

9AM AND 11AM CHALICE BEARER MINISTRY

"When I go to the Eucharist, I'm eating of that first primordial substance which opened up to create everything. We're all made of the same stuff as stars. We all come from that little tiny speck of nothing out of which came everything."

—Madeleine L'Engle

This is a licensed ministry of the diocese and is taken seriously. It is the one ministry that can be done by all four orders (laity, deacon, priest, bishop). The liturgy is for the assembled so we set aside our individual preferences.

COVID note: Precautions regarding masking, distancing, and other situations continue to change. Please be mindful of the current protocol for COVID safety when you serve.

The Walk Through on Sunday morning:

Sunday Morning Arrival and Preparation:

- Arrive 15 + minutes ahead of the service;
- If you have not arrived by 8:50 (for the 9:00) or 10:50 (for the 11:00) a substitute will be found to replace you.
- Just a reminder to always wear black dress shoes and avoid turtlenecks that pop above the vestments
- Vest in alb (without hood) and cincture (rope). Albs and cinctures are in the chalice bearer sacristy. You may use any of the albs hanging on the two racks closest to the door.
- Personal crosses worn over the albs are permissible, yet not encouraged.
- Check white board in sacristy (9am) or stairwell (11am) showing your partners (chalice bearer and priest). You will process in and out with your paired chalice bearer.
- After vesting and checking your position, grab a hymnal and leaflet and to to the narthex no later than 5 minutes before the service. The Presider will offer a prayer, and then after prayers you will line up for the procession. While waiting in the narthex chatting is strongly discouraged, as it amplifies sound into the nave. "Presence" encouraged.

Procession and Seating:

- Chalice bearers line up behind cross (9am) or Altar Guild (11am) in procession line up.
- Process with gentle (non-military) corners as you process.
- Both 9am and 11am chalice bearers are seated behind the liturgical platform along the west wall and face the pews. Remember that you are visible and chatting and cell phone use discouraged (and you are on livestream camera at 11am).
- Sit through the Readings, Sermon; Stand at Nicene Creed and Prayers. [During the Confession and also during penitential services (Lent) you may go to the kneeling rail or offer a Profound Bow at the appropriate times.]
- At the Peace you may go out into the pews to give the Peace, just allowing sufficient time to return to your chair for announcements.
- Use the time during the end of the Peace an announcements to sanitizer your hands.
- Be seated as the announcements continue and the offertory begins.

On the Platform:

- As Deacon, ALM, and Presider approach the Altar for the Eucharistic Prayer, you stand (do not take service leaflet unless instructed to do so, approach in silence) and take position on the platform in pairs with priest you are assigned; Chalice Bearer pairs stand on either side of the priest they will be serving with (one on each side when two per priest are assigned).
 - Remember to look at white boards for the placement of chalice bearers and priests.
- During the Eucharistic Prayer focus your attention on the Altar and the Presider (don't look around at assembly).
- When singing with assembly you may look around.
- During the appropriate moments with the Sanctus and the Eucharistic Prayer, offer the sign of the cross and bows with the other liturgical ministers (if you're comfortable with this).
- As the Altar table is staged with bread and chalices:
 - Most often (but not always) the priests pick up the bread first.
 - ALM delivers purificators first. Then chalices to the north side.
 - Chalice and purificator are picked up off the Altar with your pair partner (jointly). Do not walk backwards with the chalice...pick it up, turn around, and return to your spot.
 - As soon as the last chalices are filled with wine by the deacon, the south side chalice bearers should pick them up off the tray with purificator.
- When the Presider elevates the bread, all elevate their chalice towards the assembly (do not swing the chalice around) at the invitation to communion.

Serving the Chalice:

- ***Administer the chalice*** with the words from BCP pg. 365: **"The Blood of Christ: the cup of salvation"** while handing the cup forth (keep hold of the chalice while you administer the cup). Note: in Lent we encourage a different set of words to be used.
- Avoid staining the embroidered cross in the center of the purificator by unfolding the purificator and using the outer edges to wipe the rim of the chalice.
- When serving the chalice wipe the lip of the chalice deliberately on the **inside and outside** surfaces (pinching action) and turn the chalice a ¼ turn. Rotate the purificator as well, trying to use a clean spot to wipe the next time.
 - It's okay to ask or talk with the communicant to clarify something (i.e. about serving children). You may ask a child to stand to make it easier.
 - There are many variations on serving: when serving and something comes up that seems awkward, don't assume that you are in the wrong.
 - There are many encounters with the communicant through eye contact, but don't be surprised if some do not make eye contact.
- ***Intinction:*** *Note: we are not currently allowing intinction (dipping) of bread into the chalice.* ~~When the bread is dipped in the wine by you or the communicant (preferred that you intinct the bread, however don't get into a tug of war)~~ Say these words: **"The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ keep you in everlasting life."**
- If a communicant has crossed arms (to decline the chalice), you raise the chalice before them and still say "The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation."

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- **Special Circumstance:** If the priest you are paired with takes bread into the congregation, you may be asked to follow and serve chalice.
- **9am and 11am Chalice Bearers** serve at standing stations. Leave ample space (approximately 6 feet) between the priest and each chalice bearer and help people see that there are two of you (often they fail to notice the second person).

Theological considerations:

- We are facilitating an encounter with Christ.
- It is our intent to be practical and hospitable.
- We believe in the real presence; it is both bread and body; wine and blood.

When serving the chalice we do not call persons we serve by their given name. We wish for the experience to be inclusive of all waiting to receive the bread and wine.

When finished serving the assembly:

- If you are the first to finish, you may be asked to go to the center aisle and continue serving chalice there. Or, you may be asked to line up next to the first available priest in the center back by the credence table (in front of the reredos) to serve all of the liturgical ministers (priests and chalice bearers). This is one of those things where we just take our turn doing this as we are needed. The chalice bearer stands on the priest's left by 3 to 4 feet.
- All Priests and chalice bearers are then served. When all are served:
 - Set your chalice on the credence table and receive your bread from the priest.
 - Then you give the priest bread and say: "**The Body of Christ, the bread of heaven**" (note: some priests serve themselves)
 - Then pick up chalice and administer the wine to the priest and say "**The Blood of Christ, the cup of salvation**"
 - Priest then serves you the chalice.
- After serving chalice, all Chalice Bearers set chalice on the tray and the used purificator (please fold it loosely) on the tray on the credence table and then return to your chair for postcommunion prayer and blessing.
- For closing procession, follow the procession out, slipping in after the altar guild and approximating where you were lined up coming in. Slip in between other ministers quickly and deliberately, continuing to move forward at the same time.
- Follow procession down the center aisle and then turn south waiting for hymn to finish and for the deacon to dismiss the assembly.

Extended Duties following the Service:

- Assist by helping to **clear the credence table** of the vessels (and also the Parsons table in McCaw Chapel by the tabernacle); take these vessels to the altar guild sacristy.
- **Ablutions:** Take turns in the sacristy...where 1 chalice bearer abluets the chalices (empty the wine into the receptacle; and rinse with water; and wipe the chalice rim with alcohol cotton ball and dry with paper purificator—found on the counter top). The Altar Guild finishes the cleaning process.

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Some other details:

Please make sure that if you need a substitute to cover a day you are assigned as chalice bearer to request a substitute as soon as possible. You can use Ministry Scheduler Pro (MSP) on the web terminal or mobile app, or you can click “request sub” in the reminder email you are sent. You are also welcome to ask for a substitute directly and then let Michael Seewer (mseewer@saintmarks.org) know to make the swap to the schedule.

Serving Chalice: Tips & Reminders

A “tips & reminders” video was created in August 2022. View the video on YouTube here: <https://youtu.be/IMCrG5t5T6s>.