

COMMUNION SERVICE

~ Christmas 2020 ~



INTRODUCTORY RITES

All present gather in front of the sanctuary or in the aisles of the church standing six feet apart wearing their masks.

The minister standing at the altar or at the chair, without a mask says:

Minister: **In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.**

All: Amen.

Minister: **The Lord be with you.**

All: And with your Spirit.

Then follows the Penitential Act, to which the minister invites the faithful, saying:

Minister: **My brothers and sisters, to prepare ourselves for this celebration let us call to mind our sins.**

A brief pause for silence follows. Then all recite together the formula of general confession:

I confess to almighty God
and to you, my brothers and sisters,
that I have greatly sinned,
in my thoughts and in my words,
in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

And, striking their breast, they say:

through my fault, through my fault,
through my most grievous fault;

Then they continue:

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin,
all the Angels and Saints,
and you, my brothers and sisters,
to pray for me to the Lord our God.

The minister concludes:

Minister: **May almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins,
and bring us to everlasting life.**

All: Amen.

READING OF THE WORD OF GOD

If a priest or deacon are the celebrants, they start the Gospel using the following invocation:

Minister: **The Lord be with you.**

All: And with your Spirit.

Minister: **A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke**

All: Glory to you, O Lord.

If the minister is not a priest or a deacon is reading the Gospel, they begin using the following words:

Minister: **Brothers and sisters, let us listen to the words of the Gospel
of Luke:**

In those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus
that all the world should be registered.
This was the first registration,
and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria.
All went to their own town to be registered.
Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee
to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem,
because he was descended from the house and family of David.
He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged
and who was expecting a child.

While they were there,
the time came for her to deliver her child.
And she gave birth to her firstborn son
and wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger,
because there was no place for them in the inn.
In that region there were shepherds living in the fields,
keeping watch over their flock by night.
Then an Angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone
around them, and they were terrified.
But the Angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see –
I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people:
to you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour,
who is the Christ, the Lord.
This will be a sign for you:
you will find a child wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger.”
And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of the heavenly host,
praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom he favours!”
When the angels had left them and gone into heaven,
the shepherds said to one another,
“Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place,
which the Lord has made known to us.”
So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph,
and the child lying in the manger.

At the end of the Gospel, the priest or the deacon, acclaims:

Minister: **The Gospel of the Lord.**

All: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

A lay extraordinary minister concludes the Gospel reading without saying anything.



HOLY COMMUNION

The minister takes the ciborium from the tabernacle containing the Body of the Lord, places it on the altar, and genuflects. He then introduces the Lord's Prayer in these or similar words:

Minister: **At the Savior's command
and formed by divine teaching,
we dare to say:**

All: 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.

The minister genuflects, takes the Host and holding it slightly raised above the vessel says aloud:

Minister: **Behold the Lamb of God,
behold him who takes away the sins of the world.
Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.**

All who are to receive Communion say:

Lord, I am not worthy
that you should enter under my roof,
but only say the word
and my soul shall be healed.

COMMUNION

After this, the minister takes the vessel and approaches the communicants. The minister raises a Host slightly and shows to each of the communicants, saying:

Minister: **The Body of Christ.**

The communicant answers: Amen.

After waiting for the priest to move aside or after moving aside themselves, they then take off their masks and receive Holy Communion.

After Communion the minister returns any remaining Hosts to the tabernacle and genuflects. The minister then removes his mask and sanitizes his hands.

A period of silence may now be observed.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Standing at the altar or at the chair and facing the people, with hands joined the minister says:

Minister: **Let us pray.**

**God, who wonderfully created the dignity of human nature
and still more wonderfully restored it,
grant, we pray,
that we may share in the divinity of Christ,
who humbled himself to share in our humanity.
Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.**

All: Amen.

FINAL BLESSING

The priest or deacon then gives the final blessing:

Minister: **The Lord be with you.**

All: And with your Spirit.

Minister: **May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, + and
the Holy Spirit**

All: Amen.

Minister: **Go in the peace of Christ.**

All: Thanks be to God.

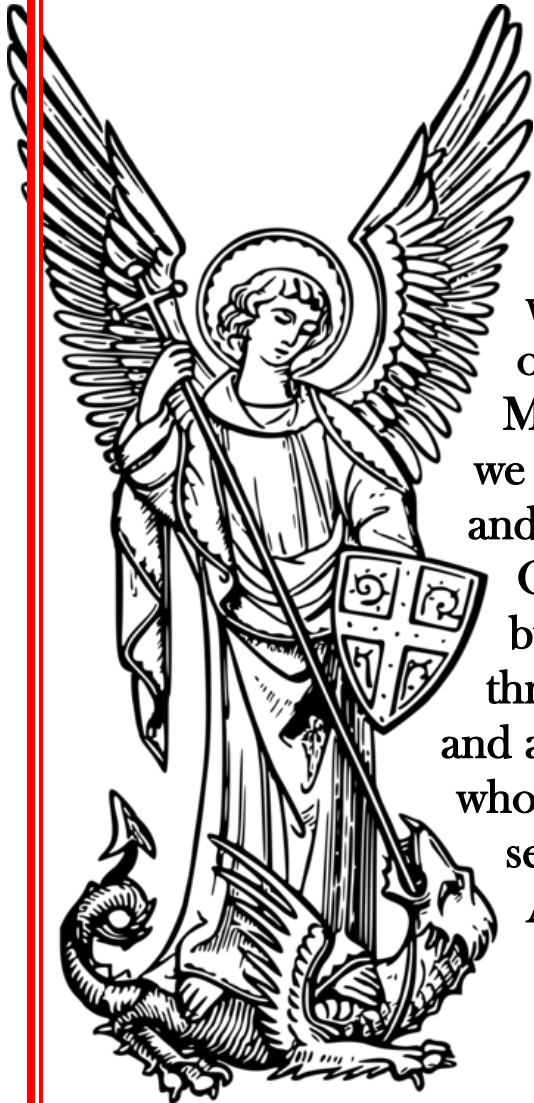
*If the minister is not a priest or deacon, he invokes God's blessing and, crossing himself
says:*

Minister: **May the almighty and merciful God bless and protect us,
the Father, and the Son, + and the Holy Spirit.**

All: Amen.



PRAYER TO
SAINT MICHAEL THE ARCHANGEL



SAINT Michael the Archangel,
defend us in battle.

Be our protection against the
wickedness and the snares
of the devil.

May God rebuke him,
we humbly pray,
and do thou,

O Prince of the heavenly host,
by the power of God,
thrust into hell Satan
and all the evil spirits,
who prowl about the world
seeking the ruin of souls.

Amen.

Attributed to Leo XIII, 1810-1903