consume the remaining elements in the presence of the people gathered but may do so after the service concludes. If the elements are kept as reserved sacrament, that reservation should occur following the service.

Post-Communion Prayer *All stand, as able.*

Leader Let us pray.

All Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Hymn *A hymn may be sung*

The Dismissal

Leader Let us go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.