

Ministers' Cross

Second Cross

The Church has a language of symbols and signs. The most important of all Christian symbols is the cross. This symbol has many forms. The cross used for this position is called the Canterbury cross and is a copy of one made perhaps in Kent in the eighth century. Derived from the Cross Alisy Paty, with four arms curving outward and a circular outline, it is one of the most popular of all crosses. It appears on the coat of arms of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Basic description and duties

In addition to carrying a processional cross in the entrance and retiring processions, the ministers' cross has several high profile responsibilities in the liturgical celebration:

1. To dim the lights for the homily and raise them for the Creed;
2. To assist in the preparation of the Table for Holy Communion;
3. To serve as a chalice at Holy Communion;
4. To assist in the ablutions at the end of Holy Communion.

The Entrance Procession

- The second cross follows the second torches. When there are no second torches, walk behind the choir.
- At the sanctuary entrance, pause briefly and turn right.
- Secure the processional cross on the Epistle side; reverence the altar if crossing over to the Gospel side.
- Enter the choir pews and remain standing for the opening sentences, summary of the law and collect for purity.

Homily and Creed

- At the end of the sequence hymn, press button #1 to dim lights. Be sure to wait for the organist to completely finish the sequence hymn.
- At the end of the homily, press button #3 to raise the lights for the Creed.

The Great Thanksgiving

- At the beginning of the offertory, enter the sanctuary with the book acolyte; reverence the altar; sit on the Epistle side.

Preparing the table

- As the celebrant is preparing the gifts, take the water cruet from the credence shelf, leaving the stopper on the table.
- Elevate the cruet with handle facing the celebrant for the blessing; hand it to the celebrant who adds water to the chalice and flagon.
- The celebrant will return the cruet to you; return it to the credence shelf.
- The thurifer will bow to you before you are censed; return this bow and that of the thurifer after censuring.

Water is placed in the chalice and flagon in remembrance of the water which issued from Our Lord's wounded side at His crucifixion.

It is customary to present items to the celebrant with the right hand and receive from the celebrant with the left. Bow to the clergy during the presentation as a mark of respect.

Lavabo

- After the gifts and the sanctuary party have been censed, perform lavabo for all priests celebrating:
- Drape a purificator over the wrist of the hand with the lavabo.
- Take the lavabo bowl in the one hand and the water cruet in the other.
- The priest will hold hands over the bowl; pour a small amount of water over the fingers and present the purificator for drying them.
- Repeat for all priests, crossing to the other side if necessary; remember to reverence the altar.
- Return the vessels to the credence shelf.

Sanctus

- Kneel at the Sanctus bell.
- 3 rings immediately before Sanctus,
"Holy, Holy, Holy."

During the Institution narrative, 1 ring immediately after you hear.

"...a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.", OR

"In him, thou hast brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life."

Note: This material will change from time to time depending on which eucharistic prayer is used. It is therefore important to check the bulletin for the day and check with the celebrant.

3 rings each during the consecration of the bread and wine—watch the celebrant; rings should coincide with the initial bow, elevation, and final bow.

Do not lead the priest.

Agnus Dei

- At the first words, walk unobtrusively back to the

Epistle sedilia and kneel to give the priest(s) free movement.

- You will usually receive communion during the Agnus Dei; a visiting priest may give communion to the sanctuary party after the conclusion of the Agnus Dei.
- Take the reserved gifts and second chalice to the altar.
- Receive the chalice of consecrated wine from the priest.

The reserved Sacrament is not placed on the altar during the consecration as it is already consecrated.

Only one chalice is used during the consecration as a symbol of the single cup of the Last Supper; the second chalice therefore remains on the credence shelf until the Agnus Dei. See also, Book of Common Prayer, page 407, paragraph 6.

Administering the Chalice

- After the priest gives the bread, give the chalice with the following words:

“The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life. Drink this in remembrance that Christ’s Blood was shed for thee, and be thankful.”

If the communicant is holding the wafer for communion by “intinction”, you may say:

“The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for thee, preserve thy body and soul unto everlasting life.”

- You may be asked to accompany the priest in serving nonambulatory communicants.
- You may also be asked to consume some of the remaining consecrated elements. This is done facing away from the congregation.
- See also specific notes on administering the chalice in the instruction for the Gospel Book position.

Post Communion Ablutions

- Take the unstoppered water and wine cruets to the altar table, wine in right hand, water in left; take your cue from the position of the priest on whether to step up on the predella.
- Pour water onto paten; priest will then pour water from paten into chalice, from chalice into flagon, and then into second chalice. Optionally, the priest may ask you to pour water directly into the flagon.
- Priest will hold chalice with fingers above it; pour a few drops of wine over the finger tips, then a few drops of water.
- Return all vessels to credence shelf.
- Kneel for the Post Communion prayer and Blessing.

Note: The ceremonial washing of the vessels and the consumption of the remaining consecrated elements by the priest are important symbols of their function of having held the Body and Blood of Our Lord.

Retiring Procession

- At the first notes of the hymn, leave the sanctuary in company with the book acolyte, reverencing the altar together.
- Get the processional cross and wait for the choir to exit.
- If a second pair of torches is used, wait until they leave the communion rail, walk out and pause briefly, facing the altar.
- Turn and proceed down the chancel and center aisle.



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Prepared by Barry E. Huber and Mike McGee

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*Please direct any questions to Paul Carter,
Acolyte Guild chair,
at 202/332-0899*