
COMMUNION OUTSIDE MASS

SHORT RITE

The place where Communion outside Mass is ordinarily given is a church or an oratory in which the Eucharist is regularly celebrated or reserved, or a church, an oratory, or another place where the local community regularly gathers for the liturgical assembly on Sundays or other days. Communion may be given in other places, however, including private homes, when it is a question of the sick, prisoners, or others who cannot leave a place without danger or serious difficulty.¹

Among the possible forms, this form of service is used when the longer, more elaborate form is unsuitable.

GREETING

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

PENITENTIAL RITE

V. Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.

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,**

1. *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside the Mass*, ICEL, 1974.

**in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,**

And, striking their breast, they 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 absolution by the Priest follows:

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

The people reply:

Amen.

READING OF THE SCRIPTURE

The minister should read a short scriptural text:

A reading of the holy gospel according to John. 6:51
**Jesus says: "I am the living bread, which has come
 down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will
 live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my
 flesh, for the life of the world."**

℣. The Gospel of the Lord.

℟. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

LORD'S PRAYER AND HOLY COMMUNION

The minister 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 . . .

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

**V. 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:

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

The minister takes a host for each one and says:

V. The Body of Christ.

R. Amen.

After Communion, the minister puts any particles left on the plate into the pyx, and he may wash his hands. He returns any remaining hosts to the tabernacle, and genuflects.

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

Meanwhile, not forming part of the rite, one may pray inaudibly:

How holy this feast
in which Christ is our food:
His passion is recalled,
grace fills our hearts,
and we receive a pledge of the glory
to come (Easter Time Alleluia).

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,
 God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

During Easter Time the following prayer is preferred:

Let us pray.

Lord,
 you have nourished us
 with your Easter sacraments.
 Fill us with your Spirit
 and make us one in peace and love.
 We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

CONCLUDING RITE AND BLESSING

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

Y. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

He blesses the people with these words:

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

R. Amen.

Y. Go in peace.

R. Thanks be to God.

COMMUNION OF THE SICK OR ELDERLY

When a minister of the Church brings Communion, the sick or elderly person shares in the eucharistic meal of the community. This holy Communion manifests the support and concern of the community for its members who are not able to be present. Holy Communion is a bond to the community for its members who are not able to be present. Holy Communion is a bond to the community, as it is a union with Christ. When the Eucharist is brought to the home, the family should prepare a table with a cloth and a lighted candle. All members of the household may receive Communion with the sick person, according to the usual norms. The following texts are among many that may be chosen from the *Rite of Communion of the Sick*.²

ITEMS THAT MAY BE NEEDED

A briefcase to carry the following items:

White stole (for the priest or deacon)

Holy water sprinkler

Ritual, or card with prayers

Crucifix

Purificator

One should check with the priest as to what is needed; in some cases (e.g., Communion in a hospital), the requirements differ. The priest usually does not wear a surplice during the trip but does wear a narrow white stole under his suit coat.

GREETING

All make the Sign of the Cross. The minister of Communion speaks the following or a similar greeting:

V. Peace be with this house and with all who live here.

All respond:

R. And with your spirit.

2. *Ibidem*.

SPRINKLING WITH HOLY WATER

The Blessed Sacrament is placed on the table. The sick person and all present may be sprinkled with holy water. Before this sprinkling, the minister of Communion says:

Let this water call to mind our baptism into Christ, who by his death and resurrection has redeemed us.

PENITENTIAL RITE

The minister invites all to join in the penitential rite:

My brothers and sisters, let us turn with confidence to the Lord and ask forgiveness for all our sins.

After a brief silence, the penitential rite continues:

**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.

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

or:

V. Lord Jesus, you healed the sick:
Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

V. Lord Jesus, you forgave sinners:
Christ, have mercy.

R. Christ, have mercy.

V. Lord Jesus, you give us yourself to heal us
and to bring us strength:
Lord, have mercy.

R. Lord, have mercy.

Then the minister concludes the penitential rite:

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

R. Amen.

READING OF THE SCRIPTURE

Then a selection from the Scriptures is read. An appropriate reading should be selected and prepared by the family or the minister of Communion. The following Scriptures are appropriate but are not intended to limit the choice of a reading.

A reading of the holy gospel according to John 6:51
Jesus says: "I am the living bread which has come down from heaven. Anyone who eats this bread will live for ever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, for the life of the world."

V. The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

or:

Jn 15:5

or:

1 Jn 4:16

LORD'S PRAYER AND COMMUNION

Following a time of silence, all join in prayers of intercession. Then, in preparation for holy Communion, all recite the Lord's Prayer.

Now let us pray to God as our Lord Jesus Christ taught us.

Our Father,...

After this, the minister shows the eucharistic bread to those present, saying:

This is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sins of the world.
Happy are those who are called to his supper.

All who are to receive Communion respond:

Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word and I shall be healed.

The minister gives Communion saying, "The body of Christ," or, "The blood of Christ," as appropriate. The sick person answers "**Amen.**" All who wish to do so receive Communion in the usual way. After a time of silence, the minister says the following or another prayer:

All-powerful and ever-living God,
may the body and blood of Christ your Son
be for our brother (sister) **N.**
a lasting remedy for body and soul.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.

VIATICUM

Viaticum is the sacrament of the dying. When the minister has brought holy Communion, the rite may begin with the renewal of the dying person's profession of faith (p. 561).

Viaticum is then celebrated in the same manner as Communion of the Sick (p. 275), except that after giving Communion, the minister says:

May the Lord Jesus Christ protect you
and lead you to eternal life.

R. Amen.

The concluding prayer follows:

God of peace,
you offer eternal healing to those who believe in you;
you have refreshed your servant **N.**
with food and drink from heaven:
lead him (her) safely into the kingdom of light.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.