

RITE OF DISTRIBUTING HOLY COMMUNION OUTSIDE OF MASS¹

THE LONG RITE WITH THE CELEBRATION OF THE WORD

This rite is to be used chiefly when Mass is not celebrated or when communion is not distributed at scheduled times. The purpose is that the people should be nourished by the word of God. By hearing it they learn that the marvels it proclaims reach their climax in the paschal mystery of which the Mass is a sacramental memorial and in which they share by communion. Nourished by God's word, they are led on to grateful and fruitful participation in the saving mysteries.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

After the people have assembled and preparations for the service are complete, all stand for the greeting of the minister. The assembly's responses are printed below in **bold**.

Greeting

If the minister is a priest or deacon, he says:

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the communion of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.

Or:

Grace to you and peace from God our Father
and the Lord Jesus Christ.

Or:

The Lord be with you.

The people answer: **And with your spirit.**

¹ USCCB: International Commission on English in the Liturgy, *The Rites of the Catholic Church – Volume One*, (Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1990), pp. 649-653. Certain elements of the rites and the people's responses have been modified to conform to those in the *Revised Roman Missal*, effective November, 2011.

If the minister is not a priest or deacon, he greets those present with these or similar words:

Brothers (and/or Sisters),
the Lord invites us (you) to his table
to share in the body of Christ:
bless him for his goodness.

The people answer: **Blessed be God for ever.**

PENITENTIAL RITE

The penitential rite follows, and the minister invites the people to recall their sins and to repent of them in these words:

Brothers (and sisters),
to prepare ourselves for this celebration,
let us call to mind our sins

A pause for silent reflection follows.

All say:

**I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers (and sisters),
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,**

They strike their breast, and say:

**through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;**

Then they continue:

**therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.**

The minister concludes;

May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.

The people answer: **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

The Liturgy of the Word now takes place as at Mass. Texts are chosen for the occasion either from the Mass of the day or from the votive Masses of the Holy Eucharist or the Precious Blood, the readings for which are in the Lectionary. A list of these passages can be found in the Addendum to this Ritual. The Lectionary offers a wide range of readings which may be drawn upon for particular needs, such as the votive Mass of the Sacred Heart (see Addendum).

There may be one or more readings, the first followed by a psalm or some chant or by a period of silent prayer.

1st Reading:

The reader begins with: A Reading from the...

To indicate the end of the reading, the reader acclaims: The word of the Lord

The people answer: **Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm

The reader begins the Responsorial Psalm by reciting the responsorial verse.

The people answer by reciting the responsorial verse and repeat the recitation following each passage as directed by the reader.

2nd Reading (if applicable):

The reader begins with: A Reading from the...

To indicate the end of the reading, the reader acclaims: The word of the Lord

The people answer: **Thanks be to God.**

Gospel Reading

The minister begins with: The Lord be with you.

The people answer: **And with your spirit.**

The minister acclaims: A reading from the holy Gospel according to N.

The people answer: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

At the end of the Gospel, the minister acclaims: The Gospel of the Lord

The people answer: **Praise to you Lord Jesus Christ.**

Then follows the **Homily** (minister is a priest or deacon); otherwise a **Reflection**.

Prayer of the Faithful (General Intercession)

The minister begins the prayer with an invitation to the people, such as:

My brothers (and/or sisters), let us bring our needs and requests before our God:

Each petition is concluded with the statement: we pray to the Lord.

The people respond to each prayer petition with: **Lord, hear our Prayer.**

The minister then concludes with a short prayer, such as:

Lord God, look upon us and hear our prayers. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

The people answer: **Amen**

COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

After the Prayer of the Faithful, the minister goes to the place where the sacrament is reserved, takes the ciborium or pyx containing the body of the Lord, places it on the altar and genuflects. He then introduces the Lord's Prayer in these or similar words:

At the Savior's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:

He continues with the people:

**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.**

The minister then acclaims:

Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,
graciously grant peace in our days,
that, by the help of your mercy,
we may be always free from sin
and safe from all distress,
as we await the blessed hope
and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

The people answer:

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

The minister continues:

Lord Jesus Christ,
who said to your Apostles:
Peace I leave you, my peace I give you;
look not on our sins,
but on the faith of your Church,
and graciously grant her peace and unity
in accordance with your will.
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

The people answer: **Amen.**

The minister acclaims:

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

The people answer: **And with your spirit.**

The minister may invite the people in these or similar words:

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

All make an appropriate sign of peace, according to local custom.

Invitation to Communion

The minister genuflects. Taking a host, he raises it slightly over the vessel or pyx and, facing the people, says;

Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

The communicants say once:

**Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.**

Distribution of Communion

If the minister receives communion, he says quietly:

May the body of Christ bring me to everlasting life.

Then he takes the vessel or pyx and goes to the communicants. He takes a host for each one, raises it slightly, and says:

The body of Christ.

The communicant answers: **Amen**, and receives communion.

After communion, the minister puts any particle left on the plate into the pyx, and he may wash his hands. He returns any remaining hosts to the tabernacle (if applicable to the institution) and genuflects.

A period of silence may now be observed, or a psalm or song of praise may be sung.

Prayer after Communion (Concluding prayer)

The minister then says the concluding prayer:

Let us pray.
Lord Jesus Christ,
you gave us the Eucharist
as the memorial of your suffering and death.
May our worship of this sacrament of your body and blood
help us to experience the salvation you won for us

and the peace of the kingdom
where you live with the Father and the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

The people answer: **Amen**

(Other prayers may be chosen.)

CONCLUDING RITE

Blessing

If the minister is a priest or deacon, he extends his hands and, facing the people, says:

The Lord be with you.

The people answer: **And with your spirit.**

He blesses the people with these words:

May almighty God bless you,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

If the minister is not a priest or deacon, he invokes God's blessing and, crossing himself, says:

May the Lord bless us,
protect us from all evil,
and lead us to everlasting life.

Or:

May the almighty and merciful God bless and protect us,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

The people answer: **Amen.**

Dismissal

Finally the minister says:

Go in the peace of Christ.

The people answer: **Thanks be to God.**

Then after customary reverence, the minister leaves (or concludes the service).

TEXTS FOR USE IN THE RITE OF DISTRIBUTING HOLY COMMUNION OUTSIDE OF MASS

BIBLICAL READINGS

READINGS FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

Genesis 14:18-20

Melchisedech brought bread and wine.

Exodus 12:21-27

When the Lord sees the blood on the door, he will pass over your home.

Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15

I will rain bread from heaven upon you.

Exodus 24:3-8

This is the blood of the covenant that the Lord God has made with you.

Deuteronomy 8:2-3, 15b-16a

He gave you food which you and your fathers did not know.

1 Kings 19:4-8

Strengthened by the food, he walked to the mountain of the Lord.

Proverbs 9:1-6

Come and eat my bread, drink the wine I have prepared.

READINGS FROM THE NEW TESTAMENT

Acts 2:42-47

They continued in fellowship with the apostles and in the Breaking of the bread.

Acts 10:34a, 37-43

After he was raised from the dead, we ate and drank with him.

1 Corinthians 10:16-17

Though we are many, we are one bread and one body.

1 Corinthians 11:23-26

Each time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are proclaiming the death of the Lord Jesus.

Hebrews 9:11-15

The blood of Christ purifies our hearts from sin.

Hebrews 12:18-19, 22-24

Jesus brings you to the Father by shedding his blood for you.

1 Peter 1:17-21

You have been redeemed by the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

1 John 5:4-7a, 8b

The Spirit, the water, and the blood give witness.

Revelation 1:5-8

Because he loves us, he has saved us from sin with his blood.

Revelation 7:9-14

They have washed their robes in the blood of the Lamb.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 23:1-3, 4, 5, 6

R (1): The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

Psalm 34:2-3, 4-5, 6-7, 8-9

R (9a): Taste and see the goodness of the Lord.

Psalm 40:2 and 4ab, 7-8a, 8b-9, 10

R (8a and 9a): Here I am, Lord; I come to do your will.

Psalm 78:3-4a and 7ab, 23-24, 25, 54

R (24b): The Lord gave them bread from heaven.

Psalm 110: 1, 2, 3, 4

R (4bc): You are a priest for ever, in the line of Melchisedech.

Psalm 116:12-13, 15 and 16bc, 17-18R

R (13): I will take the cup of salvation, and call on the name of the Lord.

or (1 Corinthians 10:16): **Our blessing-cup is a communion with the blood of Christ.**

Psalm 145:10-11, 15-16, 17-18

R (see 16): The hand of the Lord feeds us; he answers all our needs.

Psalm 148:12-13, 14-15, 19-20

R (12a): Praise the Lord, Jerusalem.

or (John 6:58c): **Whoever eats this bread will live forever.**

ALLELUIA VERSE BEFORE THE GOSPEL

John 6:51

I am the living bread from heaven, says the Lord; if anyone eats this bread he will live for ever.

John 6:56

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood, says the Lord, will live in me and I in him.

John 6:57

As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live because of me.

See Revelation 1:5ab

Jesus Christ, you are the faithful witness, firstborn from the dead.

Revelation 5:9

You are worthy, O Lord, to receive the book and open its seals.

GOSPEL

Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

This is my body. This is my blood.

Mark 15:16-20

They dressed Jesus up in purple and put a crown of thorns on him.

Luke 9:11b-17

All the people at and were satisfied.

Luke 22:39-44

His sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground.

Luke 24:13-35 (longer) or **13-16, 28-35** (shorter)

They recognized him at the breaking of the bread.

John 6:1-15

They gave the people all the food they wanted.

John 6:24-35

If you come to me, you will never be hungry. He who believes in me will never know thirst.

John 6:41-51

I am the living bread from heaven.

John 6:51-58

My flesh and blood are true food and drink.

John 19:31-37

When they pierced his side with a spear, blood and water flowed out.

John 21:1-14

Jesus took the bread and gave it to them.