

Communion under Special Circumstances

The following explanation is adapted from the Canadian Book of Common Prayer

Justin Martyr, in one of the earliest existing accounts of the Sunday Eucharist, tells us that deacons left after the celebration to bring communion to the sick, to the imprisoned, and to those who for any reason were unable to be present at the community Eucharist. Regular reception of the Eucharist was a primary sign of the communicant's desire to remain within the Body.

When a member of the community cannot be present at public celebration of the Eucharist but wishes to receive communion, it is desirable that members of the community bring the consecrated elements to that person immediately upon completion of the Sunday celebration. The continuity between communion and community celebration is thus made clear.

If a person is unable to attend a public celebration of the Eucharist for an extended period of time, it is appropriate that the Eucharist be celebrated with them, members of their family, the parish community, and friends, if possible. The sign of the Eucharist as an extension of the parish celebration, rather than as a private event, thus becomes clearer. In these cases it would be appropriate to involve others in the readings and prayers, using the proper of the day or other appropriate material.

Opening Sentences

The Church of Christ, of which we are members, has taken this bread and wine and given thanks according to the Lord's command. We now share together in the communion of his body and blood. Hear now God's word, and receive his holy food from the Lord's table.

The Reading of Scripture Passages

Jesus said, "I am the living bread which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he will live for ever; and the bread which I shall give for the life of the world is my flesh. For my flesh is food indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me, and I in him." John 6.51, 55–56

Jesus said, "Abide in me, as I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit by itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. I am the vine, you are the branches. By this my Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit, and so prove to be my disciples. As the Father has loved me, so have I loved you; abide in my love." John 15.4-5a, 8–9

After the reading, there may be a comment on the scriptures read or a few points shared from the sermon preached at the Sunday worship.

Suitable prayers may also be offered at this time

Confession

Most merciful God, All we confess that 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. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive

us, that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all our sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness, and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

The Peace

The Peace may then be exchanged

The Lord's Prayer

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray,

together:

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

Or this form maybe used

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we now pray,

together:

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your Name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial, and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

The Distribution of Holy Communion

The gifts of God for the People of God.

People: Thanks be to God.

The already consecrated sacrament is given with the following words.

The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

A Doxology

Glory to God

People: whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.

Dismissal

Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.