

## **Ecumenical Perspectives on Holy Communion during a time of pandemic**

Here are the posted recommendations by some of our full communion judicatories in relationship with the ELCA Rocky Mountain Synod.

### Episcopal Diocese of the Rio Grande

Statement from website:

“Bishop Hunn is encouraging Clergy to continue regularly presiding at the holy Eucharist – but to do so in ways that do not invite people to gather at the church and put themselves at risk. It is important that the holy Eucharist and the prayers of the church continue to be offered throughout the diocese and it is important that we do not gather in churches to put people at risk. Each congregation is invited to discern how to meet those two goals in their local context.”

<https://drgresponds.squarespace.com/guidelines> (March 31, 2020)

### Episcopal Diocese of Wyoming

Statement from website:

“Can we do Communion virtually? In terms of worship, Holy Eucharist is a community activity. The Eucharist is not, however, a spectator sport and the elements are not to be consecrated virtually. I encourage clergy and congregations to use Morning and Evening Prayer for virtual worship and to collaborate with one another. We are the Communion of Saints.”

<https://www.diowy.org/COVID-19/covid-19.html> (March 31, 2020)

### Episcopal Diocese of Utah

Invitation to special internet Eucharists from St. Marks Cathedral

<https://www.episcopal-ut.org/2020/03/27/march-28-29-internet-eucharist/>

### New Mexico Conference – United Methodist Church

Statement from website:

“Can we serve Communion online? Most of our congregations celebrate Holy Communion on the first Sunday of every month. Those same congregations will likely *not* be gathering in person on Sunday, April 5<sup>th</sup> (first Sunday of April). Several years ago, our Council of Bishops issued a moratorium on “virtual” or online communion. Simply put, our theology of Holy Communion precludes a ‘self-serve’ option, which would essentially be what happens via online or virtual Communion. While there are a variety of opinions on this, congregations are discouraged from celebrating online or virtual communion. Bishop Bledsoe requests that all clergy and congregations adhere to our core teachings and practices as they relate to Holy Communion. Alternatives such as the Love Feast or a virtual ‘love feast’ can be offered as we fast from gathering together in person during this season. Celebrating Holy Communion *only* when the whole community is finally gathered together again would be a holy and meaningful re-remembering of Christ’s Body.”

<https://www.nmconfum.com/nmac-responds-to-covid-19> (March 31, 2020)