

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Order for Distribution of Consecrated Elements in the Holy Communion
by a Lay Worship Leader

The Lay Leader places the ciborium and decanter containing consecrated elements on the altar.

L: When our congregation last gathered for the celebration of Holy Communion, we heard again the story of God's mighty acts and of the love shown us in the death and Resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

With thanksgiving we remembered that "in the night in which He was betrayed, He took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to His disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is My body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of Me."

"Again, after supper, He took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in My blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of Me."

We were given assurance of our Lord's presence through the gift of His Holy Spirit. Now we gather again by His gracious invitation to receive with thanksgiving this same bread of life and this same cup of blessing, that we may receive forgiveness of sins, life and salvation.

C: Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

All: Our Father, who art . . .

The consecrated elements are transferred to paten and chalice and the Meal is shared.

The congregation sings:

<i>Lamb of God</i>	Page 72
<i>Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me</i>	LBW 333
<i>If You But Trust in God to Guide You</i>	LBW 453

After all have communed and returned to their places, the following is said:

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

C: "As often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord's death and Resurrection until He comes."

The order of worship concludes inside the bulletin.

TODAY IN WORSHIP we use a special liturgical order developed in Messiah Church. Lay distribution of consecrated Communion elements in the pastor's absence is carried out under the supervision of the pastor. This practice has been approved by the Worship and Music Committee and Congregation Council of Messiah and was unanimously approved by the congregation at its 1999 Annual Meeting.

The pastor and Congregation Council together approve lay persons authorized to lead this liturgical order and preach in the pastor's absence. Kathaleen Lilley is one so approved.

The Communion elements were consecrated in the previous Sunday's regular Eucharistic liturgy and set aside with prayer during that liturgy. The consecration of those elements is recalled in today's order, but the elements are not re-consecrated by the lay leader. This approach is consistent with the standards prescribed in the Lutheran Confessions and preserves the order and reverence which the Sacramental treasures of the Church require.

Wafers are used in place of bread for this special order in consideration of their durability vs. regular leavened bread.

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