

Guidelines for Assisting Ministers

Thank you for using your gifts to help lead us in worship by being an Assisting Minister (AM). This is an important ministry and a vital part of our congregation's worship because, **as Martin Luther believed, we are each members of the priesthood of all believers. In other words, one need not be a pastor to lead worship** because we all are made priests by virtue of our baptisms. ***Should you be unable to serve on your assigned Sunday, please find a replacement from the attached list of other AMs. Let the church secretary know early the week before, so that appropriate changes can be made in the bulletin. If you are unable to find a replacement, contact the church office (830-693-2253).***

If you are serving as an Assisting Minister, **please be sure to arrive at least 20 minutes before worship** to find the right sized alb and test your microphone. The pastors can assist you in the Robing Room.

Worship Notes for Assisting Ministers:

PROCESSING IN

Gather with pastors, acolytes, (and choir) in the Narthex at the center doors. The acolytes will lead in with the cross and light. If present the choir will follow. Then join the pastor in processing to the communion table, pausing briefly at the table (not at steps), bow before the cross as a sign of reverence. Proceed to the chairs behind the pulpit.

KYRIE

This is generally sung. Each Kyrie varies according to the setting of the liturgy. Please discuss with the pastors in advance and make arrangements to rehearse with the organist and Music Director as needed.

PRAYERS of the PEOPLE / PRAYERS of INTERCESSION

Let the pastors know if you do not wish to write prayers. If desired, the pastors can write the prayers and you can make them your own to emphasize the prayers being the prayers of the PEOPLE. Specific names to lift in prayer will be sent to you by Thursday. Practice, and ask the pastors about pronouncing any difficult names. You will lead the prayers from behind the communion table.

PEACE

You are already at the table leading the intercessory prayers, and the table is a fitting location for the passing of the peace to be extended to all. It's the peace of Christ you are extended for all to share with others. Simply say, "The peace of Christ be with you all." After the congregation's response of "and also with you," invite them to extend Christ's peace to others by saying something like, "Please share Christ's peace with those around you."

RECEIVE OFFERING

When the bread and wine are brought forward to the communion table, so are the offering plates. Please stand in front of the table to the left of pastor and receive the plates as they are brought forward. If you are comfortable doing so you can raise them slightly as a symbol of offering them before God, and then place them on the corner of the table behind the liturgy book.

OFFERING PRAYER

Read the Offering Prayer printed in the bulletin. Note that this is generally said by the congregation as well so a brief pause at the point the congregation begins is helpful.

COMMUNION

Those serving communion gather in front of the table to receive the bread and wine first. The pastor may ask you to share communion with him/her. Say, "The body of Christ given for you" and "The blood of Christ shed for you." If there is a second pastor in worship, coordinate with them on who will serve bread to the other side of congregation. When finished, return the bread to the basket and stand to the right of the table (book side).

COMMUNION PRAYER

Read the Offering Prayer printed in the bulletin.

RECESSING OUT

After the acolytes (and choir) have made their way, join the pastor in reverencing the cross and walking down the center aisle.

DISMISSAL

From the back of the church, read the dismissal printed in the bulletin with gusto!

8/31/16