



## Sunday Morning Ministries Guide

### Communion Assistants

**Purpose:** Communion assistants help distribute the elements in a dignified and orderly way. Also, such assisting shows that the gift of Holy Communion is not the property of the pastor, but of the church. Assisting with Holy Communion is an example of Reformation doctrine of the priesthood of all believers. Dress Please wear dress shoes. Clean your hands. There is a mirror, sink, and mouthwash in the altar guild room.

### Duties of the Communion Assistant

- After the sermon is complete, immediately exit the sanctuary and robe yourself. Make sure that the fellow communion assistants understand the specific duties (somebody at the altar, somebody with the Individual Cup, somebody with the Common Cup. Also, somebody needs to commune the pastor.
- As the offering is brought forward, exit the two doors and stand behind the railing, keeping the center aisle open. You may bring your hymnal if you wish to participate in the singing of the liturgy and hymns. Please make sure to stand in an ordered way (in a straight line, same number on both sides).
- The Communion service will then take place. After the elements have been consecrated, the pastor will share a formal peace with the congregation. If the pastor announces that we will share the peace with each other remain near the altar; the sharing of peace immediately before distributing the elements would not be very sanitary. Come forward to the altar to be communed. After pastor is communed, the elements will be handed to you. We will begin to commune people as soon as they come forward (during the singing of the Agnus Dei).
- The assistant at the altar will take his/her place. He/She hands out the elements. He/She makes sure to fill the wafer plates and the wine cup when the assistants and pastor come to the altar. He/She wipes each chalice as it is given by the communion assistant to be refilled. However, don't fill the cup or the plate to the rim; it is easy for wine to spill and wafers to fall off. Fill the cup with wine so that there is at least 1" left to

the rim.

- The assistant with the wine tray follows the bread. The assistant merely holds the tray at rail level and when one chooses a cup, speak words similar to these: "Take and drink, the very blood of our Lord shed for you for the forgiveness of your sin." Go to the altar when the tray needs to be replaced.
- The assistant with the common cup follows the individual cup speaking words similar to these: "Take and drink, the very blood of our Lord shed for you for the forgiveness of your sin." Go to the altar when the cup needs to be refilled.
- After the last table has communed gather at the altar and return your vessels to the altar assistant.
- When everyone returns back to the altar, the assistant at the altar is responsible for returning the bread into the large container, covering the wine cups and the flagon, and then covering all of it with the drape. After all has been covered, reverences the altar and joins the others near the altar. We all stand in an ordered way (straight line, centered on the altar).
- The pastor takes his place and dismisses them from the altar. They take their original place and wait there until the closing hymn begins at which point they will exit out the side doors and disrobe.