

THE KEYS



Church of St. Peter the Apostle

Anglican Catholic Diocese of the Mid-Atlantic States

www.dmas-acc.org

The Rev. Canon Peter Geromel, OHI, DMin - Rector

Nov.-Dec. 2024

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Rector's Rambling

Curiosities in Communion

The first Book of Common Prayer has the following rubric (directive) at the very beginning of Holy Communion:

So many as intend to be partakers of the holy Communion, shall signify their names to the Curate, over night: or else in the morning, afore the beginning of Matins, or immediately after.

As private masses were abolished and the priest needed a certain number present in order to have a communion service, this rubric made it possible for him to prepare. The Scottish Episcopal Prayer Book of 1849 lengthens and interprets the original rubric - which is a standard rubric in Prayer Books down through the ages - by amplification.

SO many as intend to be partakers of the Holy Communion shall signify their names to the Curate, at least some time the day before, that he may ascertain that they believe all the Articles of the Catholick Faith, and are free from deadly sin, or, if not, that they are truly penitent for it; and, in the case of strangers, that they have been baptized and confirmed, and are regular communicants of the Church.

Some have taken this sort of rubric as a hint that Holy Confession was not so unusual a practice for some time after the Reformation. It certainly means there could be no awkward moment on either side of the altar rail. Every communicant was privately vetted.

This sort of rubric disappeared from the American Prayer Books some time ago. Indeed, beginning with Bishop Seabury's communion office and Bishop White's proposed book (both issued in 1786) on through the 1928 one, a rubric that communicates this kind of expectation is simply missing. I do not want to make much of that, only to note it. Also interesting, the same practice was not uncommon in at least some circles of American Lutheranism, as evidenced by older manuals of pastoral care talking about folks stopping by the parsonage to "signify" they intended to receive morphing into manuals describing folks calling the parsonage (after telephones were installed) and the pastor's wife writing the names down.

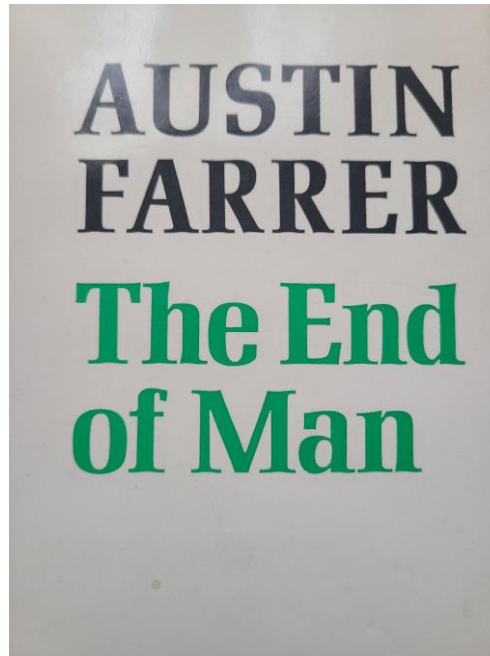
Things are a bit different today and, while I have no evidence how many folks let the priest know of their intention to receive before communion Sundays in the American colonial and early Episcopal Church, I can say that it is presumed that everyone will receive today, so much so that it is likely someone will feel out of place *not* going forward. While we wish to be as welcoming as we can today, it does seem that the older rubrics and the older hesitancy had some benefits. We pray, after all, "We do not presume . . ." For instance, it is always laudable and inspiring whenever folks voluntarily come to the priest to check in on a matter of scruple or conscience to make sure that they are still okay to take communion. We are not speaking

of Private Confession exactly (although it might lead to that), but such a consult has much of the essence of that sacrament already present. It is precisely the kind of thing described in the Exhortation to Communion, “And because it is requisite that no man should come to the holy Communion, but with a full trust in God’s mercy, and with a quiet conscience; therefore, if there be any of you, who by this means cannot quiet his own conscience herein, but requireth further comfort or counsel” have a conversation with the priest. There is something deeply sincere about this kind of consultation. And one cannot help but feel that the General Confession will be very well-prayed when recited by someone who took the time to check in with the priest about a matter of conscience first, should one have arisen since the last communion.

New book for Adult Sunday School.
Papers and sermons on “The End of Man” by Austin Farrer.

Who is Austin Farrer? Born in 1904, the son of a Baptist Minister, he found the divisions in the tradition, it seems, uninspiring. While at Oxford, he became Anglican and an Anglo-Catholic at St. Barnabas, Oxford. He attended Cuddesdon Theological College along with future Archbishop of Canterbury, Michael Ramsey.

Eventually becoming Regius Professor of Divinity, he is author of 20 books, 5 of which are posthumous collections, including the one we are presently reading.



News and Information

Nov. 1st, 4 pm Mass for All Saints Day.

Nov. 2nd, 11 am Mass for All Souls Day.

Nov. 3rd, Solemn Evensong and Benediction, 6 pm.

Nov. 11th, Noon Mass for Veterans Day and St. Martin of Tours “Martinmas”.

Nov. 17th, Celtic Evensong, 6 pm.

Nov. 24th, Community Thanksgiving Service at Our Savior Lutheran, Christiansburg, 4 pm.

Nov. 28th, Thanksgiving Mass at 10 am. (No Noon Mass)

Dec. 1st, Solemn Evensong and Benediction, 6 pm.

Dec. 8th, Annual Meeting, after the 10 am service.

Dec. 15th, Celtic Evensong, 6 pm.

Dec. 22nd, Projected Date for Advent Lessons & Carols, 6 pm.

Christmas Eve – Family Service, 6 PM; Carol Sing, 10:30 pm; Midnight Mass, 11 pm.

Christmas Day – Matins & Mass, 10 am.

St. Stephen’s Day, Thursday, December 26th – Mass, 12 Noon.

St. John the Evangelist, Friday, December 26th, 4 pm.

Holy Innocents Day, Saturday, December 27th, 12 Noon.

Going forward, we plan to have Solemn Evensong and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament on First Sundays at 6 pm – with Reception of Holy Communion for those who did not receive earlier. And we

plan to have Celtic Evensong - with Reception of Holy Communion as well - on Third Sundays. This will be from the Irish Prayer Book of 1926 with Celtic Hymns and Preaching on a Celtic Saint.

NOVEMBER, 2024						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
LEGEND: HC - Holy Communion; FHE – Festal Holy Eucharist; HE - Holy Eucharist; SS – Sunday School; PG - Prayer Group; EP – Evening Prayer; MP – Morning Prayer; P&HU – Prayers and Holy Unction					[1] 4:00 p.m. HC ALL SAINTS	[2] 11:00 a.m. HC ALL SOULS
[3] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS 6:00 p.m. Evensong & Benediction TRINITY XXIII	[4]	[5]	[6]	[7] 12 noon HC	[8]	[9]
[10] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE. SS 6:00 p.m. EP TRINITY XXIV	[11] 12 noon HC	[12]	[13]	[14] 12 noon HC	[15]	[16]
[17] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS 6:00 p.m. Evensong TRINITY XXV	[18]	[19]	[20]	[21] 12 noon HC	[22]	[23]
[24] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS 6:00 p.m. Evensong & Benediction SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE ADVENT	[25]	[26]	[27]	[28] 10:00 a.m. HC THANKSGIVING	[29]	[30]

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

If you cannot fulfill your assigned duty because of an urgent reason, PLEASE SECURE A REPLACEMENT.

	November 3	November 10	November 17	November 24
Coffee Hour	C. Kurstedt	V. Williams	C. deRosset	L. Olver
Epistoler 8 a.m.	C. Von Claparede	C. Von Claparede	G. Mauney	D. Drysdale
Epistoler 10 a.m.	P. Williams	T. Paisley	G. Terrell	T. Paisley

DECEMBER, 2024						
SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
[1] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS 6:00 p.m. Evensong & Benediction ADVENT I	[2]	[3]	[4] 7:00 p.m. HC 7:30 p.m. Vestry	[5] 12 noon HC	[6]	[7]
[8] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE Annual meeting 6:00 p.m. EP ADVENT II	[9]	[10]	[11]	[12] 12 noon HC	[13]	[14]
[15] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS 6:00 p.m. Evensong ADVENT III	[16]	[17]	[18]	[19] 12 noon HC	[20]	[21]
[22] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS 6:00 p.m. Advent lessons & carols ADVENT IV	[23]	[24] 6:00 p.m. Family Service 10:30 Carols 11:00 p.m. FHE CHRISTMAS EVE	[25] 10:00 a.m. Matins, HC CHRISTMAS	[27] 12 noon HC ST. STEPHEN	[27] 4:00 p.m. HC ST. JOHN EVANGELIST	[28] 12 noon HC HOLY INNOCENTS
[29] 8:00 a.m. MP & HC 10:00 a.m. HE, SS 6:00 p.m. EP CHRISTMAS I	[30]	[31]	LEGEND: HC - Holy Communion; FHE – Festal Holy Eucharist; HE - Holy Eucharist; SS – Sunday School; PG - Prayer Group; EP – Evening Prayer; MP – Morning Prayer; P&HU – Prayers and Holy Unction			

IN THE LORD'S SERVICE

If you cannot fulfill your assigned duty because of an urgent reason, PLEASE SECURE A REPLACEMENT.

	December 1	December 8	December 15	December 22	December 29
Coffee Hour	B. Von Claparede	M. Slayton	E. Paisley	C. Pappas	G. Terrell
Epistoler 8 a.m.	D. Drysdale	C. Von Claparede	G. Mauney	D. Drysdale	C. Von Claparede
Epistoler 10 a.m.	P. Williams	T. Paisley	G. Terrell	T. Paisley	P. Williams

Altar servers and ushers will be assigned as available before each service.

2024 Vestry (term end): George Mauney ('25), Lisa Olver ('24), Ted Paisley ('24), Mike Slayton ('25), George Terrell ('26), Vicki Williams ('26)