

# Holy Communion

Christianity  
Practices

**Spec 1:** Explain two contrasting ways in which the Eucharist (Holy Communion) is celebrated in Christianity. (4)

## Roman Catholic Church

- Liturgy of the Word,
- three Bible readings; Creed;
- Liturgy of the Eucharist – bread and wine brought to altar,
- the Peace,
- people come forward to receive communion from a priest;
- usually a wafer
- (unleavened bread),
- red alcoholic wine taken from a single chalice,
- blessing,
- Go in peace,
- May also refer to the Tabernacle storing the consecrated bread.

## Non-conformist church

- Communion set out on a communion table – not an altar,
- minister or designated lay person may lead the communion service.
- Usually two Bible readings.
- An open table – anyone who wishes to can take communion, including children (do not need to be confirmed or in church membership)
- many different ways of serving communion – standing round the table, kneeling at the front rail of a church, served in the pews to the seated congregation etc.
- Creed not routinely said.
- Sometimes bread is cut up before the service, sometimes broken in the service.
- Congregation might serve each other as it is passed round.
- Wine is often non-alcoholic, often distributed in small cups, though often in a chalice on the communion table.

## Orthodox Church

- Uses candles and incense during worship; priest remains behind Royal Doors for much of the first part of the service;
- Liturgy of the Word – readings – priest comes from the Royal Doors to read the Gospel;
- Liturgy of the Faithful – priest comes through Royal Doors, receives bread and wine from congregation,
- Creed,
- bread broken into 4 parts, (one put whole into the chalice, one for priests and deacons, one is broken up in the chalice for communion and the fourth is cut up but not consecrated)
- consecrated bread given to congregation with the wine on a spoon,
- prayers of thanksgiving,
- unconsecrated bread given to be taken home – a sign of being part of the Christian community.