

LS/SP504 Teaching Retreat: Anglican Sacrament of Eucharist

1 credit

Dates: February 19—21, 2016

Rosemary Heights Retreat

Instructor: Grant Rodgers

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Purpose and content:

Anglicanism places a high value upon the sacramental experience and ceremonial expression of Christ's creative and redemptive work. Priests are expected to be competent and compelling leaders in presiding at sacramental worship, and to do so must have a clear understanding of what the sacrament is about as well as their own place and role in the conduct of liturgy.

Participants will experience a live-in retreat, with time for solitude, silence and contemplative reflection, as well as observing a discipline of corporate prayer, study and community life.

We will meet together for instruction and discussion to explore the history and content of the Eucharist in order to understand its place at the heart of Christian worship. We will examine different interpretations of the Eucharist, within the Anglican tradition especially, but referencing other church traditions as well.

We will examine various criteria relating to liturgical leadership and create opportunities for participants to explore their own liturgical "style." We will practice and reflect upon the movements, gestures and other aspects of ceremonial related to Eucharistic practice.

Course Requirements and Competencies:

Students who complete the course will have explored and explained their own understanding of the meaning and purpose of the Eucharist, as expressed at the retreat, and in a 5 page paper to be handed in and discussed with the instructor prior to the end of term. In the paper they will articulate their understanding of the meaning, place and practice of the Eucharist in the life of the Church, reflect about what the sacrament of the Eucharist means to them personally, and put forth an argument about why they feel they should (or should not) become presiders.

People who feel called to preside must not only demonstrate knowledge of the subject but also an ability to be aware of and sensitive to context, and capable of communicating the meaning of the Eucharist through meaningful actions as well as words. The retreat will offer opportunity to become more aware of themselves as leaders – their assumptions, motivations, sense of calling and presence.

Participants will understand the basic shape, essential elements, movement and direction of the Eucharistic liturgy. They will have become familiar with the terminology of the Eucharist relating to parts of the liturgy, church, ornaments, vestments, vessels, linens, etc. They will have acquired a familiarity with the set-up and preparation of the altar and sanctuary.

They will design a teaching or instructional Eucharist, creating a commentary on the various parts of the liturgy.

Texts:

The Mystery of the Eucharist in the Anglican Tradition; H.R. McAdoo, Kenneth Stevenson

Baptism, Eucharist and Ministry; World Council of Churches: the chapter on Eucharist

Other relevant and recommended reading (that may be referenced during the retreat):

Why Go to Church? The Drama of the Eucharist; Timothy Radcliffe

Take, Eat: Reflections on the Eucharist; Kenneth Stevenson

Celebrating the Eucharist: A Practical Ceremonial Guide for Clergy and Other Liturgical Ministers; Malloy, Patrick

The School of the Church: Worship and Christian Formation; Philip H. Pfatteicher

Liturgical Sense: The Logic of Rite; Weil, Louis

Worship; Evelyn Underhill

Eucharist: Symbol of Transformation; William R. Crockett

The Eucharist; Alexander Schmemmann

Being As Communion; John D. Zizioulas

Evaluation:

Evaluation will include both participation in the course presentations as well as the degree to which, through the written assignment, the student demonstrates the development of a personal eucharistic spirituality, and competence in managing

the physical use of the space, their own presence and movement, as well as set up of the altar.

Also to be taken into consideration will be their participation in the Eucharistic life of the College and/or in a parish setting, specifically their involvement in assigned tasks like reading, preaching, serving, etc.