Guiding You Through The Holy Eucharist Rite Two – Page 355

In this guide general instructions are in red; explanations of our liturgy are in blue.

You are invited to stand for the Entrance Hymn

Entrance Hymn

Opening Versicles and prayer **BCP page 355**

Our Book of Common Prayer (BCP) p 356 invites us now to sing a hymn of praise

Hymn of Praise:

Versicles introducing the Collect of the Day **BCP page 357**

The Collect for the day, (Contemporary Collects are found beginning on Page 211 BCP)

You are invited to sit for the Liturgy of the Word

Notes: General instructions for "The Lessons" are found in our BCP on page 357).

The Episcopal Church, along with many Protestant Churches, some Catholic Churches and other denominations, follows an established 3-year cycle of scripture readings. The readings set forth in This 3-year cycle form what is known as "The Revised Common Lectionary."

Year A (the first year of the cycle) began on the first Sunday of the 2025 Advent season. Year A will end on Nov. 28, 2026, just before we enter the next Advent season.

You can find the list of readings scheduled for Sunday worship in Year A beginning on page 889 in our BCP. The texts of today's readings are included below.

Even though each text is included here, each reading is read by a "Lector" who has studied the text in advance, so that the Word of God can be *heard* (that is "carefully taken into account") by the community. For that reason, *if you can*, **put this service bulletin down now and simply listen and hear God speaking to you through each proclamation of God's Word**. (And we invite you to take the bulletin with you when you leave here so it can guide you through the week.)

The Lector of the first reading will invite us now to pray a psalm "responsively."
The Lector will read the first half of each verse and the community will complete the verse.
(The second half of the verse generally completes and reinforces the first half.)

The Designated Psalm for the Day can be Found in The Psalter - Beginning on Page 585

The Lector of the first reading (from the Older Testament" will now pass to a second Lector
the responsibility to clearly proclaim the Newer Testament reading.
To signify the transfer and acceptance of this responsibility,
the two Lectors will meet and bow in front of the altar rail.
Again, <u>if you can,</u> please set this bulletin aside and listen attentively,
so that you can hear what God wants to speak to you through this Word.

You are invited to stand for the Gospel Acclamation and the Gospel

Gospel Acclamation Hymn

In Episcopal worship, the Gospel ("the Good News of Jesus")
is proclaimed <u>from the midst of the congregation</u>,

This reminds us that God's Word is living and active in our midst. *Hebrews 4:12*

The acolyte will carry the Gospel Book, holding it high, noting its place of honor for us.
The people will stand to sing the Gospel Acclamation,
turning toward the Gospel Book to fully focus on the Word that will be heard.
Again, *<u>if you can do so</u>, please set this bulletin aside*
to focus on listening to what God speaks to you in this Word.

You are invited to remain standing as the Gospel Book is returned to the Altar Table
and a prayer for enlightenment is said by the priest
Then you are invited to be seated.

<u>Sermon</u>:

After the sermon, you will be invited to stand as we proclaim the Nicene Creed,
as Christians have done since the 4th century.
Note that the BCP presents the Nicene Creed in brief statements.
Each statement is set forth on a single line.
Taking a brief pause at the end of each line focuses our attention
and helps us grasp the power of what we are what we are proclaiming.
Please do not rush this statement of faith.

Nicene Creed **BCP 358**

The "Prayers of the People" implore God's assistance with the things that often weigh upon the human heart. You will find guidance for the Prayers of the People in our BCP on page 359. Sample forms that can be used to express the concerns of God's people are found in the BCP beginning on page 383. At the conclusion the Priest will invite other petitions.

Confession of Sin **BCP 360**

A Confession of Sin is said here if it has not been said earlier.
On occasion, the Confession may be omitted.

The Exchange of Peace (see the bottom of BCP page 360) closes the Liturgy of the Word.
Please remember to greet those online with signs of Christian fellowship.

The Liturgy of the Table (also known as "The Holy Communion Service") now begins.

The celebrant will call the community to focus on the transition from the Liturgy of the Word to the Liturgy of the Eucharist by proclaiming a sentence from scripture. (see BCP pages 376-377.

You are invited to remain standing
until the bread, wine, and offering basket have been placed on the altar table.

We will begin to sing a hymn that brings together God's Word as we have just heard it, our lives, and our longing for the strength and nourishment of spirit that can only come from God. Representatives from the congregation will bring from the back of the church offerings of bread and wine that will be consecrated, as well as the offering basket. We present the offering basket as the sign that we are presenting our very lives to be consecrated to the Lord alongside the bread and wine.

Once the offerings are placed on the altar table, the congregation may sit
until the Altar Table is set and ready.

The Liturgy of the Table

Hymn as the Table is Set

The Holy Communion service opens with "Preface," that is, a formal prayer inviting us to give thanks for God's goodness. The priest and the people engage in an opening dialogue, after which the priest – on behalf of all the people – declares that we must always be thankful. This opening exchange between priest and people and the declaration that it is right and just for us to express our thanks to God, is found on **page 361 in our BCP**.

The priest – again speaking on behalf of the people – prays a "Proper Preface," beginning on page 377 which celebrates the current liturgical season or feast.

We then turn to BCP p 362 as the Preface builds to the *Sanctus,* a hymn of praise in which the congregation joins the saints and angels as they sing in praise of the Trinity.

Opening dialogue of the Preface		**BCP page 361**
The "Proper Preface" today is the Preface of the Epiphany		**BCP page 378**
The Doxology concluding the Preface		**BCP page 362**
The "Sanctus"	*Holy, Holy, Holy Lord*	**Hymnal S 125**
The Great Thanksgiving		**BCP page 362**
The "Great Amen		**Hymnal S146**

You are invited to stand

You will now be invited to pray aloud the Lord's prayer.
You are welcome to pray this in the version you find most helpful.
Even if this sounds disjointed or confusing, God hears the prayers of our hearts.
Both the traditional and the contemporary translations are printed **in our BCP at page 364.**
Please remember that the BCP sets out the Lod's prayer in a series of brief phrases.

Pausing briefly at the end of each line allows us to pray this attentively.

Please do not rush the Lord's Prayer.

The Lord's Prayer	**BCP page 364**

"The Fraction," also known as "the breaking of the Bread"

After the Lord's Prayer, the celebrant will break the bread into two pieces, reminding us that shortly after sharing his last meal with the disciples, Jesus allowed his body to be broken so that all the world might know the depths of God's love. This is a solemn moment and we honor it with a moment of silence. We remind ourselves that when this service ends today, we too are called to follow Jesus into the world and to give our lives in service to God's people, for the building of God's kingdom.

The Breaking of the Bread (also called "the Fraction") **BCP page 364**

You are invited to sit as we prepare to share the Communion Bread and Wine

The invitation to partake of the Holy Communion **BCP page 364**

The Ushers will guide you to the altar rail if you wish to receive either the communion or a blessing.
If you wish a particular blessing, please let the priest know.

To Partake of Communion or to Receive a Blessing

Those who wish to partake of Holy Communion may come to the altar rail now. The railing is our way of extending the Lord's table. If you wish to receive only a blessing, cross your arms over your chest.

If you prefer a wafer to a small piece of bread, please hold your hands out but facing your hands toward the floor.

If you need a gluten free host, please place your right hand on your left shoulder.

To receive only the communion bread, consume the host after it is in your hands; then return to your pew.

If you wish to receive communion bread and dip it in the consecrated wine, remain at the altar rail and hold the bread or host in your hand until the gold chalice comes to you. Then dip the host into the wine and consume the communion bread and wine.

If you wish to consume the host and then sip from the chalice, leave the altar rail after you consume the bread or host and move to the Eucharistic Minister with the silver sipping chalice at the left side of the altar rail.

Always, you may either stand or kneel at the altar rail, as you prefer.

Post-Communion Hymn

The Post-Communion Prayer **BCP page 365**

Announcements

You are invited to stand for the final blessings of this service

The Blessing

Sending Hymn

The Dismissal **BCP page 366**