



Definition: Those who help distribute communion during the worship service.

- **Sit with your family** until the congregation says The Lord's Prayer. **Then Pastor usually says, "The table is ready". This is when you walk up to the altar.** (Once in awhile, if there are a lot of visitors he may say "please be seated" and explain how communion works. Walk up after his explanation).

### **First Sunday of each month: Cups and bread at the altar**

This takes 4 servers. Communion is served at the altar, moving from the west (choir side) of the rail to the east (toward band).

**Servers Commune First:** Walk around to the back of the altar (sanitize hands) then kneel or stand at the rail on the choir side of the altar. The Pastor and Worship Assistant will commune you first. The Worship Assistant and Pastor will serve one another. After all communion assistants have been served, prepare to serve the congregation.

### **Communing the Congregation**

**Pastor** hands out the bread saying "**The body of Christ broken for you**". Pastor will bless any children too young for communion saying a phrase like "**Jesus loves you and is with you always**" or "**May God fill you with grace**".

### Notes:

- If you are unsure if a child should be served, you can ask them or their parents for clarification. Use the hand not distributing wafers when blessing a child.
- *All bread is gluten-free for at-the-altar communion.*

**Assistant #1** will carry a tray of wine cups, following Pastor. Allow worshipers to grab their own cup. Say, "**The blood of Christ shed for you**". Continue around rail. The red cups are wine, and the white cups are grape juice.

**Assistant #2** carries an empty tray quietly collecting the empty cups.

**The two teams work together** – 1 serves the wine and the other picks up the empties. One team serves while the second team organizes/refills trays. And then the first team should organize the trays for the next time around.

When finished, Communion Assistants will bow to the altar and be seated.

## Other Sundays: Intinction (Hosts with chalices)

### **Servers Commune First**

Walk around to the back of the altar (sanitize hands) then stand in a line on the choir side of the altar. The Pastor and Worship Assistant will commune you first. After all communion assistants have been served, prepare to serve the congregation. The Worship Assistant and Pastor will serve one another.

Each station needs two servers, one holds the chalice, one serves the host.

### Serving Hosts:

- Make eye contact with each person and smile as you speak.
- Hand each person a host and **say “The body of Christ broken for you”** for those taking communion. (Their hands will be “open”).
- Those who require gluten free wafers can take their own from the little bowl while you say, “The body of Christ broken for you.”
- For young children who do not yet receive communion, **make the sign of the cross on their forehead** using the hand not distributing wafers and **say “Jesus loves you and is with you always”** or **“May God fill you with grace”** (Their hands will be closed).

Note: If you are unsure if a child should be served, you can ask them or their parents for clarification.

### Serving Wine:

- Stand about 3 feet from the person handing out hosts. This helps the line move more easily.
- Make eye contact with each person and smile as you speak.
- Hold the chalice at an appropriate height for each worshiper. **Say “The blood of Christ shed for you”** as people dip their host into the wine.

When you finish serving your section, move to the next section. When serving the side of the choir/band, you may need to stand and wait until they have finished singing.

When finished, Communion Assistants return the host and chalice to the credence table, bow to the altar and return to your seats.

## **Special Notes / Mishaps:**

- Sometimes it is necessary to take communion to someone sitting in the pew. After your section has been served, walk to their seat and commune them.
- On occasion, a visitor will try to drink from the cup. Sometimes you can't stop them and they just drink. (Just be thankful God made antibodies, turn the chalice a bit and continue on.) If you are able to stop them, but they have already eaten their host, you can ask your partner for another host and simply explain to them how to dip. Some visitors choose to skip the wine.
- On rare occasion, a host will fall in the wine. Use the tongs on the altar to remove the host. Then ask your partner to distribute another host and continue.
- If you know people's names and feel brave enough to say them, feel free. You do not have to say names, a warm smile is just as effective.
- If the host falls to the ground, pick it up and put it on the altar, or in your pocket, so it can be disposed of later. The host cannot be thrown in the garbage so leave it on the counter in the sacristy. Do not serve a host that has fallen on the ground.
- If, before communion or as the volunteers are walking to the altar, you notice that there is a communion assistant absent, kindly consider filling in as a substitute.