



## **Diocese of Virginia**

### **Rite for Visitation**

Distribution of Holy Communion by  
Lay Eucharistic Ministers  
to persons unable to be present at a  
celebration within their own congregation

**VISITING LEM BULLETIN**  
**Communion under Special Circumstances**  
*(from pages 396-399 of the Book of Common Prayer)*

*Begin the service with the following or some other greeting*

Lay Person: **The Lord be with you.**

Response: ***And also with you***

*Suitable prayers may be offered, concluding with the following or the Collect of the Day*

Lay Person:

**Almighty Father, whose dear Son, on the night before he suffered, instituted the Sacrament of his Body and Blood: Mercifully grant that we may receive it thankfully in remembrance of Jesus Christ our Lord, who in these holy mysteries gives us a pledge of eternal life; and who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.**

*Comments may be made about the sermon of the day, the Gospel, or other readings.*

Lay Person: **Let us reaffirm our faith by saying the Nicene Creed** (say this together)

***We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.***

***We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,***

*\*If a person desires to receive the Sacrament, but, by reason of extreme sickness or physical disability, is unable to eat and drink the Bread and Wine, the Celebrant is to assure that person that all the benefits of Communion are received, even though the Sacrament is not received with the mouth.*

*If the person cannot receive either the consecrated Bread or the Wine, it is suitable to administer the Sacrament in one kind only.*

***Concerning the Rite***

*This order approved by the Bishop of Virginia or other orders authorized by the Bishop or General Convention are to be used.*

*It is recommended that those to be visited know in advance the time at which the visit is to take place. Members of the family, friends, and other members of the congregation should be encouraged to join the Lay Eucharistic Minister in the visit.*

*All those present at the distribution of communion may be invited to participate in comment upon the lesson or sermon, and in the Prayers, at the discretion of the Lay Eucharistic Minister.*

*It is appropriate that those persons to whom the sacrament is to be carried be specifically prayed for in the Prayers of the People.*

*Suitable containers in which to carry bread, wine, purificators and corporals should be supplied by the church. Containers should be returned to the church immediately after completing scheduled visits, and any remaining elements consumed or otherwise reverently disposed of in accordance with the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer.*

***Blessing by Celebrant during service:***

*The following or similar words might be used by the Celebrant, immediately after the communion of the people, or after the people have been dismissed:*

N.,\_,\_ in the name of the congregation of (name of congregation), I send you out to N. and N. bearing these holy gifts that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood. We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup.

*and by what we have left undone.  
We have not loved you with our whole heart;  
we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will,  
and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.*

Lay Person says:

**Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us all our sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen us in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep us in eternal life.**

Lay Person: **The peace of the Lord be always with you.**

Response: *And also with you*

*Lord's Prayer* (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 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,  
and the power, and the glory, for ever and ever. Amen.*

Lay Person:

**These are the gifts of God for the people of God; Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on Him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.**

*The Bread and the Cup are given to the communicants with these words*

**The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven. [Amen.]  
The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation. [Amen.]**

*One of the post communion prayers is said, or the following*

Lay Person: **Let us pray** (together)

*Gracious Father, we give you praise and thanks for this Holy Communion of the Body and Blood of your beloved Son Jesus Christ, the pledge of our redemption; and we pray that it may bring us forgiveness of our sins, strength in our weakness, and everlasting salvation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

*The service concludes with:*

Lay Person: **Let us bless the Lord.**

Response: *Thanks be to God.*

*true God from true God,  
begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made man.  
For our sake, he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the  
Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the  
dead, and his kingdom will have no end.*

*We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the  
world to come. Amen.*

**Lay Person: Let us confess our sins against God and our  
neighbor** (say this together):

*Most merciful God,  
we confess that we have sinned against you  
in thought, word, and deed,  
by what we have done,*