

Eucharistic Minister Handout

Preparing yourself before the service.

Take time before the service either at home or in the Church for this ministry. Spend time in quiet and reflecting on your ministry and the meaning of the Eucharist.

A Prayer Before Receiving Communion (from the BCP)

Be present, be present, O Jesus, our great High Priest, as you were present with your disciples, and be known to us in the breaking of bread; who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, forever and ever, Amen.

Role of the Eucharistic Minister

- Help in leading the worship service of the Church
- Assist in the distribution of the wine or bread to the Communicates, are presentative of Christ.
- Be present and aware of each person receiving Communion.
- Be sensitive that this is a "Holy" and spiritual moment for each person.
- Reach out to each person spiritually with Love and the Light of Christ.

The Liturgy

The Holy Eucharist has two parts: The Liturgy of the Word and the Liturgy of the Table. The word Liturgy means "the work of the people." **The Liturgy of the Word** includes the Collect for Purity, Collect of the Day, Scripture readings. The Old Testament, Psalm, Epistle, Hymn, Gospel, Sermon, Nicene Creed, Intercessions, Confession and The Peace. The **Liturgy of the Table** begins with the Offertory. During this time the Priest/Deacon prepares the altar. A corporal (small table cloth) is placed on the Altar. The Chalice, and Paten, Ciborium (bread box) and Cruets are also placed on the table. The Priest/Deacon place the "bread" on the Paten and pour Wine (as did Jesus at the Last Supper) and small amount of water (which symbolizes the water which poured out of Jesus side at the time of the Crucifixion) into the Chalice.

Vested Chalice and items on the Altar at the Eucharist (you may want to display these items.)

- **Bread box:** A lidded box containing the unleavened wafers for the Eucharist.
- **Burse:** A flat case constructed of two stiffened sides covered with cloth in the liturgical color of the season and in which are contained purificators and corporals [from Medieval Latin, *bursa*, purse].
- **Chalice:** A cup, usually with a broad base, for the consecrated wine of the Eucharist [from Latin, *calix*].

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- **Ciborium:** A vessel, usually shaped like a chalice with a cover, which is used to contain the wafers to be consecrated for the Eucharist; usually comes with a chalice in matching sets. Consecrated wafers may also be served from a ciborium [from Latin, meaning a drinking cup, from the Greek, *kibrium*].
- **Corporal:** A large white linen cloth on which the consecrated elements of the Eucharist are placed during the celebration; in effect, it serves as a "table cloth" to catch any crumbs or spills (in which case it is treated with the reverence due consecrated elements of the Eucharist [from Latin, *corporalis*, "of the body," from *corpus*, meaning "body"]).
- **Cruet:** A small glass or silver pitcher or bottle for holding water and wine for the Eucharist; if silver or other opaque material, some design will indicate whether it contains water or wine [from Old French, *crue*, a flask].
- **Fair linen:** A white linen cloth about the width of the altar but longer so that it hangs off each side of the altar; another name for altar cloth. At the Eucharist, the corporal is placed on the fair linen. The name is from the rubrics of Cranmer's First Book of Common Prayer which directs that "the table be covered by a fair linen..."
- **Flagon:** A large (and usually somewhat ornate) pitcher having a spout and handle, of silver or ceramic, used to hold the wine to be consecrated at the Eucharist [from Latin, *flasco*, a flask].
- **Host:** The large wafer elevated by the celebrant and broken at the Fraction; usually is segmented to aid in breaking without many crumbs (which are caught by the corporal) [from Latin, *hostia*, sacrifice]. Pall: As used in the Eucharist, a stiff white linen covered board used to cover the chalice at the Fraction (to keep out crumbs) and which also provides stability for the paten, burse and veil of a vested chalice [from Latin, *pallium*, cloak].
- **Paten:** A shallow dish, usually of gold or silver, used to hold the Eucharistic bread during the consecration and administration when it is in wafer form; may also be used to designate a position at the Eucharist, e.g., a designated person is the "paten", i.e., will serve the bread [from Latin, *patina*, plate].
- **Purificator:** Small square of white linen, usually embroidered with a cross, used as a napkin to wipe the rim of the chalice during the reception of the wine at the Eucharist and to clean the chalice during the ablutions [from Latin, *purificare*, make clean].
- **"Varmint spoon":** Ornate pierced spoon, sometimes called a "critter getter" used for removing foreign articles from a chalice; in reality, it is used where a communicant has dropped a wafer into the consecrated wine when communicating by intinction. The holes in the spoon allow the wine to drain back into the chalice and the wafer can

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then be consumed from the spoon; it sure beats sticking your fingers into the cup.

- Veil: At the Eucharist, the square of material in liturgical colors matching the altar cloths and vestments; used to cover the chalice and paten, host and pall which make up a vested chalice.
- **Vested chalice:** The "stack" consisting, from bottom to top, of the chalice, paten, host, pall, and corporal, all of which are topped with the burse, which is found on the altar prior to the celebration of the Eucharist.

What to do when presenting the Chalice

Say quietly with reverence and love one of the following depending upon local practice:

The blood of Christ the cup of salvation. Or, the Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful. (sometimes used for Rite I.)

For those who intinct one of the following:

Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation

Body and Blood of Jesus Christ

Body and Blood of Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life.

Wiping and rotating the cup **in the direction that you wipe.**

How to hold/present the Chalice to the Communicate. (Demonstrate the various methods.)

Hold the Chalice by both the stem and the cup. Hold it gently so that you can guide the Chalice to the individual's mouth or allow the communicate to take the Chalice

To hold the Chalice with one hand and hold the purificator in front of it to catch any drip.

Lower the Chalice for those who instinct, rarely, or you intinct and place the bread in the person's mouth.

What to do if: wine is spilled, bread is dropped in the cup, or there is no wine in the cup ?

What to do when the communicate does not take the Chalice

- Say, *The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation*

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- Allow the communicate the opportunity to touch the cup.