

LITURGICAL CUSTOMARY FOR ST JAMES, WOOSTER

Last Updated July 2, 2024

1) Sunday Worship.

- Most Sundays will follow this order. A section for particular Sundays/Feast Days can be found on pg _____. (Summer Sundays at the end of this section)

Liturgical Ministers

- Celebrant (priest, bishop, deacon, or lay worship leader)
- LEM (Lay Eucharistic Minister = chalice bearer – may be combined with Acolyte)
- Acolyte (crucifer, lighter of torches and paschal candle when needed)
- Choir
- Preacher (may be the same as Celebrant or a separate individual, lay or ordained)
- Lectors (scripture lessons and prayers of the people)

15 minutes before the service begins:

- LEMs/Acolytes arrive and dress. They wear hooded white robes (called albs) found in sacristy closet next to window.
- Choir dresses in cassock and surplice (found in music room upstairs).
- Celebrant/Preacher vest and adjust microphones.
- **MAKE SURE THE SOUND SYSTEM IS TURNED ON!**
- Once robed, the Acolyte (or LEM in absence of an acolyte) lights the candles. If the Paschal candle is used, then that should be the first candle lit, and the last to be extinguished at the end of the service.

5 minutes before service:

- Liturgical ministers gather near the side door of the church for a prayer, then (weather permitting), go out the side door and around to the front Market St entrance of the church to be ready to process in. If weather does not permit going outside, the liturgical ministers will enter through the side aisle and gather at the narthex.

At beginning of service:

- Bells are rung (belltower rope is next to columbarium)
- Opening hymn begins. The liturgical ministers are to wait until the first verse of the hymn, then begin to process down the center aisle.

- The order of procession is as follows:
 - o Acolyte (carrying processional cross)
 - o Choir members (two at a time)
 - o LEMs
 - o Preacher (if different from celebrant)
 - o Deacon (if present; may carry Gospel book)
 - o Priest (usually the celebrant)
 - o Bishop (if present; they will be the celebrant if so)
- Acolyte puts cross away after a brief pause to reverence the altar. Choir members bow to reverence the altar, then go to the choir seats. LEMs and Celebrant (plus any other ministers) bow together and go to their seats. All remain standing. Celebrant bows to the altar and continues to stand in front of it as the hymn is finished.
- Service of the word begins with collect for purity, song of praise, and collect of the day. All are to remain standing for these.

At the readings:

- Lectors are to walk up the aisle, bow to reverence the altar, and then read from the lectern, adjusting the microphone as necessary.
- Each reading begins with the phrase “A reading from the book/letter of ___”, omitting the chapter and verse numbers. The red book at the lectern is the best source for this, since the wording is already found at the beginning of each lesson. This is preferable to reading from the lectionary leaflet.
- The phrase which concludes the reading, for the most part, is “The Word of the Lord” followed by the response “Thanks be to God.” If Enriching our Worship is used rather than Rite I or II, the concluding phrase is “Hear what the Spirit is saying to God’s people”, followed by the same response.
- If the psalm is to be read, the form is to read it **responsively by whole verse.**
- After the entire concluding phrase (including the response of the congregation), the lector may go back to their seat.

At the Gospel:

- All will stand for the gradual hymn.
- Acolyte begins to walk up to the altar to get the cross towards the end of the second-to-last verse of the hymn.
- Celebrant (or Deacon if present) walks up to get Gospel book at the beginning of the final verse of the hymn. Together the Acolyte and Celebrant process to the middle of the center aisle and stand until the hymn ends.

- Celebrant introduces the Gospel “The Holy Gospel of our lord Jesus Christ according to _____” and the congregation responds “Glory to you Lord Christ.”
- Celebrant reads the Gospel of the day, ending with “The Gospel of the Lord”, to which the congregation responds “Praise to you Lord Christ”.
- The Acolyte with the cross and the Celebrant with the Gospel book both process back to the altar to put away these items. The Acolyte returns to their seat while the Celebrant/Preacher goes to the pulpit.

At the Prayers of the People:

- The Intercessor (person leading the prayers) goes up to the lectern immediately following the Nicene Creed, bowing to reverence the altar as they approach.
- The form of the prayers to be used, along with the page number that they begin on, will be announced (this should be printed at the top of the page).
- At the end of the prayers, the Celebrant will pray a concluding collect. After this collect is finished, the Intercessor may return to their seat.

At the Offertory:

- The ushers bring up the paten with the bread and the flagon of wine.
- Acolyte meets the ushers, takes the bread and wine from them and hands them to the celebrant. Then the acolyte takes the offering plates from the credence table to give to the ushers.
- Acolyte closes the “gate” at the altar rail.
- After pouring wine into the chalice, the celebrant hands the flagon to the acolyte, who puts it on the table. The acolyte takes the cruet of water and hands it to the celebrant.
- The celebrant pours a few drops of water into the chalice, then hands the cruet back to the acolyte for the handwashing.
- Acolyte holds lavabo bowl in one hand with lavabo towel draped over the wrist, and with the other hand pours some water from the cruet over the celebrant’s hands to wash them in the lavabo bowl. This is a ceremonial washing, so very little water needs to be poured.

At the Doxology:

- Ushers bring up offering plates with offerings in them. Acolyte brings the plates to the celebrant, who blesses them before placing them on shelf of credence table.

At the Great Thanksgiving:

- Acolyte and Eucharistic Minister stand on either side of celebrant.
- At sanctus (“holy, holy, holy”) celebrant traditionally bows until “blessed is He that comes in the name of the Lord”, crossing themselves at this sentence. Acolyte/EM are encouraged to mirror the celebrant.
- When the bread is elevated, the bell is rung after the words “Do this in remembrance of me.” Celebrant may choose to bow, Acolyte/EM encouraged to follow suit.
- When wine is elevated, the bell is rung after the words “in remembrance of me.” Celebrant may choose to bow, Acolyte/EM encouraged to follow suit.
- After elevating the bread and wine, at the “great AMEN”, the bell rings a third time. The celebrant and ministers all bow.
- At the fraction, the celebrant breaks the bread and the fraction anthem begins. At this time, the second chalice may be brought out if necessary.
- The priest communes herself first and then the LEMs.
- When there are two LEMs, each will take one half of the communion rail.
- The celebrant gives each communicant a wafer with the words “The Body of Christ, the Bread of Heaven” (or a blessing if indicated).
- The LEMs give wine to each communicant with the words “The Blood of Christ, the Cup of Salvation.” If a communicant indicates that they do not want wine, the LEM still holds out the chalice and says the words without actually giving wine.
- After all have come up to the communion rail, the celebrant and LEM(s) will go out into the pews to commune those who are unable to come up due to mobility issues.
- Once all who desire communion have received, the celebrant and LEM(s) go back to the altar where the celebrant or deacon cleans up. LEM(s) may help with finishing remaining wine if they desire; if not, they can simply cover the chalice with the purificator and put it on the credence table.

After Communion

- LEM(s) return to their seats once the table is cleared. Celebrant stands behind altar for Post-Communion Prayer.
- Celebrant leads congregation in Post-Communion Prayer. The congregation may stand or kneel as is their piety.
- Celebrant blesses the congregation.
- Closing hymn begins. Acolyte/LEM goes to get processional cross, waits to begin processing out until the first verse of the hymn.

- Choir follows, then liturgical ministers.
- Liturgical ministers and choir remain the in the back of the church until the hymn ends.
- Celebrant or Deacon gives dismissal.
- At St James, the custom has been to remain seated until after the postlude. The congregation is free to go at any time after the dismissal, but many stay to hear the final piece of music.

Summer Worship

- On Sundays in Summer (usually June-August) the customary is the same except for the following:
- **No choir.**
- Celebrant and Acolyte/LEM do not process. Instead, they will enter from the front (nearest to the altar and the organ) right door to the sanctuary. If there is a guest musician/introit, they will enter after the introit.
- Celebrant and LEM bow together and LEM goes to their seat while Celebrant remains in the front to begin the service. **No cross is carried in or out.**
- Celebrant will read the Gospel alone from the middle of the congregation.
- A guest musician may perform during the offertory.
- At the closing hymn, the Celebrant and LEM come together to the center in front of the altar outside the communion rail and bow together, then process to the back to the back of the church, where the Celebrant (or Deacon if present) gives the dismissal.