

The role of the deacon in a typical Sunday Eucharist

This annotated text of the *An Anglican Prayer Book 1989* Holy Eucharist service (pages 104 to 130) assumes a typical South African Sunday service with a high degree of ritual – vestments, incense, crossings, genuflections, etc.

General rules

Before the service begins the Deacon ensures everything is in place. He or she checks on readers, instructs acolytes, servers, thurifers and ascertains from President or Celebrant specific needs.

Should try to be available when people arrive to learn of any special needs (and which can be incorporated into the intercessions).

If there are two deacons, one acts as deacon of the Word, and one as deacon of the Sacrament. If there is one deacon, they will obviously combine both roles.

The usual gesture for deacons is ‘hands together’.

The deacon bows or genuflects when the priest does.





Symbols in the text

Text is what is said by the whole congregation.

Red text is instructions.

Underlined text indicates that an action, such as a bow or making of the sign of the cross, continues for the duration of the text

These signs indicate:

Making the sign of the cross	
Making a small sign of the cross on forehead, lips and chest	
Genuflection	
Bow	

ENTRANCE

Processional entrance:

If a deacon is carrying the Book of the Gospels, he or she enters before the priest, elevating the Gospel. When they get to the sanctuary the deacon does not reverence the altar with a bow but proceeds directly to place the Book upon it (face down) and awaits the presiding priest to reverence the altar with a kiss.

If the deacon is not carrying the Book of the Gospels, both the presiding priest and the deacon bow to the altar on arrival. However, if the Reserved Sacrament is present in the sanctuary, the priest and deacon genuflect to it instead of bowing. The presiding priest and the deacon then reverence the altar with a kiss.

If incense is being used the deacon assists the priest in putting some incense into the censer and in censuring the cross and the altar.

The deacon then goes with the priest to their seats.

INTROIT HYMN

INTRODUCTION

The President says:

- 1 The Lord be with you
And also with you

Deacon turns to the congregation and says:

- 4 Praise the Lord
Praise him you servants of the Lord

Deacon turns away from the congregation and says, bowing while doing so:

▼ Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit

Blessed be his Name, now and for ever

The deacon leads the congregation in saying or singing the Gloria (there is no need to face the east (altar) though this is a common practice).

5 **Glory to God in the highest
and peace to his people on earth.**

**Lord God, heavenly King
almighty God and Father
we ▼ worship you, we give you thanks
we praise you for your glory.**

**Lord ▼ Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father
Lord God, Lamb of God
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
▼ receive our prayer.**

**For you alone are the Holy One
you alone are the Lord
you alone ☩ are the Most High
▼ Jesus Christ
with the Holy Spirit
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.**

Deacon says, facing the congregation:

6 Let us pray

Turn away from the congregation and kneel and then say:

7 **Almighty God
to whom all hearts are open
all desires known
and from whom no secrets are hid:
cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit
that we may perfectly love you
and worthily magnify your holy Name;
through Christ our Lord.**

8 Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy
Christ have mercy
Christ have mercy
Lord have mercy
Lord have mercy.

PENITENCE

Remain kneeling, but face the congregation as you say:

10 Jesus said: 'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul and with all your mind.' This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like it, 'You shall love your neighbour as yourself.' On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.

11 Let us confess our sins (firmly resolved to keep God's commandments and to live in love and peace with our neighbour).

12 *Silence may be kept.*

Remain kneeling but turn away from the congregation, and lead them in saying:

13 **Almighty God, our heavenly Father
in penitence we confess that we have sinned against you
through our own fault
in thought, word and deed
and in what we have left undone.
For the sake of your Son, Christ our Lord
forgive us all that is past
and grant that we may serve you in newness of life
to the glory of your Name.**

The priest then stands and says:

14 Almighty God who forgives all who truly repent have mercy on you pardon your sins and set *you* free from them confirm and strengthen *you* in all goodness and keep *you* in eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Priest says the Collect.

15 Let us pray

INSERT COLLECT

Amen.

THE WORD OF GOD

All readings are done facing the congregation.

The first reading

17 A reading from ...

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

Keep a moment of silence before announcing the psalm to the congregation, announce the page number, and pause for them to find the page, then continue (reading alternate verses or having the congregation recite the whole psalm).

18 The appointed psalm

The second reading

19 A reading from ...

Hear the Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God

CANTICLE OR GRADUAL HYMN

If there is a Gospel procession (with or without incense) the deacon first kneels before the priest and softly ask for a blessing:

Father give me your blessing.

Join the Gospel procession and then say:

21 Listen to the Good News proclaimed in . . .

Glory ✠ to Christ our Saviour. *[make small cross sign on the Gospel, and then on forehead, lips and chest while saying this]:*

Then, if there is incense, take the censer from the thurifer and cense the Book of the Gospel.

Read the Gospel passage and then say:

This is the Gospel of Christ
Praise to Christ our Lord

22 *The Sermon*

After the Sermon and the preacher has returned to their place, stand, wait for the congregation to stand, and then face in front of you as you lead. Do not introduce the Creed with some phrase about affirming faith etc. If you feel it necessary, give the page number (page 108)

23 *The Nicene Creed*

**We believe in one God
the Father, the Almighty
maker of heaven and earth
of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, ▼ Jesus Christ
the only Son of God
eternally begotten of the Father
God from God, Light from Light
true God from true God
begotten not made, of one Being with the Father;
through him all things were made.
For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven
▼ was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary
and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.
On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.**

**We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord the giver of life
who proceeds from the Father and the Son
who with the Father and the Son is ▼ worshipped and glorified
who has spoken through the prophets.
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.
We look for the ☩ resurrection of the dead
and the life of the world to come. Amen**

THE PRAYERS

28-42

The deacon should initiate the intercessions and will often do them in full (using Forms A, B, C, or D). Prayers usually include these concerns and may follow this sequence:

¶ The Church of Christ

¶ Creation, human society, the President and those in authority

¶ The local community

¶ Those who suffer

¶ The communion of saints .

Form A

The deacon says:

- 29 As we celebrate the Holy Eucharist to the glory of God and in thanksgiving for his mercies, let us pray for his Church in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

All kneel and the deacon or a lay minister or lay person continues:

Almighty God our heavenly Father who promised through your Son Jesus Christ to hear us when we pray in his name;

- 30 We pray for your Church throughout the world and especially for this diocese and for NAME our bishop, together with together with NAME our metropolitan (particular thanksgivings or petitions may follow)

Silence may be kept

Give your Church power to proclaim the gospel of Christ; and grant that we and all Christian people may be united in truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

- 31 We thank you Father for the resources of the world and its beauty (particular thanksgivings or petitions may follow)

Silence may be kept

Give to all a reverence for your creation and make us worthy stewards of your gifts.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

- 32 We pray for the nations of the world, . . . and especially for this country and its leaders (*particular thanksgivings or petitions may follow*)

Silence may be kept

Give wisdom to those in authority; direct this and every nation in the way of justice and peace; that all may honour one another and seek the common good.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

- 33 We pray for our families and friends and those with special claims upon us (especially . . .)

Silence may be kept

Give grace to all whose lives are closely linked with ours, that we may serve Christ in them and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

- 34 We pray for those in trouble, sorrow, need, sickness or any other adversity (especially . . .)

Silence may be kept

To all who suffer give courage, healing and a steadfast trust in your love.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

- 35 We remember with thanksgiving your servants who have gone before us (especially . . .)

Silence may be kept

According to your promises, grant us with them a share in your eternal kingdom.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer

- 36 We bless and praise you for the blessed Virgin Mary, for the patriarchs, prophets, apostles and martyrs and all your saints (especially ... whom we remember today). And we commend ourselves and all Christian people to your unfailing love.

Lord in your mercy

Hear our prayer

37 Merciful Father accept these our prayers for the sake of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Amen

THE PEACE

Receive the peace from the President and pass to those at the end of each pew on your side. Do not waiver from this in any way. Favouritism in singling out anybody is a contradiction of the sign of peace. So too is any other form of conversation except for the specified words.

45 The peace of the Lord be with you always
Peace be with you

THE PEACE HYMN / THE OFFERTORY HYMN

The Deacon will have moved to the altar and begun preparing the altar, while the collection is taking place.

The altar book (on a stand) is placed to the left of where the priest will stand.

Unfold the corporal and place it on top of the altar cloth in a central position. Now take the pall and purificator from the chalice, placing them carefully next to the corporal.

The paten with the priest's host should be in front of the chalice. Place the necessary number of wafers on the paten (under the priest's host) or in a ciborium. (Place the ciborium on the top corner of the corporal.) Pick up the chalice and purificator. Fill the chalice with the appropriate amount of wine, wiping any drips from the cruet on the purificator. Add a small amount of water and quietly say: 'By the mystery of this water and wine may we come to share in the divinity of Christ as he humbled himself to share in our humanity.' Place the chalice in the centre of the corporal. If there is a symbol on the chalice, place it facing the priest.

When that is done the Celebrant will come and cense the altar.

THE PRESENTATION OF GIFTS

The Deacon then does all the offertory prayers.

48 Yours Lord is the greatness, the power, the glory, the splendour and the majesty; for everything in heaven and on earth is yours. All things come from you, and of your own do we give you.

Amen.

THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

50 Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this bread to offer, which earth has given and human hands have made. For us it becomes the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever

Blessed are you, Lord, God of all creation. Through your goodness we have this wine to offer, fruit of the vine and work of human hands. For us it becomes the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The first Eucharistic prayer

52 The Lord be with you
And also with you

Lift up your hearts
We lift them to the Lord

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God
It is right to give him thanks and praise

It is right and indeed our duty and joy, Lord and heavenly Father, God almighty and eternal, always and everywhere to give thanks through Jesus Christ, your only Son our Lord;

54 Because through him you have created everything from the beginning and formed us in your own image;

Through him you delivered us from the slavery of sin, when you gave him to be born as man, to die on the cross and to rise again for us;

Through him you claimed us as your own people when you enthroned him with you in heaven, and through him, sent out your Holy Spirit, the giver of life;

56 Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we acclaim you and declare the greatness of your glory; we praise you now and for ever saying:

▼ **Holy, holy, holy Lord**
God of power and might
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

✠ **Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**
Hosanna in the highest.

Hear us, Father, through your Son Christ our Lord; through him accept our offering of thanks and praise, and send your Holy Spirit upon us and upon these gifts of bread and wine so that they may be to us his body and his blood.

Uncover the ciborium

For on the night he was betrayed he took bread, and when he had given you thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples saying, 'Take this and eat, this is my body which is given for you, do this in remembrance of me.' *

Cover the ciborium. Uncover the chalice(s).

So too after supper he took the cup, and when he had given you thanks, he gave it to them saying, 'Drink of it all of you, for this is my blood of the new covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins, whenever you drink, do this in remembrance of me.' *

Turn to face the congregation and say:

57 So we proclaim the mystery of faith

**Christ has died
Christ is risen
Christ will come again.**

58 Holy Father, with these your gifts, we your people celebrate before you the one perfect sacrifice of Christ our Lord, his rising from the dead and his ascending to the glory of heaven.

Gracious Lord, accept us in him, unworthy though we are, so that we who share in the body and blood of your Son may be made one with all your people of this and every age.

Grant that as we await the coming of Christ our Saviour in the glory and triumph of his kingdom, we may daily grow into his likeness; with whom, and in whom, and through whom, by the power of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honour be given to you, almighty Father, by the whole company of earth and heaven, throughout all ages, now and forever. *

[If the celebrant raises the vessels the Deacon may raise the chalice when the priest raises the host.]

Amen

THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Deacon leads the congregation in saying or singing the Lord's Prayer.

77 As Christ has taught us we are bold to say

**Our Father in heaven
hallowed be your name
your kingdom come
your will be done
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen**

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

79 The bread which we break
is it not a sharing of the body of Christ?

**We, who are many, are one body
for we all partake of the one bread.**

80 **Jesus Lamb of God, have mercy on us.
Jesus, bearer of our sins; have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world; give us your peace.**

THE COMMUNION

Kneeling, lead the congregation in saying:

81 **We do not presume
to come to this your table, merciful Lord
trusting in our own righteousness
but in your manifold and great mercies.
We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under your table
but you are the same Lord whose nature is always to have mercy.
Grant us therefore, gracious Lord
so to eat the flesh of your dear Son Jesus Christ
and to drink his blood
that we may evermore dwell in him and he in us.**

82 Draw near and receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ which he gave for you, and his blood which he shed for you. Feed on him in your hearts by faith with thanksgiving.

[Deacon may raise the chalice when the priest raises the host]

The body of Christ (given for you) **Amen**

The blood of Christ **Amen**

The deacon administers the chalice.

THE POST-COMMUNION HYMN

The deacon completes cleaning the vessels. Any consecrated bread and wine not required for purposes of communion is consumed at the end of the distribution or after the service. The vessels are cleansed with water, which is drunk by the deacon. The vessels are then dried with the purificators. The pall is replaced on the top of the chalice and placed on the credence table with other vessels. The service book is moved to the centre of the altar.

CONCLUSION

86 Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious
His mercy endures for ever.

87 Almighty and eternal God, we thank you for feeding us in these holy mysteries with the body and blood of your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ; and for keeping us by your grace in the Body of your Son, the company of all faithful people. Help us to persevere as living members of that holy fellowship, and to grow in love and obedience according to your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

88 **Father almighty
we offer ourselves to you
as a living sacrifice in Jesus Christ our Lord.
Send us out into the world in the power of the Holy Spirit
to live and work to your praise and glory.**

89 The peace of God which passes all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord, and the blessing of God almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always.
Amen.

80 Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. ✠ Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN