

The Deacon's role in the Eucharist

Rev Deacon Rebecca Swyer, Director of Apostolic Life, Diocese of Chichester

Holy Communion Order One



The Gathering

The president may say

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

All

Amen.

The Greeting

The president greets the people

Peace be with you
and also with you.

All

Words of welcome or introduction may be said.

Prayer of Preparation

All

**Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

Prayers of Penitence

Invitation to confession

The deacon may introduce the confession

God so loved the world
that he gave his only Son Jesus Christ
to save us from our sins,
to be our advocate in heaven,
and to bring us to eternal life.

Let us confess our sins in penitence and faith,
firmly resolved to keep God's commandments
and to live in love and peace with all.

Kyrie Eleison

Remember, Lord, your compassion and love,
for they are everlasting.

Lord, have mercy.

All [Lord, have mercy.]

Remember not the sins of my youth or my transgressions,
but think on me in your goodness, O Lord,
according to your steadfast love.

Christ, have mercy.

All [Christ, have mercy.]

O keep my soul and deliver me;
let me not be put to shame, for I have put my trust in you.

Lord, have mercy.

All [Lord, have mercy.]

The president says

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon us,
pardon and deliver us from all our sins,
confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,
and keep us in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Collect

The president introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray' or a more specific bidding.

The Collect is said.



The Liturgy of the Word

Readings

First Reading

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

At the end the reader may say

This is the word of the Lord.

All

Thanks be to God.

The deacon bows before the bishop and asks for a blessing (usual words, 'Father, give me your blessing')

Gospel Reading

The deacon will normally sing/say the alleluia

Alleluia, alleluia.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,
one God, who was, and who is, and who is to come,
the Almighty.

Alleluia.

The deacon greets the people with hands joined.

All

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

When the Gospel is announced the deacon says

All Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to N.
Glory to you, O Lord.

At the beginning, (s)he makes a small sign of the cross on the opening word of the day's Gospel, and then does the same on her/his forehead, lips and heart.

All This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ.

At the conclusion, (s)he takes it open to the bishop for him to kiss.

Sermon

Prayers of Intercession

The deacon will often lead the intercessions. Prayers usually include these concerns and may follow this sequence:

¶ *The Church of Christ*

¶ *Creation, human society, the Sovereign and those in authority*

¶ *The local community*

¶ *Those who suffer*

¶ *The communion of saints*

These responses may be used

All Lord, in your mercy
hear our prayer.

And at the end

All Merciful Father,
**accept these prayers
for the sake of your Son,
our Saviour Jesus Christ.
Amen.**

¶ **The Liturgy of the Sacrament**

The Peace

Peace to you from God our heavenly Father.
Peace from his Son Jesus Christ who is our peace.
Peace from the Holy Spirit, the life-giver.
The peace of the triune God be always with you.

All The peace of the Lord be always with you
and also with you.

The deacon says

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

All may exchange a sign of peace.

Preparation of the Table

Taking of the Bread and Wine

Hymn

The table is prepared by the deacon(s) and bread and wine are placed upon it.

The altar book (on a stand) is placed to the left of where the priest will stand.

Unfold the corporal (left, right, up, down) and place it on top of the altar cloth in a central position. The cross should be at the bottom nearest the priest.

Now take the pall and purificator from the chalice, placing them carefully next to the corporal.

The paten with the priest's host should be in front of the chalice, making sure if there is a corpus it is the right way up.

Place the necessary number of wafers on the paten (under the priest's host) or ciborium. Place the ciborium on the top corner of the corporal.

Pick up the chalice and purificator. Fill the chalice with the appropriate amount of wine, wiping any drips from the cruet on the purificator. Add a small amount of water and quietly say: 'by the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ as he humbled himself to share in our humanity.' Place the chalice in the centre of the corporal. If there is a symbol on the chalice, place it facing the priest.

Stand slightly to the right and indicate to the president that the vessels are ready.

The president takes the bread and wine.

The Eucharistic Prayer

All The Lord be with you
and also with you.

All Lift up your hearts.
We lift them to the Lord.

All Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ, your living Word,
through whom you have created all things;
who was sent by you in your great goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took flesh;
as your Son, born of the blessed Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among us;
he opened wide his arms for us on the cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a holy people.

Therefore with angels and archangels,
and with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious name,
for ever praising you and *saying*:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine
may be to us the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;

he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

In the same way, after supper
he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
Drink this, all of you;
this is my blood of the new covenant,
which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins.
Do this, as often as you drink it,
in remembrance of me.

The deacon says

All

**Christ has died:
Christ is risen:
Christ will come again.**

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of [N and] all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

If the priest elevates the vessels, the deacon takes and elevates the chalice at this point

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All

Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

As our Saviour taught us, so we pray:

All

**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 trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

We break this bread
to share in the body of Christ.

All

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Giving of Communion

The president says the invitation to communion

Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink
in remembrance that he died for you,

and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

All

**We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord,
trusting in our own righteousness,
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy
so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table.
But you are the same Lord
whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord,
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood,
that our sinful bodies may be made clean by his body
and our souls washed through his most precious blood,
and that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us.
Amen.**

The president, deacon(s) and people receive communion.

Authorized words of distribution are used and the communicant replies

Amen.

The deacon carries out the ablutions. Any consecrated bread and wine which is not required for purposes of communion is consumed at the end of the distribution or after the service. The vessels are cleansed with water, which is drunk by the deacon. These are then dried with the purificators. The pall is replaced on the top of the chalice and placed on the credence table with other vessels. The book is moved to the centre of the altar.

Prayer after Communion

Silence is kept.

All

**You have opened to us the Scriptures, O Christ,
and you have made yourself known
in the breaking of the bread.
Abide with us, we pray,
that, blessed by your royal presence,
we may walk with you
all the days of our life,
and at its end behold you**

in the glory of the eternal Trinity,
one God for ever and ever.
Amen.



The Dismissal

Hymn

Blessing

[The Lord bless you and keep you.
Amen.

The Lord make his face to shine upon you,
and be gracious to you.
Amen.

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you
and give you peace.
Amen.]

The Lord God almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit,
the holy and undivided Trinity,
guard you, save you,
and bring you to that heavenly city,
where he lives and reigns for ever and ever.
Amen.

cf Numbers 6.24,25

The deacon says

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

All

*The ministers and people depart, with the deacon on the right of the priest, or
directly in front..*

Copyright acknowledgement (where not already indicated above):

Some material included in this service is copyright: © The Archbishops' Council 2000

Triple Blessing (Father, Son and Spirit) © The Archbishops' Council 2002

Eucharistic Prayer B (when no extended preface) © The Central Board of Finance of the Church of England/The Archbishops' Council

Collect (Last after Trinity) © The Crown/Cambridge University Press: The Book of Common Prayer (1662)

Notes on the role of a Deacon in the Eucharist

If there are two deacons, one acts as deacon of the Word, and one as deacon of the Sacrament. If there is one deacon, they will obviously combine both roles.

The deacon of the Word:

- *Carries the Book of the Gospels in the entrance procession*
- *Stands of the left of the president*
- *Introduces the Confession*
- *Reads the Gospel*
- *Leads the Intercessions (although lay people can also do this)*
- *Dismisses the congregation*

The deacon of the Sacrament:

- *Stands on the right of the president (including in procession)*
- *Invites the congregation to share the peace*
- *Prepares the Altar (the Holy table) at the Offertory*
- *Invites the congregation to proclaim the mystery of faith in the Eucharistic Prayer*
- *Administers the chalice*
- *Undertakes the ablutions*

The usual gesture for deacons is 'hands together'.

If a deacon is carrying the Book of the Gospels, (s)he enters first, elevating the Gospel. The deacon does not reverence the altar with a bow but proceeds directly to place the Book upon it (face down) and awaits the celebrant to reverence the altar with a kiss. The presiding priest and the deacon(s) (if the deacon is not carrying the Book of the Gospels) bow to the altar on arrival. If the Blessed Sacrament is behind or near the altar, they genuflect to it instead of bowing. However, if, the priest cannot genuflect then it is better for both deacon and priest to bow, rather than doing different things. The presiding priest and the deacon(s) then reverence the altar with a kiss.

If the president is not the bishop, the deacon kisses the Gospel book where it begins and says quietly: 'May the words of the Gospel wash away our sins'

The deacon genuflects or bows when the priest does. The deacon elevates the chalice at the end of the Eucharistic Prayer ('...by whom...') when the priest elevates the host. The chalice should be placed back in position on the corporal when all have said 'Amen'.

If there are concelebrants, they all receive communion before the deacon. The deacon passes the paten to them.