EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

* Pray for yourself and everyone in the altar party, including clergy. None of us are perfect at these tasks, but remember God is a loving and welcoming presence with us and our primary function is to praise God and share God’s love.
* During this transition time and especially when we have a guest presider, you must be able to arrive early (9:30 at least) because the whole team of E.M.s has much to do. If you are tardy, a rushed and non-prayerful mood can develop, which makes it difficult for everyone, including the priest, to help the congregation enter into genuine worship.
* The “MC” has primary responsibility to check or double-check these items beforehand, but if all the E.M.s are aware and supporting, it’s a big help:
  + Altar book, lectionary book and gospel all in place and marked.
  + Serving vessels & linens – be a support to altar guild members as they finish their work; double-check or answer questions if necessary. *Know the liturgical color of the season!*
  + Bells present and BCP open to correct Eucharistic prayer (which is listed in the bulletin)
  + Sufficient bulletins, hymnals and BCPs for all altar party
  + Provide **clean glasses of water** for presider (short glass on prie-dieu shelf), for preacher, and at credence table.
  + Check that lectors, ushers and intercessor are present. If any position is missing, plan how the team will fill in.
  + Light candles (check that sanctuary light is always lit)
  + Microphones set up and turned on at the mics and at the console behind organ.
* Be consistent, measured, and simple in reverencing the altar; acknowledge exchange of items with priest with nod (this tells each of you that the item is received and secure).
* Individual duties:
  + MC: primary “checker” as above; receives elements from ushers; points the book; brings water to priest for adding to wine; is available to fetch any additional items needed; waits by altar during Eucharist, monitoring & responding to needs; serves gluten-free wafers directly.
  + Crucifer: leads procession in (and out); brings offering plates to ushers (immediately after elements given); receives them when collected; ring bells; after being served Eucharist, takes large chalice and follows priest around altar.
  + Gospel: Carries gospel book in opening procession; at gospel hymn, carries book out for reading; leads back & places gospel flat on altar; after water returned, use with lavabo to wash priest’s hands; receives first for communion and takes small bread bowl and chalice below stairs to serve as needed, then returns to share chalice on alternate side of rail.
* About the albs: this is a good time to remember “do unto others as you would have them do unto you.” No matter how much coffee hour or your next appointment is calling, don’t leave the sacristy without hanging albs up neatly and fastening the top button/tab. If they’re dirty, smelly, or wrinkled, either take them home to wash and iron yourself, or find someone who will do it.