

ADMINISTRATION OF HOLY COMMUNION

Principles, Context and Understandings

- It is the historic tradition of the Anglican Church to offer Holy Communion in both kinds – "bread and wine." (See [*Eucharist in Two Kinds and The Common Cup*](#))
- There is no documented evidence that illness has been spread by way of the common chalice used properly for administration of Communion.
- Communion chalices, and often other communion ware, are made from "noble metals" (not to be confused with "precious metals"), usually silver or gold, because of the presumed unique properties of those substances when in contact with living organic material.
- Communion in one kind (bread/host only) in no way influences the validity of the sacrament.
- Pandemic and widespread health-related crises may temporarily affect the administration of the sacrament.

Directives

1. All involved in the celebration of the Holy Eucharist (especially the priest) should under no circumstances be in contact with communion elements, vessels or linens if they exhibit symptoms of contagious respiratory or gastrointestinal disease of any kind. All with such symptoms should also refrain from the shaking of hands or other close contact with other people.
2. Hand sanitizer should be easily accessible by all in worship spaces and placed conspicuously (e.g., at the chancel steps and at the credence table) with regular reminders by the leadership that it should be used. The clergy and administrators at Communion should ensure that they visibly use the hand sanitizer at appropriate times prior to handling communion elements, vessels or linens and after touching the face, books or other objects.
3. Contact with the elements of Communion, vessels and linens being used needs special attention. Persons involved with preparation (e.g., Altar/Sanctuary Guild members) should follow strict practices regarding the cleansing of those items and of the washing of hands before and after handling elements or communion ware, both preferably with hot water and soap. Administrators should have washed their hands recently and use hand sanitizer just prior to the administration of the Sacrament.
4. Communion will normally be offered at celebrations of the Eucharist to communicants in both kinds and from the common chalice (times of pandemic or widespread health crises may be an exception to this). The choice of making Communion by way of the host only (in one kind) is that of the communicant and it should be regularly reinforced that this practice in no way influences the validity of the Sacrament. The host only should be recommended especially to those who have a concern for their own health or that of others.

5. Intinction (dipping of the host) is permitted only by the administrator of the host. The host should never come in contact with the communicant's hands prior to contact with the contents of the common chalice. The host dipped on one edge by the administrator should be placed on the communicant's hand or tongue, avoiding contact with sources of contamination.
6. Clergy are encouraged to review good habits and practices of administration of the common chalice with those who have the permission of the Bishop to do so. The use of a purificator is not primarily to cleanse (purify) on its own but assures close contact with a noble metal of that which might threaten contamination.

When using the linen purifier:

- Place one end between the index and second finger allowing the long edge to hang in front of the hand.
- After administration to each communicant, pull the purificator once firmly along both the inside and outside edge of the chalice.
- Use the thumb to pull the purificator slightly toward the inside of the hand exposing a fresh section for the next wipe.
- After 30-40 wipes with the purificator and reaching the end, place the index finger behind, the second finger in front, and continue with the fresh (opposite) side of the purificator once again to the end. (The visible side of the purificator closest to the communicant will always be the clean one).
- At the end of the second clean side, either acquire a different, clean purificator or re-fold the used one exposing clean sides for continued use.

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