

A (Mostly) Pictorial Glossary for Episcopalians

Especially those at Grace Episcopal Church, Yantic, CT

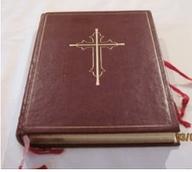
June 4, 2017 - Feast of Pentecost

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This glossary was developed as a learning tool and aid to the chalice bearers, acolytes, and altar guild members of the parish of Grace Church in grateful thanksgiving for all you do to help our worship glorify God. Those entries which are specific items in our parish are pictured herein for identification, although the reader is reminded that they are samples in some cases; we have multiple chalices available for use, for example. The terms noted in **red** are also listed as separate entries in their own right. If there are entries you believe should be added, please let me know. *Deacon Scott*

Ablutions	The cleansing of the Celebrant's hands prior to, or the Eucharistic vessels following, Holy Communion	
Absolution	The pronouncement of forgiveness by a priest or bishop following the confession of sins.	
Acolyte	A lay person who assists in worship services by carrying the cross, lighting/extinguishing the candles, assisting the Deacon at the altar and other duties.	
Advent	The first season of the Church year, beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, during which we prepare for the coming of Christ. It ends at Christmas . Color: Blue (or purple in some other parishes)	
Advent Wreath	A large evergreen wreath containing four candles - three blue and one rose. A fifth white center candle is lit on Christmas Eve. One candle is lit for each week of the Advent season , with the rose candle lit on the third Sunday.	
Agnus Dei	A portion of the Eucharistic service immediately prior to the administration of Communion: "Lamb of God . . ."	
Alb	A white, flowing robe worn by clergy at various services, including Holy Eucharist . It is usually worn with a stole and/or chasuble/dalmatic .	
Alms Basin	A brass bowl or wicker basket used to receive the monetary offering during the Offertory. Also referred to as the Alms Bason or Offering Plate .	
Altar	The Holy Table on which the Eucharist is consecrated. See Diagram in the Appendix	

Altar Service Book or Missal	A large burgundy book with multiple red ribbons containing various portions of the Book of Common Prayer and used by clergy when serving at the altar.	
Altar Book Stand	The wooden or brass stand on which the Altar Book rests as it sits on the altar.	
Altar Ministers	The lay and ordained persons who serve on the altar during a service, usually consisting of the celebrant/priest , deacon , chalice bearer , and acolyte(s) .	
Amice	A neckerchief worn around the back of the neck, and tied around the body, under an alb	
Anglican Communion	The worldwide loose confederation of 44 churches joined together by mutual agreement and support under the leadership, but not authority, of the Archbishop of Canterbury .	
Anthem	A musical selection or hymn sung by a choir alone during a prayer service.	
Archbishop of Canterbury	The Primate of the Church of England and titular figurehead of the Anglican Communion	
Ash Wednesday	The beginning of Lent , marked by a penitential service wherein participants are given the opportunity to have their foreheads smeared with ashes in the sign of the Cross as a reminder of their mortality.	
Asperges	The act of sprinkling objects and people with Holy Water	
Aspergil or Aspergillum	An instrument (scepter, bottle, or pine branch) used for the Asperges .	
Aumbry	A small, locked cabinet built into the wall of a sanctuary in which the Reserved Sacrament is kept. A tabernacle serves the same purpose but is much closer to the altar , usually on a retable .	
Baptism	The rite of Christian initiation by which one becomes a member of the Christian Church by having water poured on their forehead (or in some places immersed in a tub of water) and being sanctified in the name of the Trinity	

Baptismal
Font

At Grace, a covered stone stand in which sits a metal bowl used in the Sacrament of Baptism. In other parishes, it may be made out of wood or metal.



Baptismal
Shell

A small oyster-shell shaped piece of silverware used to administer the Sacrament of **Baptism** used by some priests in some parishes.



Bishop

One of the three orders of ordained ministry in the Episcopal (and Roman Catholic and Orthodox) Church whose primary ministry to provide oversight and pastoral support to a Diocese. The Diocesan Bishop is often assisted in their duties by Bishops Suffragan. The Diocesan Bishop (pictured at right), consecrated 4/17/10, is the Rt. Rev. Ian Douglas; The Rt. Rev. Laura Ahrens is the current Bishop Suffragan.



Bishop's Chair
or Bishop's
Throne

A free-standing chair which sits in the **sanctuary** that is reserved for use by the Bishop when he/she visits. When this chair is in a cathedral, the Bishop's "home church," it is referred to as the cathedra.



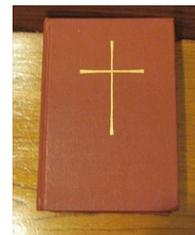
Bishop's Ring

A signet sealing ring bearing the coat of arms of the Diocese or **Bishop**. It is used with wax for documents of the Church, Consecration and Ordinations. Some traditional Anglicans greet a Bishop outside of Church by genuflecting on the right knee and kissing the Bishop's ring who then gives a brief blessing.



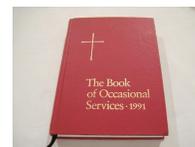
Book of
Common
Prayer (BCP)

The formal and officially-recognized book of prayer services in the Episcopal Church. It includes orders for the Sacraments, prayers, and devotions used in the Episcopal Church. It is abbreviated *BCP*.



Book of
Occasional
Services

A supplement to the **BCP** which provides additional liturgical material that are less frequently used than those found in the **BCP**. It is usually abbreviated *BOS*.



Bow, Simple

An act of reverence wherein the head and shoulders are bowed. See also **Solemn Bow**



Bow, Solemn

An act of great reverence wherein the person bends at the waist at 45-to-90-degree angle. See also **Simple Bow**.



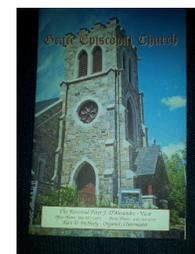
Breadbox

A silver, brass, or glass covered container used to hold unconsecrated hosts. (See also **Pyx** and **Ciborium**)



Bulletin

A handout for each service which lists the readings, hymns, and prayers for that service. See also **Order of Service**.



Bulletin Insert

An additional piece of paper in the **Bulletin**, which contains the **Propers** (Scripture readings) for that service. A separate insert might also contain the lyrics to songs/hymns not found in the **Hymnal**.



Burse

A small pouch in the color of the **liturgical season** that sits atop the **chalice stack** and holds a **corporal** and a spare **purificator**.



Candle,
Paschal

A large candle representing the Light of Christ which is lit at **Easter** and remains lit at all services throughout the **Easter season**, until **Pentecost**. It also burns at every Baptism and funeral.



Candlelighter

A brass and wooden implement with a wick at one end which is used to light and extinguish the **Eucharistic** and **Office Candles**.



Candles, Order
of Lighting

The altar candles are lit in a particular order. When lighting, the candle nearest the cross on the side **AWAY** from the **pulpit** is lit first, then the candle nearest the cross on the Gospel side, then the candle next closest to the cross on the side **AWAY** from the **pulpit**, then the candle closest to the **pulpit**. They are extinguished in the reverse order.

Canon

The laws of the Church (i.e., “canon law”) AND an honorific title given to clergy and lay persons

Cassock

A long black robe worn by clergy and occasionally lay assistants at non-Eucharistic services, such as **Morning Prayer**.



Cassock, Choir

A long colored robe worn by members of the choir during the liturgy. The color varies, but is often a color **OTHER THAN** black, white, or purple; at Grace they are red.



Cassock-Alb

A long white robe shaped like a **cassock** worn by the **priest**, **deacon**, and **chalice bearer** at services of **Holy Eucharist**. It's name is mix of **cassock**, which is black, and **alb**, which is a white more flowing robe also used at services of the **Eucharist**.



Celebrant

The celebrant is the **priest**, or **bishop** when he/she is present, who presides at the **Eucharistic** service.

Chalice

A silver or ceramic cup which is used to administer the Blood of Christ during Holy Communion.



Chalice Bearer

The lay person who is licensed to assist the **celebrant** by administering the **chalice** during Holy Communion. The current chalice bearers at Grace are Liz Baldwin, Judie Blackman-Cochran, Paul McGlinchey, and Ben Smith. See also **Subdeacon** and **Lay Eucharistic Ministers**.

Chalice Stack

The primary equipment for Holy Communion; **chalice**, **purificator**, **paten**, **priest host**, **pall**, **veil**, **burse** containing a **corporal** in an organized assembly that sits on the **credence table** prior to the Eucharistic Prayer.



Chancel

The section of the church interior behind the Communion rail which holds the choir pews (so named because they face each other and traditionally is where the choir sits!) and where the **altar ministers** sit during the **Liturgy of the Word**. See Diagram #2 in the Appendix.



Chasuble

A large oval vestment in the color of the **liturgical season** worn by the **priest** during the Holy Eucharist.



Chimere

A floor length black or red vest open at the front worn over a **Rochet**.



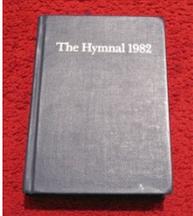
Chrism

Holy oil that has been blessed by the **Bishop** which is used at Baptism. It is distinguished from the **Oil of the Sick** which is blessed by a **bishop** or **priest** and used to anoint the sick or dying.

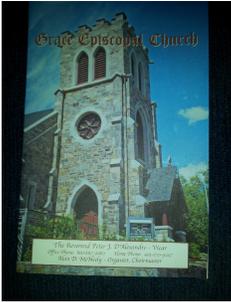
Christmas	The day we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Jesus Christ; December 25 th . It is also a liturgical season which runs from December 25 th through January 6 th , the Feast of the Epiphany . Seasonal color: White	
Ciborium	A covered glass, silver, or brass stemmed cup used for the consecration and Reservation of the Reserved Sacrament . Also, a pillared cover over the altar, which is also referred to as a “tester” or “baldachino”	
Cincture	A rope or fabric belt that is used to hold a cassock or cassock-alb in place.	
Collect	A short prayer which serves to focus the attention onto a particular topic or pleading.	
Collection Plate	See Alms Basin or Offering Plate .	
Columbarium	A room, building, or wall that contains niches in which ashes of the deceased are stored. Grace’s columbarium is in an outside wall to the right of the front door.	
Commons, The	The administrative office building of the Episcopal Diocese of Connecticut or The Episcopal Church in Connecticut (ECCT).	
Cotta	A white cover garment, generally shorter than a surplice , worn over a black cassock by altar ministers during Morning Prayer	
Credence (Table)	A small table off to the side of the altar on which various vessels (e.g., chalice stack , lavabo bowl and towel) are kept until needed during the service.	
Crucifer	The acolyte who carries the cross in the procession	
Cruets	The glass or silver vessels which hold the water and wine to be consecrated for the Eucharist	

Dalmatic	A loose-fitting T-shaped garment, often in the color of the liturgical season , worn by the deacon in Eucharistic liturgies.	
Deacon	One of the three orders of ordained ministry in the Episcopal (and Roman Catholic and Orthodox) Church whose primary ministry of service is exercised outside the parish, but is assigned to a parish by the Bishop under whom he/she serves. Grace's current deacon is The Reverend Deacon Scott J. Stevens.	
Diocese	A geographical division of the national Episcopal Church. The Diocese of Connecticut is more properly referred to as "The Episcopal Church in Connecticut" (ECCT) at the request of its Bishop . The official legal name of ECCT is "The Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society" (DFMS)	
Diocesan House	The administrative office building of ECCT. It is more properly referred to as " The Commons " at the request of the Bishop of Connecticut.	
Easter	The Feast of the Resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is also a liturgical season which extends until the Feast of Pentecost , 50 days later. Seasonal color: white	
Elements	The wine and bread which will become the Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ at the Eucharist . They are often brought forward at the Offertory by members of the congregation, the first in a cruet , the last in a breadbox . In some parishes, the water is also brought forward as part of the elements.	
Epiphany	The Feast of the Church which commemorates the arrival of the Three Wise Men/Kings to the manger. It is officially celebrated on January 6 th , though the celebration is oftentimes moved to the next closest Sunday. It is also a liturgical season of the year which lasts until Ash Wednesday when Lent begins. Seasonal color: green.	
Epistle	A portion of Scripture from the New Testament other than that of the Gospels . Most are letters written by the early church leaders. A passage from this portion of Scripture is read at every Sunday morning worship.	
Eucharist, Holy	Literally meaning "thanksgiving", this is the principal service of Christian worship on Sunday morning, whereby we remember the Lord's death and resurrection as he commanded at the Last Supper. Also referred to as Holy Communion .	
Fair Linen	A large white linen cloth which covers the top of the altar , hanging down the sides.	

Fermentum	A small piece of the Consecrated Precious Body which is dropped into the Consecrated Precious Blood after both are consecrated. The celebrant removes it prior to distribution of Communion .	
Flagon	A covered pitcher used to hold water before it is used to fill the Baptismal Font . It is also a lidded pitcher or cruet used only for the Consecration or Reservation of Eucharistic wine. Unlike a cruet, it is only used for wine about to be or already Consecrated. At Grace Church we use cruets for both.	
Font, Baptismal	At Grace, a covered stone stand in which sits a metal bowl used in the Sacrament of Baptism .	
Footwashing	A portion of the service on Maundy Thursday which recalls Jesus washing the feet of his disciples by asking us to do the same for each other.	
Frontal	An altar covering in the color of the liturgical season which hangs down in the front of the altar .	
Good Friday	The day we commemorate the crucifixion of Jesus Christ. The Eucharist cannot be consecrated on this day, so any Eucharist offered must have been previously reserved. See Reserved Sacrament .	
Gospel	One of four books of the New Testament that recount the life and ministry of Jesus Christ written by Matthew, Mark, Luke, or John. A passage from one of the Gospels must be read at every Eucharist .	
Gospel Book	A burgundy book with a single red marker used by the Deacon (or Priest) to read the Gospel at each Sunday Eucharist .	
Holy Saturday	The Saturday between Good Friday and Easter Sunday on which we commemorate the time Christ lay in the tomb.	
Holy Week	The season of the Church year which begins on Palm Sunday and ends on Holy Saturday	
Home Communion Kit	A small portable case which contains a pyx , cruet , miniature paten and chalice , and purificator which is used to bring Reserved Sacrament to those who are ill or home-bound.	

Host, Priest	A large communion wafer which is used by the priest in the consecration of the Holy Eucharist .	
Host, Communion	A wafer made out of wheat flour approximately 1" in diameter which is consecrated for administration of Holy Communion . At Grace, we also have a similar size wafer made out of rice (and yellower in color and wrapped in plastic) that is offered to congregants who are allergic to wheat and gluten products. IT IS IMPORTANT NOT TO HANDLE THE GLUTEN-FREE WAFERS AFTER HANDLING THE REGULAR WAFERS OF ANY SIZE or any other product which could contain wheat products.	
Hymn Board	A wooden board on the wall behind and to the right of the lectern which lists the hymns for the service.	
Hymnal	A blue (at Grace) book which contains the standard hymns of the Episcopal Church.	
Lavabo Bowl & Towel	A small (palm-sized) silver or glass bowl which is used to wash the Celebrant's fingers as part of the Holy Eucharist . There is also a narrow white linen towel which is also used at the same time.	
Lay Eucharistic Minister	A lay person who, after special training, has been licensed by the Bishop to assist in the administration of Holy Communion, and at other services. See also Chalice Bearer and Subdeacon .	
Lay Eucharistic Visitor	A lay person who, after special training, has been licensed by the Bishop to bring Holy Communion to the homebound from the principal service of the congregation on Sunday morning.	
Lector	A lay person trained to read Scripture in the course of public worship.	
Lectern	A brass stand, to the left as you face the altar at Grace, behind which the lay person stands to read the Old Testament and Epistle each Sunday morning. See Diagram in the Appendix for its location at Grace.	

Lectionary	The system of readings that are assigned to be read at each Sunday Eucharist. We follow the Revised Common Lectionary along with most other Roman Catholic and mainline Protestant denominations. A separate lectionary provides a rhythm of Scriptural readings for use with Morning and Evening Prayer services.	
Lent	A penitential season of the church which runs from Ash Wednesday until Palm Sunday. Color: Purple	
Liturgical Season	One of seven periods of the church calendar that divides up the year, each with its own theme, color, and tone; Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost.	
Liturgy of the Word	The first part of the liturgy of Holy Eucharist which focuses on the reading and hearing of Scripture and the sermon.	
Maniple	A band of cloth in the color of the Liturgical season worn over the left forearm by some clergy at the Eucharist (but removed when they preach). It looks like a small stole and is a sign of Holy Orders and Christ's bondage during His Sacrifice.	
Maunder Thursday	The day before Good Friday whereon we commemorate the Last Supper with Christ's institution of the Eucharist as well as his washing of his disciple's feet (see Footwashing).	
Mitre	A conical shaped headpiece worn by bishops during liturgical events	
Morning Prayer	One of the Daily Offices, or prayer services of the church, which is often prayed by clergy and laity individually on a regular basis. It is also used by the entire congregation as a substitute for the service of Holy Eucharist on Sunday morning when a priest is unavailable.	
Narthex	The entry hallway in the back of the church. See Diagram in the Appendix.	
Nave	The main section of the church building where the congregation sits in the pews. See Diagram in the Appendix.	
Offering Plate	A brass bowl or wicker basket used to receive the monetary offering during the Offertory. Also referred to as the Alms Basin .	

Officiant	The person, lay or ordained, who is leading a worship service other than Holy Eucharist (such as Morning Prayer).	
Oil of the Sick	Holy oil blessed by a bishop or priest used for the Anointing of the Sick. It is distinguished from Holy Chrism which is blessed by a bishop and used only for Baptism .	
Order of Service	The handout which describes the prayers and readings of a worship service. See also Bulletin .	
Organ	A keyboard musical instrument which produces sound either electronically or through wind passing through pipes of various shapes and lengths.	
Pall	A square linen-covered piece of stiff, cardboard-like material which covers the chalice when it contains wine or the Blood of Christ.	
Pall, Funeral	A large white shroud which covers the casket during funeral services.	
Paten	A silver, gold, or ceramic plate which is used to hold consecrated Communion hosts for distribution at the Eucharist .	
Pectoral Cross	A large cross worn over vestments by Bishops and whose chain usually shows diagonally across the chest when they are in clerical street clothes.	
PECUSA	The acronym for the Protestant Episcopal Church in the United States of America, the full name of the Episcopal Church.	
Pentecost	The Feast which celebrates the giving of the Holy Spirit to the disciples. It signals the end of the Easter season , and extends to the beginning of Advent and closes out the church year. Color: green	

Piscina

A sink in a **sacristy** which is used for the cleansing of sacred vessels that empties directly onto the ground, NOT into a septic or sewer system.



Presiding Bishop

The titular head of the Episcopal Church in the USA. The office is also referred to as the Church's "Primate".

Priest

A member of the one of the three orders of ordained ministers in the Episcopal Church who has responsibility for administering the Sacraments, preaching the Word, and the pastoral care of a congregation. The priest currently serving at Grace is the Rev. Peter D'Alesandre.



Processional Cross

A large gold or wooden cross on a staff, usually carried by a **crucifer**, which is used to lead a procession of **altar ministers** into or out of a service.



Propers

The set of readings (usually a passage from each of; the Old Testament, a psalm, an **Epistle**, and a **Gospel**) appointed for a given day in the lectionary.

Pulpit

The larger, elevated stand, to the right as you look at Grace's **altar**, from which the sermon is sometimes preached. See Diagram in the Appendix for its location at Grace.



Pulpit Fall

A square of fabric in the color of the **liturgical season** which extends down from the shelf on the **pulpit**.



Purificator

A rectangular shaped piece of white linen which is used to wipe the rim of the **chalice** during the administration of Holy Communion.



Pyx	A small gold or silver case which holds consecrated hosts of the Reserved Sacrament to bring it to the ill and homebound.	
Reredos	A decoration behind or above an altar , often in the form of a cross, screen, or tapestry.	
Reserved Sacrament	Bread and wine which has been consecrated and thereby has become the Body and Blood of Christ, and set aside for administration at a future date. It is kept in an ambry (at Grace Church) or tabernacle .	
Retable	A narrow shelf set against a wall behind an altar which usually hold candles, and sometimes decorations. Grace does not have a retable.	
Rochet	A floor length white garment worn only by Bishops . Anglican Bishops' rochets have bloused sleeves. It is always worn under a chimere , and usually worn with a tippet and mitre . Originally the Parliament clothes of one of the 20 Bishops whose Sees made them members of the House of Lords. It is now worn at Bishops meetings and sometimes instead of Cassock and Surplice . It has been nicknamed "a magpie" for its black and white coloration.	
Sacristy	A small room directly off the sanctuary of the church in which the Altar Guild works its magic and where extra communion vessels, candles , communion hosts , etc. are stored. See Diagram in the Appendix.	
Sanctuary	The section of the church building inside the communion rail and containing the altar . See Diagram in the Appendix.	
Sanctuary Lamp	A candle, often with a red shade representing the Blood of Christ, which burns when there is Reserved Sacrament present in the ambry or tabernacle .	

Sanctus Bells	A small interior bell or attached group of bells. It was originally used to signal to the congregation that the inaudible Sanctus was being said, but now is used to highlight the most sacred portions of the Eucharist.	
Season, Liturgical	One of seven periods of the church calendar that divides up the year, each with its own theme, color, and tone; Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week, Easter, Pentecost.	
Server	An acolyte who serves as the primary assistant to the deacon at the altar .	
Sexton	The person who regularly maintains and cleans the church building.	
Stations of the Cross	A quiet, non-Eucharistic prayer service usually held during Lent which commemorates the major events of Our Lord's Passion and death.	
Stole, Choir	A band of cloth, often in the color of the liturgical season , sometimes worn around the neck and draping down the back by members of the choir as a symbol of their liturgical role. Choir stoles are not used by the choir at Grace.	
Stole, Deacon	A narrow band of cloth in the color of the liturgical season worn over the left shoulder and connected under the right arm worn by the deacon as a symbol of his/her office and ordained status. It is worn over, under, or instead of a dalmatic .	
Stole, Priest	A narrow band of cloth in the color of the liturgical season worn around the neck and draping down evenly in front, or sometimes crossed during the Eucharist, worn by the priest as a symbol of her/his office and ordained status.	
Subdeacon	A lay person who is licensed to assist the Celebrant by reading prayers and assisting with the distribution of the Eucharist at Communion services. At Grace, the more common term is Chalice Bearer . See also Lay Eucharistic Minister .	

Surplice

A white cover garment, generally longer than a cotta, worn over a black cassock by acolytes during Eucharistic services and by other altar ministers during Morning Prayer.



Tabernacle

A small, locked case in which the Reserved Sacrament is kept, usually on a retable. An aumbry serves the same purpose but is at a distance from the altar and set back into a wall. Grace does not have a tabernacle.

Tippet

A black cloth worn draped around the neck and hanging down in front in lieu of a stole by an ordained person who is leading Morning or Evening Prayer.



Torch or Taper

A “candle on a stick” which is used to carry the flame in procession.



Triduum

The three days before Easter which begins on Maundy Thursday, continues on Good Friday, and ends on Holy Saturday.

Undercroft

The downstairs parish hall beneath the church

Veil

A square piece of fabric in the color of the liturgical season which is used to drape over the chalice stack.



Vestry

The elected governing body of the parish.

Vicar

The **priest** who has responsibility for the life of a parish. Rector is a similar term, but more often applied to **priests** who work full-time at the parish. The current Vicar of Grace is The Reverend Peter D'Alesandre.



Wafer

A small, usually round, piece of “bread” which is consecrated and thereby becomes the Body of Christ during the Eucharist. See also **Communion Host**



Warden

The wardens are the two primary elected lay leaders of a congregation. The Senior Warden (currently John Baldwin, pictured at right) often handles many of the administrative tasks of the parish not handled by the Vicar and serves as the ecclesiastical authority in the Vicar’s absence. The Junior Warden (currently Bob Luppert) often has responsibility for the parish’s buildings and property matters.



Diagram of Grace floor plan and parts of church

