

## **For Our Eucharistic Ministry**

Special Service with Distribution of Communion  
To Those in Special Circumstance

Guidelines Based on Augsburg Occasional Services Book (pages 76 thru 79)  
(A Companion to Lutheran Book of Worship)

This is an abridged but comprehensive transcription  
with notes covering also pages 80 thru 88.

- 1.** The distribution is an extension of the Lord's Supper to those, such as the sick and home-bound, who are unable to be present at the celebration of the congregation.
- 2.** Those designated by the congregation as assisting ministers of communion are to be carefully selected and trained for their ministry. The ministers may be lay or ordained persons.
- 3.** As the ministers prepare to leave the church, they may say: Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care: As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread, assist us in this ministry on which we set forth. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom we bring this Sacrament, that through the body and blood of your Son we all may know the comfort of your abiding presence. Amen
- 4.** Upon arrival at the place of distribution, the minister places on the table the containers of bread and wine still closed.
- 5.** The minister may greet the communicants) in these or similar words:  
Peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ.
- 6.** The minister addresses the communicant (s) :

When our congregation gathered for the celebration of Holy Communion, we heard again the story of God's mighty acts and of the love shown us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. With thanksgiving we remembered that "in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."

We were given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit. Now we bring to you this same bread of life and this same cup of blessing, that you may be strengthened through your participation in the body of Christ.

**7.** Confession may be made.

**Example:**

As we prepare for this great gift, let us confess our sins and hear the promise of forgiveness. Most merciful God, we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen

**8.** The declaration of grace is said.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit. Amen

**9.** The minister and communicants) may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

(A) Peace be with you,

(Response) Peace be with you.

**10.** The Prayer of the Day may be said.

**Example:**

O God, you direct our lives by your grace, and your words of justice and mercy reshape the world. Mold us into a people who welcome your word and serve one another, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

(Response) Amen

**Note:**

The prayer of the day may be found using the lectionary resources on the ELCA WEB site. Links are provided on our church WEB site to the ELCA lectionary resources. These links are included on our Eucharistic Ministry page. As further resource a Sunday service bulletin could also be used to find relevant material.

**11.** At the option of the lay minister the Bible readings available from the lectionary or other resource could be read here.

**Note:**

One option given in the occasional Service book is for the following to be read.

"I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." (John 1 16:35)

Brief comment on the reading may be made.

**12.** The container of bread is opened and the wine is poured into the cup.

**13.** The Lord's Prayer is recited

**Example lead in:**

Let us recite together the prayer our Lord Jesus taught us to pray.

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, forever and ever. Amen

**14.** The lay minister may say:

As often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup we proclaim the Lord's death until he comes.

**15.** The minister then gives the bread and wine, saying:

The body of Christ, given for you.

The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say: "Amen."

**16.** Silence for reflection follows.

**Note:** According to the Occasional Services book, silence for reflection is an important part of the ministration of Communion and should be observed.

**NOTE DIRECTLY FROM THE OCCASIONAL SERVICES BOOK:**

The blessing, "The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you and keep you in his grace," is omitted here because the post-communion prayer and benediction follow shortly.

**17.** One of these prayers is said.

Let us pray.

**A.** Almighty God, you provide the true bread from heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that we who have received the Sacrament of his body and blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be filled with the power of his endless life, now and forever. Amen

**OR**

**B.** We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life; and we pray that in your mercy you would strengthen us, through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**18.** The service concludes:

(A) Let us bless the Lord.

(C) Thanks be to God.

(A) The Lord bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us to everlasting life.

(C) Amen.

**NOTES ON THE SERVICE** (From the Occasional Service book directly)

To underscore the significance of bringing the congregational Eucharist to those unable to participate in the assembly, the Communion should be carried to the absent without delay/allowing the congregational celebration. Sufficient ministers should be appointed so that all the absent may receive Communion within a few hours of the congregation's service that day.

Lay assisting ministers of communion should be appointed for a definite period, such as a year or a season of the church year.

Provision should be made for maintenance of the communion records of those to whom Communion is distributed.

**FINAL NOTE:**

For more exacting details refer to the OCCASIONAL SERVICES book itself. Pastor David has the book in his office.

**ALSO**

Common sense rules in courtesy and concern for the communicant..

Fellowship is part of the visit!

The following pages are from some old text files that I found on my computer.  
(Eric)

## EUCCHARISTIC MINISTRY

What a privilege to be a part of the Gloria Dei Family! We have the opportunity of worship, Bible study, and fellowship. Our church family supports us through our ups and downs. Weekly worship encourages us in our daily walk of faith. However, there are family and friends of Gloria Dei who are unable to attend weekly worship services. They are home bound and isolated from their church family. They miss worshiping with their church family.

The Eucharistic ministers of Gloria Dei provide that link between the home bound and their church family. The following serve as Eucharistic ministers: Robin Carlascio, Fran Danner, Diane Heintzman, Helen Little, Charlene Partyka, Nancy Talabay, Sandy Trexler, Elaine VanProyen, Blanche Vercel, and Elaine Von Almen.

If you would like to be part of the Eucharistic ministry or if you know of someone who is home bound, please contact Pastor Trexler or myself.

This prayer is often said after communion at our worship services.

O God of tender compassion,  
As you healed the sick and welcomed the stranger,  
bless those who leave this assembly to share the gifts of this table  
with our absent sisters and brothers.  
May they be sustained by the love and prayers of this community,  
And the Bread of life that satisfies all hunger,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

Elaine Von Almen

**DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION  
TO THOSE IN SPECIAL CIRCUMSTANCES  
BY EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS**

*Gracious God, loving all your family with a mother's tender care; As you sent the angel to feed Elijah with heavenly bread/ assist me in this ministry on which I am set forth. In your love and care, nourish and strengthen those to whom I bring this Sacrament, that through the body and blood of your Son we all may know the comfort of your abiding presence. Amen.*

*A: Peace to you from our Lord Jesus Christ.*

*A: When our congregation gathered for the celebration of Holy Communion, we heard again the story of God's mighty acts and of the love shown us in the death and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. With thanksgiving we remembered that "in the night in which he was betrayed/he took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me."*

*We were given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of his Holy Spirit. Now I bring to you this same bread of life and this same cup of blessing, that you may be strengthened through your participation in the body of Christ.*

*A: As we prepare for this great gift, let us confess our sins and hear the promise of forgiveness.*

*A: Most merciful God,*

**C: we confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. 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. For the sake of your Son/ Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

*A: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. To those who believe in Jesus Christ he gives the power to become the children of God and bestows on them the Holy Spirit.*

**C: Amen.**

*A: Peace be with you.*

**C: Peace be with you.**

*A: Lord God, in a wonderful Sacrament you have left us a memorial of your suffering and death. May this Sacrament of your body and blood so work in us that the way we live will proclaim the redemption you have brought; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever*

**C: Amen.**

*A: Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." (john6:35)*

*A: As your son taught us to pray*

**ALL: 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, forever and ever. Amen.**

*A: The body of Christ, given for you.*

*A: The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

*A: May the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ  
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

*C: Amen.*

*A: Let us pray.*

*A: Almighty God, you provide the true bread from  
heaven, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Grant that  
we who have received the Sacrament of his body and  
blood may abide in him and he in us, that we may be  
filled with the power of his endless life, now and  
forever. Amen.*

*A: Let us bless the Lord*

**C: Thanks be to God**

*A: The Lord Bless us, defend us from all evil, and bring us  
to everlasting life.*

**C: Amen**