



CUSTOMARY FOR THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION FROM RESERVED SACRAMENT BY DEACONS WITHIN THE DIOCESE OF MISSOURI

CONCERNING THE LITURGY

On occasions when the priest cannot preside at Sunday Eucharist, deacons are authorized by the Bishop to distribute Holy Communion from the Reserved Sacrament using the form provided below. This may be done only if, after diligent effort, no substitute priest can be found. The deacon must notify the Archdeacon at least one week in advance. This form of the Eucharist should not become the regular Sunday service. If the form is used more than five times in one year, special permission must be received from the Bishop.

In a situation when the priest cannot preside at a Sunday Eucharist because of illness or unexpected emergency, the deacon may use the form for Communion from Reserved Sacrament. The deacon must notify the Archdeacon in the following week that she/he used the form, providing the date and an explanation of the circumstances.

The Diocese of Missouri has created a specific form for Communion from Reserved Sacrament that is to be used in such services. The service bulletin should refer to the liturgy as "A Liturgy of the Word with Holy Communion from Reserved Sacrament" or "Liturgy of the Presanctified Gifts." The phrase "Deacon's Mass" should never be used.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

Before the Opening Acclamation, the deacon briefly welcomes the assembly including the following;

Deacon We give thanks to *(name of priest)* who consecrated the elements of the Eucharist being distributed today.

The Liturgy of the Word proceeds as normal. During the confession, in place of the Absolution, the officiating deacon offers the following prayer. No manual acts of offered.

Deacon Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life. *Amen.*

After the Liturgy of the Word (and the receiving of the people's offering) the deacon reverently places the consecrated Sacrament on the Altar, during which time a communion hymn or anthem may be sung.

The officiating deacon then walks to a place in the midst of the Assembly, stands facing the Altar (with the Assembly standing), and invites them to join in the Litany of the Consecrated Gifts. This litany, given below, should be printed in the bulletin.

THE LITANY OF THE CONSECRATED GIFTS

Deacon We give thanks to you, O God, for all things good and beneficial to our bodies and souls.

People **We thank you, O God.**

Deacon For the Body and Blood of Christ set here before us;

People **We thank you, O God.**

Deacon That you have brought us together in this place;

People **We thank you, O God.**

Deacon That your eternal Word was made flesh for us;

People **We thank you, O God.**

Deacon For Christ's life and ministry, death and resurrection;

People **We thank you, O God.**

Deacon That you fill our lives with grace and grant us the gift of the Holy Spirit;

People **We thank you, O God.**

Deacon That through this Sacrament you grant us a pledge of our eternal inheritance;

People **We thank you, O God.**

Deacon We pray, therefore, in the words our Savior Christ has taught us.

The officiating deacon then leads the Assembly in the Lord's Prayer.

THE DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION

The officiating deacon then walks to the table, picks up the Bread and the Cup, faces the Assembly, and says one of the following invitations.

Deacon The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take this bread, share this wine. In these Christ comes to us with love from God.

Deacon God's holy gifts, for God's holy people. Come God's people, come to receive Christ's heavenly food.

Deacon Jesus said, 'I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me will never be hungry, and whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.'

Deacon Draw near with faith: receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which was given for you, and his blood which was shed for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Deacon Come to this table, not because you must but because you may, not because you are strong, but because you are weak. Come, not because any goodness of your own gives you a right to come, but because you need mercy and help. Come, because you love the Lord a little and would like to love God more. Come, because Christ loved you and gave himself for you. Come and meet the risen Christ, for we are his Body.

There is no fraction or fraction anthem. The assembly then offers the following prayer.

Deacon Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe. You create the fruit of the vine and bring forth bread from the earth. You give us the bread of life and you refresh us with the cup of salvation in the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ.

People **As we share the bread and wine, grant us the grace to receive these holy mysteries in faith and thanksgiving for Jesus' great sacrifice for us and for all people, so that he may evermore dwell in us and we in him. Amen.**

*Holy Communion is distributed to all who desire it by the lay Eucharistic Ministers, **and** officiating Deacon. Hymn(s) or anthem (s) may be sung during the distribution, according to the congregation's custom.*

After Communion, the officiating deacon clears the Altar, leads the customary post communion prayer. Following the post communion prayer the officiating deacon leads the assembly in the Act of Thanksgiving:

ACT OF THANKSGIVING

Deacon Let us pray.

Silence is kept for a time.

Deacon God of all creation, we gather on this first day of the week made holy by the resurrection of Christ, your Son.

People **In the waters of baptism we were buried with him so that we might also rise with him and so share his victory over sin and death.**

Deacon You have transformed our lives into the living stones that form your Church with Christ as the foundation stone.

People **Strengthen this community's bond of communion and peace and deepen our solidarity with your Church throughout the world. Rekindle within us this Sabbath day the vision of your kingdom so that our daily concerns and labor may find their proper perspective.**

Deacon Fill our homes with the spirit of the Gospel.

People **Give us the grace to see the true face of the people with whom we live. In a world torn by sin and division make us instruments of reconciliation and mercy. We raise our voices in praise and thanksgiving to you, O God.**

Deacon May we who celebrate Christ's resurrection this day share in his eternal glory where he lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

People **Amen.**

Deacon God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people.

People **Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.**

The officiating deacon then dismisses the people. No blessing is given.