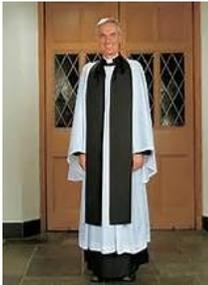


used, for example in processions, in the greater blessings and consecrations, at solemn Evensong, in giving Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament, at the burial of the dead

Choir Dress is the combination of a **cassock** and **surplice**. The **surplice** is actually a type of **alb** that is designed to be worn over a cassock.



Our choir members vest in **cassock** (red or black) and **“cotta”** (a type of surplice). In worship services where there will be no celebration of the Eucharist such as Morning or Evening Prayer, weddings, or funerals, or where they are participating in a role other than as celebrant, clergy may also wear **choir dress**, placing a stole or a **tippet** (pictured here) over the surplice. Traditionally, participants may add an appropriate academic hood for the celebrations like choral evening prayer (Evensong).



# A brief guide to the names of Linens, Vessels, and Vestments in the Episcopal Church

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## The Altar Guild

Episcopal parishes usually have an “Altar Guild,” which is volunteer group of parishioners, whose ministry is to care for the altar, vestments, vessels, and altar linens of the parish. Altar Guild members prepare the sanctuary for services, clean up afterwards, and frequently supervise the decoration of the sanctuary with flowers and special occasions. At St. Luke’s the regular duties of the Altar Guild have been filled by “teams” that take responsibility for a period of time (usually for a month). These teams assure that everything is ready for the weekly celebrations of the Eucharist and any other special celebrations that may be scheduled (e.g., funerals).

Some members of the Guild may volunteer for more narrowly defined duties such as laundering and finishing the linens used for Holy Communion, the creation of flower arrangements, or special seasonal decorations. There can be as many jobs as needed for all willing members to participate in essential and meaningful ways. If you are interested in becoming a member of the Altar Guild, or want more information, please contact one of our clergy or our Verger, Bryan Bowser.

More information about the Altar Guild and other liturgical ministries can be found on our website at

<http://stlukeslebanon.org/ministries/>



## ST. LUKE’S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

A supplement to the instructed Eucharist  
March 20 and 26, 2022

## The Altar vessels



The **chalice** comes from the Latin for “cup” and holds the wine. In Roman culture, wine was watered before it was consumed. Christians understand the water as being symbolic and related to the gospel of John’s account of Jesus’ crucifixion. “One of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water came out.” (19:34)



The **paten** is the plate which will hold the bread. The earliest patens were large enough to hold enough bread for the whole community



Two **cruets** rest on the credence table, the small table holding various items to prepare the altar. The cruet on the left always holds water, the one on the right always holds wine. The water cruet is used to wash the priest’s hands before presiding at the Eucharist. The bowl used for this hand-washing is called a **lavabo**, from a Latin word meaning “I will wash.”



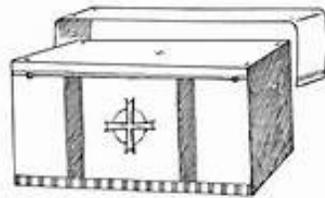
Consecrated wafers are stored in the **ambry**, a recess in the wall of a church or a mounted box on a wall for reserve sacrament. Ours is located just to the left of the Mary Altar. The wafers are placed in a vessel called a **ciborium**, a Greek word for a chalice-shaped vessel with a lid.



The **Sanctus** Bell is rung by an acolyte during the Eucharist in order to emphasize and call attention to particular moments in the liturgy. The practice dates from medieval times when the liturgy was said in Latin which most people did not understand. The bell was rung at the Sanctus as a signal that it was time to pay attention!

## The Altar Linens

The Altar with Fair Linen is pictured here. This “clean, white cloth” symbolizes the shroud in which Jesus was wrapped for burial. A cross is embroidered at each of the four corners and in the middle to symbolize the five wounds of Christ.



On top of the fair linen, we lay a square white cloth called a corporal. It protects the fair linen from any spills and catches any of the bread that might fall on it. The word comes from the Latin “corpus” meaning “body, since the “Body of Christ” is laid upon it during the celebration.”

A **purificator** is the small white cloth which is used to wipe the chalice after each communicant partakes.

The **pall**, originally used to keep dust and insects from falling into the chalice, is a stiffened square card covered with white linen, embroidered with a cross.

A **chalice veil**, usually in the proper liturgical color of the day or of plain white cloth, is placed over the **chalice**, **paten**, and **purificator**. The **burse** is a type of folder used to carry extra purificators and the corporal to and from the altar. The **burse**, in the proper liturgical color, rests on the **veil**. The removal of the burse and veil is a visual signal that the liturgical focus has moved from the Word to the Table.



## The Vestments

In the Episcopal Church, the Clergy, Lay Ministers, Acolytes and Choir wear “vestments.” The vestments have developed over the centuries from ordinary garments of the ancient Roman world. Their color is symbolic and signifies the liturgical season as well.

The **alb** is the basic Eucharistic garment, worn by all of those serving at the altar. The word comes from the Latin word, *alba*, meaning white. The symbolism of this garment extends throughout the liturgical life of the Christian- beginning with the new, white baptismal garments with which the early Christians were vested following baptism (baptismal gowns) and ending with the draping of the earthly remains with a white pall at their funeral.



The **cincture** is the rope used as a belt to gird the alb. The cincture represents the virtue of chastity, and recalls the cords



that tied Jesus’ hands at his trial.

The **stole** symbolizes being yoked with Christ and denotes the authority granted in ordination. The stole is worn over both shoulders by priests and over the left shoulder by deacons.



The **chasuble** looks a little like a poncho and is worn by the celebrant for the Eucharist, a priest or Bishop. The word chasuble is from the Latin *casula*, “little house”, because it is a shelter for the priest and is usually worn



over both the **alb** and **stole**. In some styles of vesture, the stole can be worn over a plain **chasuble**.

For more solemn occasions, some of the ministers may wear a **cope**. A cope (from the Latin *cappa*), is a vestment which may most conveniently be described as a long liturgical mantle or cloak, open in front and fastened at the breast with a band or clasp. It is most often worn for processions by all ranks of the clergy when assisting at a function. While it may be worn by cantors on certain festal occasions it is the vestment assigned to the celebrant, whether priest or bishop, in almost all functions in which the chasuble is not