



FIRST ST. PAUL'S
LUTHERAN CHURCH

Special Service with Distribution of Communion To Those in Special Circumstance

*Guidelines Based on Augsburg Occasional Services Book (p.76-79)
(A Companion to Lutheran Book of Worship)*

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.

{A} 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.

{R} Amen

The declaration of grace is said.

{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.

{R} Amen

8. The minister and communicant(s) may greet one another in the name of the Lord.

{A} Peace be with you,

{R} Peace be with you.

9. The Prayer of the Day may be said.

Example:

{A} 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.

{R} Amen

10. The minister reads the Gospel appointed for the day, or:

{A} Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst." (John 6:35)

11. The container of bread is opened and the wine is poured into the cup. The Lord's Prayer is recited all together.

{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

12. The lay minister may say:

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

13. The lay 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."

Optional Blessing for Children (Given with the sign of the CROSS on their forehead):

1.) The Lord be with you today and everyday.

2.) May God bless you and keep you, now and forever.

3.) May the Spirit of our resurrected Lord be with you always.

4.) God loves you, Jesus loves you, and so do I.

5.) May you always know God and feel his presence in your life.

14. Silence for reflection follows.

15. One of these prayers is said.

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

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

16. The service concludes:

{A} Let us bless the Lord.

{R} Thanks be to God.

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

{R} Amen.