

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Alb – Ankle-length, long-sleeved tunic of white fabric that symbolizes purity, which is worn by acolytes and other worship participants.

Alms Basin – Plate or other container used to collect and present offerings of money.

Altar – Table, the center of worship, at which Holy Eucharist is celebrated.

Aumbry – A secure place in the wall of the sanctuary, where reserve sacraments are stored.

Baptismal Shell – Scallop shell used in Holy Baptism for pouring water over the head of the person being baptized.

Baptismal Towel – Small oblong towel with shell embroidery used by the priest to wipe the head of the child after administering the water of baptism.

Cassock – Traditional clergy garment reaching from shoulder to ankle that is bound at the waist by cincture to symbolize self-discipline. A priest's cassock is black or gray; violet for priest serving as **Canon or Dean** – Bishop wears red away from the Cathedral and violet at the Cathedral.

Cassock-Alb – New Eucharistic garment worn by some priests and Lay Eucharistic Ministers that combines cassock, alb, and amice in one piece of white fabric.

Celebrant – The bishop or priest who presides at the eucharist and at baptism, and at other sacramental and liturgical occasions such as the Celebration and Blessing of a Marriage, Ministration to the Sick, and Thanksgiving for the Birth or Adoption of a Child. The celebrant leads the community's celebration of these liturgies and rites.

Chalice – Cup used for Holy Communion, made of precious metal, silver or gold, to hold the Elements of Wine and Water before consecration and afterward the "Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Chancel – Area of the church that houses the choir, the organ, the lectern and the pulpit.

Chasuble – Distinctive, cloak-like garment of proper color of day.

Ciborium – A silver container with a lid for eucharistic wafer bread.

Cincture – Cord that girds the waist to control the fullness of alb and secures a priest's stole as a symbolic reminder that Christ was bound by rope.

Corporal – A square of white linen spread on the altar, on which the bread and wine are placed.

Credence Table – Small table on the Epistle (south) side of the Altar upon which the Cruets, Flagon, Ciborium, Lavabo Bowl, and Towel are placed for the Service of Holy Communion.

Cruciform – In the shape of a cross.

Cruets – Containers of silver, gold, or glass, that hold the wine or water for Holy Eucharist.

Elements – Bread and wine that are consecrated in the eucharist.

Eucharistic Candles – Two candles placed on the Altar, or on the floor of the sanctuary at the altar, that are only lighted when there is a celebration of Holy Communion.

Ewer – Pitcher used to carry lukewarm water to the baptismal font.

Fair Linen – A long white cloth that covers the top of the altar.

Font – The baptismal bowl.

Funeral Pall – Cloth covering that is placed over the coffin at funerals.

Host – The consecrated bread of the eucharist.

Intinction – Administration of the consecrated bread and wine of the eucharist at the same time, typically by dipping the bread in the wine.

Lavabo Bowl – A container used during the ceremonial cleansing of the celebrant's hands at the eucharist.

Lectern – Stand, often in the form of an eagle, that symbolizes the spreading of the Gospel message over the world, on which the Bible sits and from which the scriptures are read.

Litany Desk – Desk placed in the center aisle from which the Litany is said. It is also known as a *prie-dieu*.

Missal – Book containing the service of Holy Communion that is placed on the Altar during the service.

Missal Stand – Stand on which the Missal rests.

Nave – Part of the church that extends from the front doors to the chancel.

Office Lights – Candles on either side of cross on reredos behind Altar, lit for worship during the offices.

Offices – The services of Morning and Evening prayer, and other non-sacramental worship, including burial and marriage services, without Eucharist.

Officiant – The person who leads the Daily Office or another church service. The term may indicate a member of the clergy or a lay person. The BCP uses the term to identify the person who leads the Daily Offices of Morning Prayer, Noonday Prayer, Order of Worship for the Evening, Evening Prayer, and Compline; the Great Litany, including the supplication; and Ministration at the Time of Death, including the prayers for a vigil.

Paraments – Cloth or tapestry hangings used to adorn the space for worship, especially those hangings at the altar, pulpit, and lectern.

Paschal Candle – The large candle placed on a separate tall candlestick in the north side of the sanctuary during Eastertide. It is also lighted at baptisms, and placed at the head of the casket or beside the urn at burial services.

Paten – The plate, usually of silver or gold, on which is placed the Host wafer the celebrant breaks at communion.

Pavement Candles – Large pair of candles at the foot of the Altar steps.

Piscina – Basin in the sacristy for disposal of consecrated wine and water that drains directly to the ground.

Pulpit – Stand from which the sermon is delivered.

Reredos – Any decoration above and behind an altar; commonly, painted wooden panels representing biblical incidents or figures of the saints.

Retable – Shelf behind the Altar on which are placed the office candles and flowers.

Sacristy – Room, usually behind the Altar, where Communion linens, Communion vessels, worship supplies, etc. are kept.

Sanctuary – Part of the church beyond the Altar rail that contains the Altar.

Stole – Long strip of cloth in the color of the observance, worn around the neck by the priest or deacon for sacramental worship. It is a symbol, the 'yoke', of obedience to Christ. White for marriage, Baptism, or funeral; red for Confirmation; green, violet, blue for seasonal observances.

Surplice – Full, white vestment with large, loose sleeves ordinarily worn over cassock.

Tippet – Black scarf worn over surplice, with emblems of the priest's church, diocese, or seminary embroidered near the ends, used in offices (non-sacramental worship).

Vergers – A lay minister who assists the clergy in the conduct of public worship, especially in the marshaling of processions. Vergers may be full-time or part-time, paid or volunteer. The history of the vergers dates back to the middle ages when the vergers were the "Protectors of the Procession." He would lead the way, making room for the procession to enter the church from the town square, and with his verge (mace) in hand would literally clear the way if necessary. The basic vestment of the vergers is a black cassock. The ministry of the vergers is supported and encouraged by the Vergers' Guild of the Episcopal Church.