

The minister then stands and says the concluding prayer:

Let us pray.

**O God, who in this wonderful Sacrament
have left us a memorial of your Passion,
grant us, we pray,
so to revere the sacred mysteries of your Body and Blood
that we may always experience in ourselves
the fruits of your redemption.**

**Who live and reign with God the Father
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.**

R/. Amen

For other options for the Concluding Prayer, see HCWEOM, no. 38.

CONCLUDING RITES

The minister invokes God's blessing and, crossing himself, says:

**May the almighty and merciful God bless and protect us,
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.**

R/. Amen.

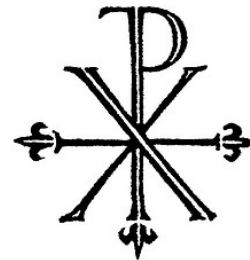
Finally, the minister says:

Go in the peace of Christ.

R/. Thanks be to God.

A song may conclude the celebration while the minister returns to the sacristy.

RITE OF DISTRIBUTING HOLY COMMUNION OUTSIDE MASS WITH THE CELEBRATION OF THE WORD



**For Use By Lay Leaders of Prayer
in the Diocese of La Crosse**

Rite of Distributing Holy Communion Outside Mass With the Celebration of the Word

Introduction

This resource is intended for commissioned laypersons who distribute Holy Communion in the absence of a priest or deacon on weekdays. The prayer texts and instructions are those found in the 1973 book *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside of Mass*, Chapter I: “Holy Communion Outside Mass,” nos. 13-53. Where appropriate, further information from *Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest* (2007) is offered. For more information, Chapter I of *Holy Communion and Worship* should be consulted.

When to Use this Rite

This present rite is to be used in a church or chapel in which the eucharist is regularly celebrated or reserved, as well as other places where people are confined but can assemble during the week, such as care facilities or prisons. Although similar in structure to other rituals in which Holy Communion is distributed, this rite is not normally used for Communion to the sick (see *Holy Communion and Worship of the Eucharist Outside Mass* [HCWEOM], nos. 54-63), Communion in a hospital or institution (see *Pastoral Care of the Sick* [PCS], nos. 92-96; HCWEOM, nos. 64-67), or Viaticum (see HCWEOM, nos. 68-78; PCS, nos. 197-211). On Sundays, the ritual *Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest* should be used. Also, in the Diocese of La Crosse, “under no circumstances should the reception of Holy Communion outside Mass be celebrated with student congregations in Catholic Schools or parish religious educational programs” (*Revised Norms for Leaders of Prayer in the Diocese of La Crosse*, no. 36).

Minister of the Rite

In the Diocese of La Crosse, this rite may be used by a deacon, instituted acolyte, or trained and authorized Leader of Prayer (NB: here the options for the deacon are not reprinted). The texts refer interchangeably to the “minister” and “leader of prayer.” In the Diocese of La Crosse, a layperson who leads this rite should wear an alb.

Preparations for the Celebration

When communion is given in a church, a corporal is to be placed on the altar before the celebration. When communion is given in other places, a suitable table is to be prepared and covered with a cloth; candles are also to be provided. Finally, a layperson is to use a chair other than that used by a priest or deacon.

Invitation to Communion

The leader of prayer then goes to the altar and genuflects; all others kneel. Taking the host, the minister raises it slightly over the vessel or ciborium and, facing the people, says:

**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.**

All say:

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

Communion

If the minister receives communion, he or she says quietly:

May the body of Christ bring me to everlasting life.

The minister reverently consumes the body of Christ.

Then the leader of prayer takes the vessel or ciborium and goes to the communicants. He or she takes a host for each one, raises it slightly, and says:

The body of Christ.
R/. Amen.

After communion the minister puts any hosts that remain back into the ciborium and returns any remaining hosts to the tabernacle and genuflects. The leader of prayer returns to the designated chair and a period of silence may now be observed, or a psalm or song of praise may be sung.

For an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life: that those called will respond with generous hearts, we pray to the Lord: *R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

For those who have died: that they see today the face of Jesus, we pray to the Lord: *R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

The minister, with hands extended, concludes the petitions:

**God of love,
our refuge and our strength,
hear the prayers of your Church,
and grant us today
what we ask of you in faith.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.**
R/. Amen.

HOLY COMMUNION

While all remain standing, the leader of prayer goes to the place where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved, genuflects, takes the ciborium containing the body of the Lord, and places it on the altar.

Lord's Prayer

The leader of prayer then returns to the designated chair and invites all present to sing or say the Lord's Prayer in these or similar words:

**At the Savior's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say: *Our Father...***

Sign of Peace

The minister may invite the people in these or similar words to exchange a sign of peace:

Let us offer each other the sign of peace.

INTRODUCTORY RITES

The celebration begins without a procession. As the liturgical assembly and ministers gather at their place, instrumental music may be played or a hymn sung. The leader, standing in a central place apart from the altar or the chair designated for the priest, stands, faces the assembly, invites them to stand, and crosses himself or herself while saying:

Greeting

**In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.**

R/. Amen.

The minister greets those present:

**Grace and peace to you from God our Father
and from the Lord Jesus Christ.**

Blessed be God for ever.

R/. Blessed be God for ever.

Penitential Rite

The penitential rite follows, and the minister invites the people to recall their sins and to repent of them in these words:

**My brothers and sisters,
to prepare ourselves for this celebration,
let us call to mind our sins.**

A pause for silent reflection follows. Then all say:

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,
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.

The minister concludes with hands joined:

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

OR:

The minister invites the people to recall their sins and to repent of them in these words:

**My brothers and sisters,
to prepare ourselves for this celebration,
let us call to mind our sins.**

A pause for silent reflection follows. The minister then makes the following or similar invocations:

**You brought us to salvation by your paschal mystery:
Lord have mercy.**
R/. Lord, have mercy.

**You renew us by the wonders of your passion:
Christ have mercy.**
R/. Christ, have mercy.

**You give us your body to make us one with your Easter
sacrifice: Lord have mercy.**
R/. Lord, have mercy.

The minister concludes with hands joined:

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

LITURGY OF THE WORD

All sit and the Liturgy of the Word takes place as at Mass. Texts are chosen either from the Mass of the day or from the votive Masses of the Holy Eucharist or the Precious Blood, the readings for which are in the Lectionary.

There may be one or more readings, the first being followed by a psalm or some other chant or by a period of silent prayer. A second reading from the Gospel may follow.

The celebration of the word ends with the Prayers of the Faithful. Sample formulas for these prayers can be found in the *Roman Missal*, Appendix V, as well as in *Sunday Celebrations in the Absence of a Priest*, page 189. The following sample may also be followed:

The minister introduces the prayer:

**My brothers and sisters, God our Father wants all to be
saved and calls us to the knowledge of the truth. Let us
pray to him with all our hearts.**

The reader or, in the absence of a reader, the minister proposes the intentions:

For the holy Church of God: that the Lord guide it and protect it, we pray to the Lord: *R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all the peoples of the world: that the Lord unite them in peace and harmony, we pray to the Lord: *R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

For all our brothers and sisters in need: that the Lord assist them, we pray to the Lord: *R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*

For ourselves and our parish community: that we offer an acceptable sacrifice of praise, we pray to the Lord: *R/. Lord, hear our prayer.*