

Communion from the Reserved Sacrament
Approved for use by the Office of the Bishop of Newark
February 23, 2015

1. Name of the Service

This service is called "Communion from the Reserved Sacrament."

2. Limits to the use of the service

In the Diocese of Newark, the Bishop has given permission for deacons in good standing in the Diocese of Newark, to provide this service *when no supply priest is available*. A deacon may lead a service of Communion from the Reserved Sacrament up to six times within a calendar year.

3. Compensation

The deacon will be granted the diocesan-recommended stipend plus mileage for supply priests, regardless of whether the service is being conducted in the deacon's own parish, or in another.

4. Call for service of a deacon

If the rector or priest-in-charge must be absent and no supply priests can be found, rectors (or wardens, in the absence of a rector) may invite the deacon who is already assigned to their congregation to provide the service. The deacon then notifies the Archdeacon for Administration that such a service will take place. If there is no deacon in place, the rectors or wardens may contact the Archdeacon for Administration, who also maintains a list of deacons not currently assigned to a parish, are approved by the Bishop, and are available to provide such services.

It is inappropriate for deacons to answer a general call to clergy for supply. He or she must be personally approached either through the rector or warden of the church in question.

5. Liturgy to be used

The Liturgy follows the rubrics of the Book of Common Prayer (see bottom of BCP page 408), which also follows below.

6. Expectations of the Deacon

Record Keeping is Important: Once the initial contact has been made, it is the *deacon's* responsibility to notify the Archdeacon *beforehand* that an agreement is

in place. Following the service, it is *the rector or warden's responsibility* to notify the Archdeacon that the service has been provided.

The deacon reviews the bulletin/service leaflet within the week before the appointed date; arrives early enough to become familiar with the liturgical space, check that the Gospel book is properly marked; check before the service for special prayer requests and blessings (birthdays, anniversaries); assemble and pray with service assistants just prior to service; provide the congregation with an explanation of Communion from the Reserved Sacrament before the service begins; give the homily; attend coffee hour; sign the parish register.

7. Monitoring the Process

The Archdeacon for Administration is responsible recording all instances of Communion from the Reserved Sacrament provided by deacons throughout the diocese, and for making a report to the Bishop on a semiannual basis (January; July). He/she will also alert the bishop to possible irregularities in the process. The bishop is ultimately responsible for monitoring the success of this ministry and to call for adjustments.

Prior to the Service, the deacon says the following:

Good Morning. I'm (Deacon _____). I've been invited by your rector (warden) to lead worship this morning.

In the Episcopal Church, only a priest is authorized to consecrate the elements of bread and wine. However, in accordance with the Canons of Episcopal Church, and of the Diocese of Newark, **if** your rector (or warden) has been unable to find a supply priest for Sunday *and if the elements have already been consecrated by a priest at a previous service*, then a deacon like myself, may distribute the pre-consecrated elements to the congregation. This service is called "Communion From the Reserved Sacrament."

Our Bishop, Mark Beckwith has granted to deacons the right to exercise this privilege no more than six times within a calendar year. We have this guideline from the Bishop so that the our congregations will not confuse the roles of priest and deacon but continue to see them as two equal but separate ordained orders, each exercising two very distinct roles in the Church.

COMMUNION FROM THE RESERVED SACRAMENT

*Developed and approved by the Bishop of Newark,
and the Diocesan Commission on Liturgy and Music;
Revised Sept 2014*

Following the directions on bottom of BCP, page 408

1. **Liturgy of the Word:**

Comment [A1]: Put Liturgy of the Word first

The service begins on BCP page 323 (Rite I) or 355 (Rite II)

Opening Acclamation

Gloria or Kyrie

Collect of the Day

Readings

Homily

Nicene Creed

Prayers of the People

Confession, *substituting "us" for "you" and "our" for "your"*

The Peace

2. **Administration of Communion from the Reserved Sacrament:**

Offertory Sentence (BCP, page 376); and acceptance of offerings

As the offerings are presented, the Deacon may say:

Deacon All things come of thee [you] O Lord,

People And of Thine own have we given thee [you].

The Deacon spreads a corporal on the Altar, and reverently removes the Reserved Sacrament from the tabernacle or aumbry and places it on the corporal. A communion hymn may be sung while the table is prepared.

The Deacon then says

Let us pray in the words our Savior Christ hath [has] taught us. "Our Father. . ."

The Deacon invites the congregation to receive Communion from the Reserved Sacrament with these words

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance the Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

The bread and wine are distributed with these words

The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven.

The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.

In Rite One, the following may be used

The Body of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Take and eat this in remembrance that Christ died for thee, and feed on him in thy heart by faith, with thanksgiving.

The Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ's Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.

Any remaining sacrament is consumed or returned to the aumbry.

Postcommunion prayer, BCP page 339, 365 or 366

The Blessing is omitted. The Deacon dismisses the People

Deacon Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.

or this

Deacon Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

or this

Deacon Let us go forth into the world, rejoicing in the power of the Spirit.
People Thanks be to God.

or this

Deacon Let us bless the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Additional Notes:

For Liturgy of the Word followed by Communion from the Reserved Sacrament: deacon vests in an alb and a deacon's stole of appropriate color for season