

Admission of the Baptized to Communion

Notes

1. This rite is intended for use in the circumstances covered by the Guidelines agreed by the House of Bishops on the Admission of Baptized Persons to Holy Communion before Confirmation (GS Misc 488, 1997). Individual parishes must seek the agreement of the diocesan bishop before introducing communion before confirmation.
2. The congregation should be made aware that people from the church are being prepared for communion. Those being preparing can be introduced to the congregation, for example by displaying photographs (with consent), and by inviting the congregation to pray for them. Godparents and sponsors, as well as families, may be invited to the service. In the case of children, the goodwill of those parents who are not regularly members of the congregation should always be sought and obtained.
3. To make it clear that the admission of the baptized to communion before confirmation is neither another baptism service nor a confirmation, baptismal water should not be used, and neither the laying on of hands nor anointing with oil should take place. Similarly, the Bishop should not normally preside at this rite, as this might confuse it with confirmation. Those admitted should generally receive the bread and wine with their family and friends.
4. The rite should normally be used in a main Sunday service. It is not necessary to use every part of the order provided.
5. The Welcome of those being admitted may be used at the greeting or before the Peace. If thought appropriate, the Questions may be used instead of the Welcome; if so, they are used before the Peace.
6. The Profession of Faith from the baptism service, the Affirmation of the Christian Way (6), and the forms of intercessions on pages 52-54 may be particularly suitable.

Pastoral Introduction

This may be read by those present before the service begins

Today we welcome to Communion *N* and *N* who share faithfully and regularly in our worship. A person is admitted to communion on the basis of their baptism, the sign and pledge of incorporation into the death and resurrection of Christ and the new life of the kingdom of God. *N* and *N* have been baptized, and today they receive the sacrament of the body and blood of Christ with us. They are taking a new step in the life to which God has called them in baptism and which we trust they will later affirm in confirmation. We welcome them and look forward to learning with and from them as we journey together on the Way of Christ.

The Welcome

The president may invite those to be welcomed to stand before the people, and introduces them in these or other suitable words

We are God's pilgrim people.
We share in the story of God's love for the world,
God's love in Christ, calling us to himself,
God's love in the Spirit, giving strength for our journey of faith.
We celebrate this love in word and song,
we feed on Jesus in bread and wine
and make him known through our life together.

As the people of God in this place, we share the responsibility of encouraging one another in our worship and supporting one another in our discipleship, by our example and our prayers.

N and *N*, we welcome you in Jesus' name to receive communion with us.

At the Prayers of Intercession

We pray for *N and N*,
that they may draw near with confidence to your throne of grace
and know in their lives the transforming power of your love.

Lord, in your mercy

All **hear our prayer.**

The Peace

The president introduces the peace in these or other suitable words:

We are the body of Christ,
in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body.
Let us then pursue all that makes for peace
and builds up our common life.

or

We are all one in Christ Jesus.
We belong to him through faith,
heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

At the Preparation of the Table

Those welcomed to communion may lead the prayers at the preparation of the table

With this bread that we bring
we shall remember Jesus.

All

With this wine that we bring
we shall remember Jesus.

All

Bread for his body,
wine for his blood,
gifts from God to his table we bring.

All **We shall remember Jesus.**

Proper Preface

And now we give you thanks
that you call us into the communion of your love;
your overflowing grace makes us partakers
in the divine nature
and a sign of your kingdom.

Post Communion

The Post Communion of the day or this Post Communion is used

We praise and thank you, O Christ, for this sacred feast:
for here we receive you,
here the memory of your passion is renewed,
here our minds are filled with grace,
and here a pledge of future glory is given,
when we shall feast at that table where you reign
with all your saints forever.

All **Amen.**

At the Dismissal

At the dismissal, a blessing appropriate to the day or the blessing for the Day of Pentecost (Common Worship: Services and Prayers for the Church of England, page 321) may be used.

Those admitted to communion may be invited forward, and the following may be said.

God has touched us with his love
and nourished us at his table.
As God's pilgrim people,
may we continue to explore the Way of Christ,
and grow in friendship with God,
in love for his people, and in serving others.

Those who have been admitted to communion may lead the following

To a troubled world
peace from Christ.

To a searching world
love from Christ.

To a waiting world
hope from Christ.

The Questions

If it is thought appropriate to use these Questions instead of the Welcome, they may be used before the peace.

The minister addresses the congregation

Brothers and sisters, today we are welcoming *N and N* to Holy Communion. As parents and godparents, and as the community of *St N's*, we share the responsibility of encouraging them in their worship, and of supporting them by our friendship, our example and our prayers. Will you help them to grow in faith and love?

All **We will.**

The minister addresses those being welcomed

N and N, you love God, you follow Jesus, and you live the Christian life. Do you wish to receive Holy Communion?

Yes.

As *N and N* receive today the sacrament of the body and blood of Christ, let us pray that we may all know and reflect the love of Christ.

God of life,
you invite us to eat at your table;
may we know your love,
follow you in the world,
and shine with your light
[New Altar 1992] of our life;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**