

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPATING IN SHARED HOME COMMUNION

We are so happy to be able to share the Holy Eucharist together in this new way. Please take a moment to read over the following instructions as soon as you get home.

+Please leave the consecrated wafer in the plastic bag and place the packet on a plate in a safe, clean place until the Sunday service.

+Ideally, this safe space for holding the consecrated wafer will provide a respectful context. Remember that consecrated means “set apart” or devoted to a particular purpose. So, if you are able, you might want to include a reminder of this purpose, such as a cross, an icon, flowers, or a candle. It is not necessary to create a home altar if that is not already part of your practice.

+Watch and participate in the live-streamed Eucharist on Sunday at 10 am. When the priest consumes their wafer, then you consume yours. All the wafers you receive need to be eaten before the end of the day Sunday and preferably in the context of the worship service.

+Please be mindful that all the wafers need to be eaten reverently, as you would receive Communion in church. This is a holy sacrament and should always be treated with respect.

+If for any reason you are not able to participate in the online service at 10 am, you have a few choices.

You can watch it later in the day on Facebook, where it will show up as a recording, and consume the host at the appropriate time.

Or you can set aside time on your own to pray through the Communion Under Special Circumstances service, which also has a place for consuming the host. Again, please do so respectfully and by the end of the day.

+If you find yourself unsure of how to proceed or needing assistance, please reach out to one of the clergy. You can find our email addresses online and phone numbers are in the directory. We are here for you and want to support our whole community in being able to share in this holy sacrament as one Body!

Communion under Special Circumstances*

This form is intended for use with those who for reasonable cause cannot be present at a public celebration of the Eucharist.

Begin with a passage from Scripture, such as one of the following:

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish, but have eternal life. *John 3:16*

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst."
John 6:35

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, the Celebrant may comment on it briefly.

Suitable prayers may be offered, concluding with the following or some other Collect

Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. *Amen.*

The Lord's Prayer is said.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed by 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.

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as 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 for ever. Amen.

The Sacrament is now consumed, with these or similar words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. Amen.

One of the usual postcommunion prayers is then said, or the following

Gracious Father, we give you praise and thanks for this Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of your beloved Son Jesus Christ, the pledge of our redemption; and we pray that it may bring us forgiveness of our sins, strength in our weakness, and everlasting salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The service concludes with a blessing or with a dismissal

Let us bless the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

**This is a shortened version of the service found in the Book of Common Prayer, adapted for use during the COVID-19 pandemic.*