

Eucharistic Ministry Kits

Traditional "Communion kits" sold by church supply houses are usually designed to carry non-perishable wafers and wine, and to be used by priests and pastors when they administer Holy Communion in hospitals to one to three people (since they typically include only two to four individual cups). In cases where *contagion* is a concern, their individual cups and wafers (rather than intinction with real bread) make sense.



However, they don't meet the needs of lay Eucharistic ministers who must bring *fresh* bread and juice from the community Table. Rather than a bottle, the juice container needs to be open to allow for intinction with a portion of bread. Rather than wafers, the kit must carry a chunk of bread from the loaf. And it must include everything needed, including the ritual cards, hand sanitizer, and white napkin. The kit shown below meets these needs.

There are other options: If you have no woodworkers, fabric kits like the one shown here are also available from church supply houses, or fabric artists in your congregation could quilt a beautiful set of carriers.



The least expensive option (and quickest to implement) is a kit using three off the shelf plastic food storage containers purchased at any housewares department. You'll need a two-ounce container for the juice, a two-cup container for the bread, and a larger container to hold these, the cards, napkin and hand sanitizer.

As your ministry grows and gathers a "congregation" at a nursing home, even these kits may become too small. In that case, use a basket, a larger off-the-shelf plastic bottle along with a cup for serving by intinction, and wrap the loaf of bread in a white cloth. Remember to include sanitizer, the ritual cards and door hanger.

About the cards: If you print your ritual in a compact format like that provided here, and laminate them back to back, you will have two easy to handle, easy to read and *easy to clean* cards. You won't have to carry a book around and protect it from spills or contamination by germs. The third card is a door hanger to help provide a quiet and sacred space. The cards for two ritual options are ready for printing at the end of this document.



This Eucharistic Ministry kit was crafted by master woodworker John Damon of First U.M.C. of Princeton, Illinois. There are no plans, but woodworkers in your congregation can surely create something similar. The kits were sponsored as memorials.

The kits have sockets that hold the bread and juice containers securely. The bodies are oak, the dovetail corners walnut. The hardware fittings are brass. The lid closes with a firm spring-loaded tongue and socket latch. The boxes are designed to stack.

What about germs? It's my understanding that wood is a natural anti-bacterial material (hence the safe use of wood cutting boards for centuries). Fabric kits can be washed. The cards and door hanger are of laminated plastic so they can be washed along with the containers. Folks should always sanitize their hands before handling the elements.



This ritual is from the United Methodist Book of Worship, pages 51-53, and is especially useful for those in situations of illness. Cards 1 and 2 can be printed back to back. OR if you are also using Ritual 2, print Cards 1 and 3 back to back, and use Card 2 from that set (it is identical with the card on page 4 of this document). The Confession has been adjusted to make it easier to speak aloud in lined format.

Eucharistic Ministry Order of Worship Number 2

BE REVERENTLY JOYFUL!

1

A Favorite Hymn, especially if person is not fully conscious, or mentally impaired

Scripture reading: the morning's reading or a favorite passage (Ps. 23 or others)

Invitation:

Christ the Lord invites to his table all who love him and seek to grow into his likeness.

Let us draw near with faith, make our humble confession, and prepare to receive this Holy Sacrament. Please repeat after me:

Lord, we do not come to your table trusting in our own goodness ...

instead, we trust in your unfailing mercy ...

We are not worthy that you should receive us ...

but give your word and we shall be healed ...

through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

U.M. Book of Worship, p. 51, alt.

Let us rest in God's love, reaching out to God in silent prayer.

2

(Pause for silent prayer. If a person wants to confess out loud to you, allow that after ensuring privacy. Then declare, while touching hand or shoulder if appropriate:)

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners; that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen

Sharing the Peace of Christ: The Peace of Christ be with you.

Giving the elements to all present. Names! Eye

Contact!

The body of Christ, given [broken] for you.

The blood of Christ, given [shed] for you.

OR

The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

**Remember to
partake yourself!**

**Help person if needed. Include
all who joined in the ritual.**

**If person can't swallow, touch
elements to lips. Return unused
elements to the ground.**

Thanksgiving—again lined by leader or leader can simply read it:

Let us give thanks! Please repeat after me:

Most bountiful God, we give you thanks ... for the world you have created ...

for the gift of life ... and for giving yourself to us in Jesus Christ ...

Whose holy life, suffering and death ... and glorious resurrection ...

have delivered us from slavery to sin and death. ...

We thank you that in the power of your Holy Spirit ...

You have fed us in this Sacrament ... united us with Christ...

And given us a foretaste of your heavenly banquet. ...

We are your children... and yours is the glory ... now and forever ...

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Blessing by leader:

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God,

and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you.

U.M. Book of Worship, p. 53

Eucharistic Ministry Order of Worship
BE REVERENTLY JOYFUL!

1

A Favorite Hymn, especially if person is not fully conscious, or mentally impaired

Scripture reading: the morning's reading or a favorite passage (Ps. 23 or others)

Invitation:

Christ the Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent
of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another.

Therefore, let us confess our sin before God and one another. Please repeat after me:

Merciful God, ... We have failed to be an obedient church ...
we confess that we have not loved you ... with our whole heart ...
We have rebelled against your love ... we have not loved our neighbors ...
and we have not heard the cry of the needy. ... Forgive us, we pray. ...
Free us for joyful obedience, ... through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. ...
U.M. Hymnal Communion Ritual

Eucharistic Ministry Order of Worship—Alternate confession:

1

A Favorite Hymn, Scripture reading Invitation:

Christ the Lord invites to his table all who love him, who earnestly repent
of their sin and seek to live in peace with one another. Therefore,
let us confess our sin before God and one another. Please repeat after me:

God, we confess to you what we are. ... We are not the people we pretend to be...
We are afraid to admit, even to ourselves... what lies deep in our souls...
But we cannot hide from you... You know us as we are... and yet you love us...
Help us to know ourselves... Teach us to respect ourselves...
Give us the courage... To trust your guiding power...
Raise us out of guilt... Into the wholeness of forgiven people...
And for those... who find forgiveness hard to accept...
We ask you to break their bondage... And set them free...
Through Jesus Christ our redeemer. Amen... *Book of Worship 450, adapted.*

Ritual 2: Options using the suggestions in This Holy Mystery. These two Page 1 options offer different confessions. Cut out both, laminate them back to back, but select one to use at the time of sharing Communion.

And now we bring our own personal sins and failures, fears and brokenness,
and broken relationships, before you in silent prayer.

2

(Pause for silent prayer. If a person wants to confess out loud to you, allow that after ensuring privacy. Then declare, while touching hand or shoulder if appropriate:)

Hear the good news: Christ died for us while we were yet sinners;
that proves God's love toward us. In the name of Jesus Christ,
you are forgiven! Glory to God! Amen

Sharing the Peace of Christ: The Peace of Christ be with you.

Giving the elements to all present. **Names! Eye Contact!**

The body of Christ, given [broken] for you.
The blood of Christ, given [shed] for you.

OR

The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.
The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

Help person if needed. Include
all who joined in the ritual.
If person can't swallow, touch
elements to lips. Return unused
elements to the ground.

Remember to
partake yourself!

Thanksgiving—again lined by leader:

3

Let us give thanks! Please repeat after me:

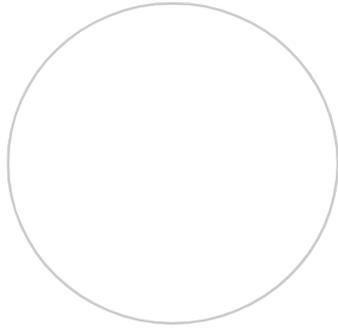
Eternal God, we give you thanks ... for this holy mystery ...
in which you have given yourself to us. ...

Grant that we may live the lives you give us, ...
whatever our circumstances, ... in the strength of your Spirit, ...
to give ourselves for others however we can, ...

in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

A Favorite Hymn
Continue with visit

Ritual 2: Options using the suggestions in This Holy Mystery. Cut out both cards and laminate them back to back. When sharing Communion, use both # 3 and then #4.



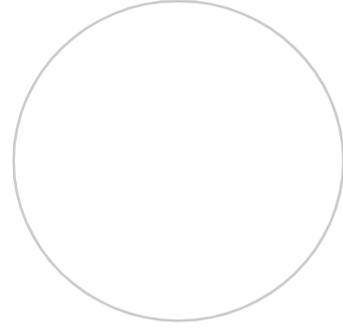
Holy



Communion

In progress

*Please Enter
Reverently*



Holy



Communion

In progress

*Please Enter
Reverently*

Cut out, laminate, cut out the hole, and use on hospital room door to encourage respect for the sacrament. Don't forget to pick it up when you leave!