



ALL SAINTS

Worship Guide

What to expect when you worship with us at All Saints

In order to help you better anticipate what happens in our worship service, you'll find some information below about our service at All Saints. As Anglicans, our worship is liturgical, meaning clergy and congregants participate together in the worship service. **Our service has three main parts: Statio, the Liturgy of the Word, and the Liturgy of the Table.** Within the two main parts are smaller divisions. This is a form of worship based on liturgies from the earliest centuries of the church. Our music is a blend of traditional hymns and theologically-rich, modern songs, and our service lasts about an hour and 20 minutes.

Statio - Entering God's Presence

Statio is an ancient monastic practice of pausing before moving on to “the next thing.” In *statio*, we pause to acknowledge once again we’re in God’s presence and that he’s never far off. This is especially important as we seek to enter into an intentional time of prayer and worship. It’s a time to allow our minds and hearts to catch up to where our bodies already are: in the presence of the Lord.

This moment happens just before the service begins with the ringing of a bell and the priest inviting everyone to be seated and enter a time of intentional quiet and stillness before worship.

The Liturgy of the Word

Processional & Opening Song

We open the service by praising the Lord together with an opening hymn, procession of the cross, and blessing God. You may notice some people bowing slightly as the cross passes by them. You may do this if you wish, but it is not required.

We then hear the summary of the Law (*Matthew 22:37-40*), where Jesus sums up the whole law in the commands to love the Lord and our neighbor. It’s a reminder, as we enter the Lord’s presence, what we are

called to and the grace we need in order to live that high calling out. So we ask for God's loving mercy, then glorify him with an ancient song, the *Gloria*, or we sing a Song of Praise.

Then, we pray an appointed daily prayer called the Collect from a collection of prayers in our Prayer Book.

Hearing God's Word

We then read a passage from the Old Testament, the Psalms, New Testament Epistles, and Gospels, all of which come from a three-year cycle of readings called a lectionary. Elementary-age children leave after the Gospel reading for a time of formation and learning.

A sermon is then preached on one or more of the readings, usually about 25 minutes.

Responding to God's Word

After the sermon, we respond to the good news of God's gospel and kingdom by confessing our common faith with the words of the Nicene Creed.

We then pray responsively from the Prayers of the People and end this time of prayer by confessing our sins and then hearing God's forgiveness proclaimed

over us, along with some short verses of Scripture called "the Comfortable Words."

Then, because we have peace with God and each other through Christ's sacrifice on the cross, we "Pass the Peace." This is a time of greeting, but also an opportunity to be reconciled if there are conflicts with others in the parish, which is necessary for coming to Communion.

Children come in from their formation time during this time and return for Communion.

The Liturgy of the Table

Celebrating Holy Communion (Lord's Supper)

We begin the Liturgy of the Table by taking up an offering as a way of concretely giving thanks to God and then we present these monetary gifts back to God in worship and sing the Doxology in praise.

We then hear the priest retell the Gospel story through the blessing of the bread and wine, which is all about thanksgiving for our salvation. The Greek word for thanksgiving is *eucharistia*, from which we get the word eucharist (another name for the sacrament of the Lord's Supper). As Jesus instructed, we **ble**ss, **br**eak, **ta**ke,

eat and drink, knowing that Jesus himself gave us this sacrament, a holy act as a physical sign of a spiritual reality, by which we tangibly receive *of him* personally and remember our union *with him* as members of his Body, the Church.

We normally sing two songs as people are served the bread and wine.

Going Out In Peace

After communion, we thank the Lord for feeding us with spiritual food, nourishing us with both Word and Sacrament.

We receive a blessing from the priest and are then commissioned yet again to go out into the world to love and serve as we rejoice in the power of the Holy Spirit.

Then, just before singing our final song, we add a blessing from our Anglican family in Kenya that involves casting all our cares, difficulties, and the devil's works onto the cross, and remind ourselves that all our hope is set on the resurrected Christ.

A Word about Participating in Communion

Everyone is welcome to come forward for Communion. Those baptized in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit are invited to receive. Others who are not sure what they believe or are abstaining from Communion for personal reasons may simply cross their arms over their chest as they come forward and the priest will pray a blessing over them.

To receive the bread, place one hand on top of the other and hold them out. (In communion, we receive a gracious gift. We don't take it. This gesture symbolizes that reality.) You can eat the bread immediately or wait and dip it in the wine. If you receive from the chalice (cup) separately, please help the chalice-bearer guide the chalice to your lips. Children are welcome to receive, but they should also be baptized. We trust the faith and conscience of parents when deciding whether their children should receive. But we do ask that you help your very little children if they wish to dip their bread into the wine.

**This worship guide is adapted from, and inspired by, [Village Church Anglican](#), Greenville, SC.