

# Customary for Crucifers

**St. Philip's Episcopal Church  
118 West Poplar Street  
Harrodsburg, Kentucky 40330**

## Preparation for the Service

Arrive 20 minutes before the service and vest. Normal vestment for the crucifer is a black cassock with white surplice. Vestments are kept in the vesting room of the CER Building. Each crucifer should find a cassock which fits and then place a name tag on the cassock to make it easy to locate for vesting before services.

About 15 minutes before the service, proceed to the organ loft for prayers and any last minute instructions for the service.

About 10 minutes before the service, take the processional cross to the rear of the church. Place your prayer book and hymnal in your seat on the lectern side of the chancel (left side facing the altar).

## Opening processional

The order of the procession is as follows: verger, thurifer, crucifer, torchbearers, choir, lector, server, lay Eucharistic minister (chalice bearer), gospel bearer, preacher (homilist), deacon, priest, bishop's chaplain and bishop. If a position is vacant, move up and follow the person in front of that position.

Stand at the rear of the church, even with the last row of pews. Begin the procession when the choir and congregation begin singing the opening hymn, or when the priest signals you to start the procession.

Lead the procession at a slow stately pace holding the cross high, facing the altar squarely. Walk up the chancel steps and stop halfway between the chancel steps and the altar steps, making sure there is enough space behind you for the other members of the procession to reverence the cross without bumping into your back. When you reach the center of the chancel, pause and wait for all members of the procession to move into their places. When they are in place, put the cross in its holder and go to your place in the chancel. (Sometimes the priest may stay in the center of the chancel for the Words of Acclamation. In this case, move into place once all other members of the procession are in place.)

## Gospel procession

The gospel procession begins after the reading of the epistle, if there is no hymn, or during the singing of the sequence hymn. The priest will give the signal to begin the procession.

Retrieve the cross and walk to the center of the chancel. Turn and face the altar. Remain standing at this position until the chalice bearer has retrieved the gospel and moved to the outside center of the altar rail. When the chalice bearer begins to turn, turn also (to your left) at the same time as the gospel bearer. Wait a beat or two (to give the chalice bearer time to begin walking down the altar steps) and then begin walking down the chancel steps. Lead

the procession approximately 1/3 of the way down the aisle. Stop at the second window, turn to your left and face the altar. Remain in this position during the reading of the gospel. If the reading is a long one or you are tired, you can lower the cross until it rests on the floor. It is better by far to do this before the announcement of the gospel rather than lowering the cross partway through the reading.

After the gospel reading is completed, the priest will take the book from the chalice bearer. The priest will close the book and hand it back to the chalice bearer. The priest will move to one side of the aisle and the chalice bearer to the opposite side.

Lift the cross if it has been resting on the floor. Process up the aisle and up the chancel steps. At the top of the steps, stop, then immediately turn to your left, enter the choir stall, place the cross in its holder, and return to your seat.

### Recessional

The order to process out is the same as the order to process in.

The priest will give the order to begin the procession. When the priest gives the signal, retrieve the cross and walk to the center of the chancel. Stop and wait for a beat or two, then turn to your left and begin walking slowly down the chancel steps. Halt the procession at the rear of the church. After the dismissal, return to the chancel and replace the cross in its holder.

Thank you for serving!