

Assisting Minister Instructions for the Lord's Supper

"Then will I go to the altar of God, to God, my joy and my delight" (Psalm 43:4)

Assisting in the worship service is a high and holy calling. Each person has a significant role. In fact, the role of Assisting Minister at the Lord's Supper is very important as it implies two things: 1) you will assist; and 2) you will minister. To speak the words, "This is the body of Christ given (shed) for you" is a powerful ministry. As Luther explains, "In the Lord's Supper bread and wine are nothing without the Word; for without it bread would remain bread and wine would remain wine. But there are results when the Word comes to the Sacrament. Then we feel it as we feel the blowing of the wind; for when the Word is heard, we feel its sound in our ears" (W 47, 33). Below are instructions.

Preparation before the service

- Dress appropriately
- Arrive 15 minutes before the service and come to the pastor's office so that you can pray with the pastor and acolyte before the service.

Coming forward during the service - After the Lord's Prayer, come forward and stand behind the pulpit as the Presiding Minister leads the congregation through the Great Thanksgiving and Words of Institution. When the congregation sings the Agnus Dei (Lamb of God), the Presiding Minister will commune you and the acolyte. Afterwards, you will assist the Presiding Minister in communing the entire congregation.

The distribution - Following the pastor, you will carry the tray of wine and grape juice. You are to place the tray before the person and say, "This is the blood of Christ given (shed) for you." If there are people who are unable to come forward to be communed, you will follow the pastor to the individual. After the congregation has received the Lord's Supper, you will commune the Presiding Minister. Afterwards, you are to return to your seat as the Presiding Minister puts the table together.

*Glory to you, Lord Jesus, Glory to you!
Grant that as I have served in your presence today,
help me to serve you and my neighbor. Amen.*