

LS/SP 504 The Anglican Sacrament of Eucharist

Instructor Melissa M. Skelton

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Spring 2026 Term:

Friday February 20, 2026 (6:00 to 9:00 PM) and Saturday, February 21, 2026 (9:00 to 5:00 PM)

100% onsite and in-person attendance required.

PURPOSE OF THE COURSE

The purpose of this 1-hour class will be to assist students in exploring Anglican theological understandings of the Eucharist and becoming conversant with both the basic shape of the Eucharist and the many authorized liturgical Eucharistic rites within both the Anglican Church of Canada and the Episcopal Church. Additionally, the course is meant to assist students in exploring their understanding of liturgical leadership within the Eucharist and practicing that leadership, becoming attentive to the impact of their leadership on the assembly. Finally, students will explore current questions related to the Eucharist: the relationship between Baptism and Eucharist and questions and issues raised by the experience of the pandemic.

COMPETENCE OBJECTIVES

By the end of the course, participants will be able:

1. To articulate Anglican/Episcopal Church's theological understandings of the Eucharist and its importance in the life of a Christian and in the life of a Christian community.
2. To describe the essential shape of the Eucharist and to identify that shape within current authorized Eucharistic texts.
3. To preside, assist or serve as a deacon at the Eucharist in ways that are attentive to the impact of that presiding, assisting, diaconal service on the assembly.
4. To describe perspectives and the rationale of each perspective on a) the relationship between Baptism and Eucharist and b) the questions and insights about the Eucharist gleaned under the conditions of the Covid 19 pandemic.

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PREREQUISITES

This course is **restricted** to Anglican M.Div. students and students in the ADDS program for diaconal postulants, unless by special permission of the instructor.

REQUIRED TEXTS

The primary textbooks are the liturgical books and resources from the Anglican Church of Canada and The Episcopal Church

To access Anglican Church of Canada texts, go to

<https://www.anglican.ca/about/liturgicaltexts/>

The texts we will be using are:

- *The Book of Alternative Services of the Anglican Church of Canada* 1985 = BAS
- *Occasional Celebrations of the Anglican Church of Canada* (1992) = OCACC
- *The Book of Common Prayer and Administration of the Sacraments and Other Rites and Ceremonies of the Church according to the Use of the Anglican Church of Canada* (1962) = 1962 BCP

To access Episcopal Church texts, go to: <https://www.episcopalcommonprayer.org/existing-liturgies1.html>

The texts we will be using are:

- *The Book of Common Prayer* 1979 (The Episcopal Church) = 1979 BCP
- Text of Expansive Language (Eucharistic) Liturgies from Resolution 2018-D078 = ELEL
- *Enriching our Worship 1* (the Eucharistic texts) = EOW1

For Other BCP resources go to: <http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/>

In addition (if you have not already, read and/or scan the following *before the first class on Friday February 20 2026*).

Malloy, Patrick, *Celebrating the Eucharist: A Practical Ceremonial Guide for Clergy and other Liturgical Ministers*. New York: Church Publishing, 2007.

Holeton, David, ed., *Renewing the Anglican Eucharist: The Findings of the Fifth International Anglican Liturgical Consultation Dublin Eire 1995*. Cambridge: Grove Books Limited, 1996. (on Populi)

Supplementary Readings

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General: Theological, Historical

- Adams, William Seth, *Shaped by Images: One Who Presides*. New York: Church Publishing, 1995.
- Anderson, Maxwell, *Sacraments and Worship: The Sources of Christian Theology*. Westminster John Knox Press, 2012.
- Burns, Stephen ed., *Liturgical Spirituality: Anglican Reflections on the Church's Prayer*. New York: Seabury Books, 2013.
- Bradshaw, Paul F., *Eucharistic Origins*, London: SPCK, 2004.
- Crockett, William R., *Eucharist: Symbol of Transformation*. Collegeville: Pueblo Books, 2017.
- Day, Juliette and Gordon-Taylor, Benjamin, *The Study of Liturgy and Worship*. Collegeville: Pueblo Press. 2013.
- Dix, Dom Gregory, *The Shape of the Liturgy*, New York: Seabury Press, 1982.
- Farwell, James, *The Liturgy Explained*. New York: Morehouse Publishing, 2013.
- Lathrop, Gordon W., *Holy Ground: A Liturgical Cosmology*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2003.
- Lathrop, Gordon W., *Holy Things: A Liturgical Theology*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 1998.

Mitchell, Leonel L., *Praying Shapes Believing: A Theological Commentary on the Book of Common Prayer*. New York: Seabury Books, 2016.

Myers, Ruth A., *Missional Worship Worshipful Mission: Gathering as God's People, Going Out in God's Name*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014.

Price, Charles P. and Weil, Louis, *Liturgy for Living*. New York: Morehouse Publishing, 2000.

Senn, Frank C., *Introduction to Christian Liturgy*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2012.

Shaver, Stephen, R., *Metaphors of Eucharistic Presence: Language, Cognition, and the Body and Blood of Christ*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2022.

Williams, Rowan. *Being Christian: Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, Prayer*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 2014.

World Council of Churches. *Baptism, Eucharist, Ministry*. Geneva: World Council of Churches, 1992.

Practical/Ceremonial

Evangelical Lutheran Worship. Minneapolis: Augsburg Fortress Press, 2006

Farwell, James, *Ritual Excellence: Best Practices for Leading and Planning Liturgy*. New York: Church Publishing, 2023.

Galley, Howard E., *The Ceremonies of the Eucharist: A Guide to Celebration*. Cambridge: Cowley Publications, 1989.

Gibson, Paul, *Make Preparation: Liturgy Planning Notes*. Toronto: ABC Publishers, 2009.

Giles, Richard, *Creating Uncommon Worship: Transforming the Liturgy of the Eucharist*, Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 2004.

Hovda, Robert W., *Strong, Loving and Wise: Presiding in the Liturgy*. Collegeville: The Liturgical Press, 1976.

Huck, Gabe and Chinchar, Gerald T., *Liturgy with Style and Grace*. Chicago: Liturgy Training Publications, 1998.

Michno, Dennis G., *A Priest's Handbook: The Ceremonies of the Church*. New York: Morehouse Publishing, 1998.

ASSIGNMENTS

In preparation for the class, students are expected to **read/scan all the required texts prior to the class beginning**. They are to complete all assignments within the specified dates of the course and term.

Based on their participation in-person in the class and assigned readings, students will also be required to **answer three of the five questions below with relevant abbreviated citations**. (For each question, response to be one page, Word format, 500-600 words, single-spaced, with abbreviated citations (author, abbreviated title) for each response. Answers should reflect what was learned in the course and reference the required or supplementary text(s). As you choose and respond to your questions, demonstrate your mastery of the competence objectives.

Your responses to the questions are **due via email to the Instructor by April 1, 2026**, If the paper does not reflect substantial understanding and appreciation of the subject matter and competence objectives, a re-write will be required and will be due by **April 15, 2026**.

1. A new deacon has been assigned to your parish/congregation and comes to you, the rector/priest in charge, and asks the following question: "What am I allowed to do

liturgically here in the Eucharist?” What is your response, and what is the rationale for your response? What else might you mention to the deacon about his/her/their role that is relevant?

2. You are planning the Eucharistic liturgy for the Feast of Pentecost in a parish/congregation in which inclusive/expansive language in liturgy has been the parish’s/congregation’s and your practice. What Eucharistic Prayer do you choose and why? What else might be important to consider in terms of the other liturgical choices?
3. You are teaching a class on the Eucharist within an Anglican/Episcopal context. Part of the class will involve your own teaching about what the Eucharist is. Both former Roman Catholics and former Evangelicals will be in the class. What are your major points?
4. Another pandemic has arrived, and people are prohibited from physically gathering for the next three months. You and your leadership need to decide what you will offer to your congregation in terms of Eucharistic worship (or not), how you will offer it and what the rationale is for what you will do. What do you decide and why?
5. You are putting together a new liturgy team that will plan Eucharistic liturgy and music for the coming year. The team is highly motivated. What do you have the team read, or view or discuss in preparation for the first meeting? Why these choices? What other resources will you draw on for the course and why?

CLASS SCHEDULE AND DRAFT DESIGN

Friday, February 20, 2026

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6:00 PM	Plenary Territorial Acknowledgment and Introductions
6:30 PM	Plenary: go over structure of the course (didactic presentations, small group work, worship, writing); schedule for the course: (15 minutes)
6:45 PM	In groups of 2-3: What questions/issues/expectations do you bring to this class? (15 minutes)
7:00 PM	Plenary: Hear what people want to share and list these (15 minutes)
7:15 PM	Background: Overall remarks on the Eucharist (45 minutes)
8:00 PM	Talk in pairs: (15 minutes)
8:15 PM	Plenary sharing and response (15 minutes)
8:30 PM	Night Prayer (15 minutes)
8:45 PM	Remarks about tomorrow
9:00 PM	Close

Friday, February 21, 2026

9:00 AM	Morning Prayer
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9:20 AM	Small Group Sharing and Plenary Debrief: Biblical and theological foundations of the Eucharist (15 minutes)
10:05 AM	Didactic and discussion: Biblical and theological foundations of the Eucharist (45 minutes)
10:20 AM	Questions and comments (10 minutes)
10:30 AM	Break (15 minutes)
10:45 AM	Principles related to presiding/assisting at the Eucharist (45 minutes)
11:30 AM	Small Group Discussion and Plenary Sharing (25 minutes)
11:55 AM	Plenary: Noonday Prayer (5 minutes)
12:00 PM	Lunch Break (45 minutes)
12:45 PM	Plenary and in Groups: Practicing the Eucharist (90 minutes)
2:15 PM	Break (15 minutes)
2:30 PM	Plenary: Debrief Learnings from Practice (30 minutes)
3:00 PM	Plenary: Planning Eucharistic Celebrations—seasons, texts (45 minutes)
3:45 PM	Plenary: Current questions and issues related to the Eucharist (30 minutes)
3:45 PM	Small Group and Plenary Sharing (25 minutes)
4:10 PM	Plenary: Returning to Questions, writing individually about learning, sharing (30 minutes)
4:40 PM	Returning to Syllabus and assignment
4:50 PM	Evening Prayer
5:00 PM	Close

COURSE POLICIES/REQUIREMENTS

- Attendance:** For a weekly course, VST requires at least 80% attendance. For an intensive course (this is an intensive course), VST requires 100% attendance.
- Reading and assignments:** Students are expected to read all required assignments before class and to complete all assignments as outlined in the syllabus within the specified dates of the course and term.
- Academic honesty:** Students are expected to adhere to VST's requirements for academic honesty as published in the Student Handbook.
- Inclusive language:** In speaking and writing, inclusive language is expected when making reference to humans and a variety of metaphors are anticipated when making reference to God.
- Assignment and Course Evaluation**
 - Course evaluations at VST combine a letter grade system (A+ to B-; course failure is "Not Approved") including narrative comments based on the competencies of the course. No number grades or weights of assignments are calculated, nor are final grades given numerical equivalents.
 - Individual assignments within a course are given narrative evaluations, that is, APP (Approved) or INC (Incomplete) with narrative comments, based on the competencies and expectations set for that assignment. One re-write is allowed

on any assignment that is INC. The re-written assignment is due two weeks after the work is returned. The final evaluation for an assignment can be APP or NAPP after a re-write.

- For a passing grade in the course, all assignments must be Approved.
6. **Late assignments:** Submission of assignments on time is a part of academic, professional and pastoral competence and a part of every course at VST. All assignments in courses are due on the dates specified in the syllabus. Failure to submit an assignment on time will be noted in the narrative evaluation of an assignment. Repeated failure to submit assignments on time may affect the final grade for the course.
 7. **Limitation on use of social media:** Ordinarily, the use of electronic devices in the contexts of classrooms or meetings will be to support the learning, formation, or agenda at hand.
 8. **Limitation on use of class material and images:** No material from Zoom classes, including screen capture pictures of their fellow students, professors, and CTAs cannot be posted to Facebook or any other social media without the express consent of the affected individuals.
 9. **VST is committed to creating safe space and an inclusive learning environment:** If you have a diagnosed or suspected learning disability, chronic condition, mental health concern, or physical requirement which you anticipate may impact your participation in this class, you are encouraged to discuss your needs with the instructor and the Dean within the first week of classes.