

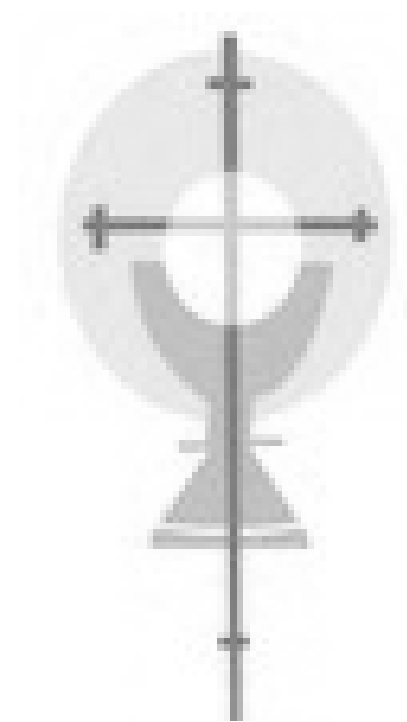


*Northumberland  
Presbytery*

**Lay Minister Worship Guide**

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*Holy Communion for  
Homebound Communicants*



*The celebration of Holy Communion may be taken to the homebound following the celebration of Holy Communion by the Congregation usually within the same week as the communion has been celebrated.*

*Prior to the communion service the following should be prepared before the service: Communion Cups and bread should be placed in portable communion server or use the disposable cups and wafers you can find at Christian bookstores or you can order them from Cokesbury .*

## **The Celebration of the Eucharist**

*The Elder will read the following opening remarks:*

This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, Alleluia! Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, power, riches, and strength, honor, blessings and glory are His. Great is the Mystery of our Faith: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

### **Invitation to the Lord's Table**

*Sitting with the individual the Elder invites the individual to participate in the Sacrament of Holy Communion, using the following invitation to the Lord's table.*

If you have truly repented of your sins and are in love and charity with your neighbors and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God and to walk in his holy ways: Draw near with faith to this table and take this holy sacrament to your comfort and joy.

Let us Pray:

Divine, merciful Father, prepare our hearts for the experience of Holy Communion. We are sinners, we have

It is a glad resurrection feast. Gathering around this table, the church anticipates the great banquet of the new age in God's eternal kingdom.

The Lord's Supper is therefore more than a reminder of Christ's sacrificial death and resurrection. It is a means, given us by Christ, through which the risen Lord is truly present as a continuing power and reality, until the day of his coming. While the meaning of Christ's sacrificial death is at the heart of this sacrament, it is a resurrected, living Christ whom we encounter through the bread and the wine.

The many-faceted meaning of this sacrament is seen in the names given to it. The title Lord's Supper recalls Jesus' institution of the sacrament with his disciples.

Eucharist (thanksgiving) reminds us that we receive all of the benefits of God's grace with joy. Holy Communion reminds us that in this sacrament we are made one with Christ and with each other. The Breaking of the Bread describes the sacramental action by which Christ is known to his disciples.

The minister, or the one authorized to preside, invites the people to the Lord's table using suitable words from scripture. If the words of institution (1 Cor. 11:23-26, or Gospel accounts: Matt. 26:26-30; Mark 14:22-26; Luke 22:14-20) will not be spoken at the breaking of bread or included in the great thanksgiving, they are said as part of the invitation.

## Invitation to the Lord's Table

From New Testament times the celebration of the Eucharist on each Lord's Day has been the norm of Christian worship. The Eucharist was given by Christ himself. Before church governments were devised, before creeds were formalized, even before the first word of the New Testament was written, the Lord's Supper was firmly fixed at the heart of Christian faith and life. From the church's inception, the Lord's Day and the Lord's Supper were joined. Along with the reading and proclamation of the scripture, the Eucharist has given witness to God's redemptive acts each Lord's Day, giving Christian worship its distinctive shape.

In this sacrament, the bread and wine, the words and actions, make the promises of God visible and concrete. The Word proclaimed in scripture and sermon is confirmed, for all that the life, death, and resurrection of Christ means is focused in the Sacrament.

It is appropriate, therefore, that the Eucharist be celebrated as often as on each Lord's Day. It shall be celebrated regularly and frequently enough so that it is clear to all that the Lord's Supper is integral to worship on the Lord's Day, and not an addition to it.

In the Eucharist the church blesses God for all that God has done, is doing, and promises to do, and offers itself in obedient service to God's reign. The church is renewed and empowered as in thanksgiving it remembers Christ's life death, resurrection, and promised return. The people of God are sustained by the promised presence of Christ, and are assured of participation in Christ's self-offering. Christ's love is received, the covenant is renewed, and the power of Christ's reign for the renewing of the earth is proclaimed. Being made one with Christ, we are made one with all who belong to Christ, united with the church in every time and place. In this sacrament we also participate in God's future as well.

failed you; so before the bread ever touches our lips, before we partake of the wine, purify our hearts that thy may be clean. Take from us all bitterness, all ill will, all envy, anything contrary to your holy will.

The bread reminds us of the body of you Son, Jesus Christ, his broken body, his nail-pierced body; the cup tells us that he gave his life, his pure life, to make atonement for our sins. So may we remember Jesus Christ, his death upon the cross, the sacrifice he made in our behalf.

And Father, as your Son didst give himself for us, may we give ourselves for others. Through Jesus Christ the crucified. Amen

## CONFESSION OF SIN

**The elder will read the confession to the individual:**

Merciful God, 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 and mind and strength; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. In your mercy forgive what we have been, help us amend what we are, and direct what we shall be, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.

## DECLARATION OF FORGIVENESS

**The elder declares the assurance of God's forgiving grace:**

The mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting. I declare to you, in the name of Jesus Christ, you are forgiven. May the God of mercy, who forgives you all your sins, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.  
**Amen.**

*Taking the wafer or bread and lifting it up the celebrant breaks the wafer or bread and says the following:*

**We give you thanks that the Lord Jesus, on the night before he died, took bread, and after giving thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take, eat.**

This is my body, given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.

*Taking the cup the celebrant says the following:*

**In the same way he took the cup, saying: This cup is the new covenant sealed in my blood, shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this in remembrance of me.**

Let us pray:

With thanksgiving we take this bread and this cup and proclaim the death and resurrection of our Lord. Receive our sacrifice of praise. Pour out your Holy Spirit upon us that this meal may be a communion in the body and blood of our Lord. Make us one with Christ and with all who share this feast. Unite us in faith, encourage us with hope, inspire us to love, that we may serve as your faithful disciples until we feast at your table in glory. We praise you, eternal God, through Christ your Word made flesh, in the holy and life-giving Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

Let us Pray: **Lord's Prayer**

*The elder invites all present to sing or say the Lord's Prayer:*

As our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray: All 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 debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen.

## **The Serving of Communion**

*The elder serves the bread and the cup to the Individual.*

Giving the individual the bread the Elder may say: **Behold the Lamb of God that takes away the sin of the World. Eat this in remembrance of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

*The elder serves the cup to the individual.*

Giving the cup to the individual the elder may say: **The Cup of Salvation the Blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Drink all of it in remembrance of Him, and may your soul be full of joy and thanksgiving.**

*Following communion the elder will pray a prayer of Thanksgiving:*

*Elder lifts hands in blessing and says:*

Loving God, we thank you that you have fed us in this Sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet in your eternal kingdom. Now bless us in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory, for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Benediction:

**The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord be kind and gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and give you peace. Amen.**

