

Communion Assistant

Responsibilities

- Assist with distribution of wine and grape juice, occasionally bread.

Roles

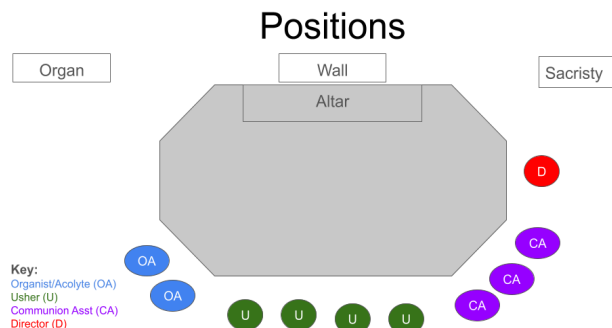
Four people are regularly scheduled as communion assistants.

- The first name listed in the weekly bulletin is the director (see below for more information).
- If needed, a fifth name is an extra assistant scheduled when only one pastor is present.

Positions at the platform

At the conclusion of the Lord's prayer, communion assistants move to the edge of the platform. An usher will give you your glass.

If assigned, the fifth assistant moves immediately to the altar and communes with the pastor and assisting minister. He/she then assists in communing the ushers and other assistants.



Distribution

Director

The director moves to the table as soon as he/she has communed. Take the two remaining chalices¹ to the altar² and fill them, one with wine, one with juice.

Take the chalice from the pastor and give it to one of the assistants, unless the pastor hands it directly to an assistant.

Refill chalices for other assistants as needed during distribution.

Do not overfill the chalices. Remaining wine/juice must be poured upon the ground after the 10:45 service. We do not want to waste it.

Assistants 2–4 (sometimes 5)

The assistant with the juice follows the pastor; the assistant with the wine goes last.

The assistant with the cup says (before pouring): "The blood of Christ shed for you."

You may say the person's name while looking at them directly, if you feel comfortable doing so.

Post-distribution

The communion assistant should stay with the last person to receive the cup until he/she leaves the table.

Do not leave anyone standing alone.

Return the chalice to the director or to the credence table³ (by the wall).

The director should wait to clear the table until everyone has communed. (This does not usually happen in practice.)

Bread distribution

Occasionally a communion assistant will be asked to help distribute the bread. Most of the time it's the pastors.

There are gluten free crackers on the altar, as needed. The pastors know most of the people who prefer these, but someone may indicate to you that they need them. You simply give them the crackers instead of the bread. Say, "The body of Christ, given for you".

Communion by intinction

Intinction⁴ is used as the communion method for some services, especially Christmas, Easter, and Waterlife.

This requires three stations using double chalices with both red wine and white grape juice in each chalice. The assistant with the cup should stand two (2) steps away from the person with the bread to improve the flow.

Occasionally intinction is used at other services. This usually requires only one or two stations. Follow the pastor's direction for your position.

¹-The **chalice** is a large, decorative drinking cup or goblet.

²-An **altar** in a church is a raised table or structure used for holy communion, and offering worship to God.

³- The **credence table** is a small side table in the sanctuary of a church used to hold the sacred vessels and elements before they are consecrated during the Eucharist or Mass.

⁴- **Intinction** is the practice of dipping the consecrated bread (host or wafer) into the sacramental wine before consuming it during Holy Communion.

