St. Peter’s Return to Holy Eucharist: Sunday September 13

On **Sunday, September 13**, we will return to celebrating Holy Eucharist, and we will also return to two services at 8am and 10:30am. Before you settle back in to your “usual” service, I invite you to continue reading and decide if trying a different service is the right choice for you right now.

The 8am service will be especially appropriate for those who are cautious about COVID-19 (e.g. still limiting public exposure and contact with others) and may fall in a higher-risk group, but for whom the emotional and spiritual benefits of in-person sacramental worship outweigh the risks. This service will be shorter, limiting the time we spend indoors together; will be entirely spoken; and will be the first gathering of the day.

The 10:30am service will be much like the 9:45am service has been, though transitioning to Holy Eucharist. We will continue to follow the health and safety guidelines we have been using (limited seating, wearing masks, no congregational singing, etc.), though as leadership bodies (committees, the vestry) begin to find appropriate ways to ease restrictions, this service will see the results first. This service will also be live-streamed.

Both services, until Advent, will use Rite II (contemporary) language, though certain elements (like which form of the Prayers of the People is used) will shift. Developments in Sunday fellowship and formation opportunities, as well as childcare options, will be communicated as they are known.

As an additional option, Communion pick-up (or delivery) will be offered on the first Sunday of each month, beginning in October. For those worshiping online who still desire a tangible sacramental experience, consecrated bread will be available to receive at locations in Plant City and Lakeland. More information on this will be communicated closer to the date; it will continue as long as feasible and necessary.

**New Guidelines for Receiving Communion (Effective September 13)**

- Communion will be offered in one kind only (bread). A small amount of wine will be consecrated, but only the presider will partake. If you would like further discussion on the theology and reasoning behind this choice, please contact Mo. Alissa.
- After the invitation, household units will remain standing if they wish to receive Communion (if you do not wish to receive, please be seated).
- Those distributing Communion will sanitize their hands, then make their way through the congregation, and will release the wafer into your outstretched hands—please take care to cup them upward.
- After receiving Communion, please be seated until distribution is finished.
- Please keep masks on except as needed to consume the wafer (most masks can simply be pushed aside with no need to fully remove).
- There is much mystery in the Sacrament, but there is nothing magical that makes it impervious to disease. Choosing not to receive is a perfectly valid action that implies nothing about you or your faith. After the distribution, we will say a prayer of spiritual communion.