



## Liturgical Roles in the Episcopal Church

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### Introduction

Many parishioners enrich their Christian experience by preparing the church for worship or playing a more active role during the services. We invite you to volunteer for one of these important ministries within the Episcopal liturgy at your local parish. To learn more about liturgical roles, please call the Diocesan office at (269) 381-2710.

### Acolytes

Serving as an acolyte is an opportunity to do quiet, meditative work during worship services. Acolytes enhance the congregation's experience of the service by carrying crosses, torches, flags, and banners in the procession. Acolytes also assist in the preparation of the Eucharist at the altar. The majority of acolytes are teenagers, but a number of adults participate as acolytes as well. Acolyte training is offered throughout the year. Some acolytes also volunteer to serve at weddings and funerals.

### Altar Chapter

The Altar Chapter prepares the altar and sanctuary for all Sunday, weekday, and special services, including weddings and funerals. Its primary purpose is to prepare for the administration of the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist and Baptism. The Chapter is responsible for the vessels, linens, hangings, and vestments of the church, and is actively involved in a program of preservation of the marble, wood, brass, silver, and needlepoint articles that adorn the altar. Chapter members seek to grow spiritually through their service as well as to deepen their experience and knowledge of the church and the Sacraments.

### Choirs

The large, lively, and varied music program in the Episcopal Church is a way for many people, including children, to worship God through song and praise as well as to be more directly involved in the worship services.

### Clergy

**Often** robed in vestments according to their role in the service, clergy lead those gathered for worship through the service of the day. Having been educated in theological seminaries and universities throughout the country, our clergy offer spiritual guidance during the worship experience.

### Lay Eucharistic Ministers

Lay Eucharistic Ministers (LEMs) are members of the parish who assist in administering the bread and wine at the altar rail and standing stations during Holy Eucharist. Some LEMs bring the bread and wine of the Eucharist to those who can not leave their homes or hospital rooms. Serving as a LEM can lead to heightened awareness of the power of prayer and a deeper appreciation of the Eucharist. Training and licensing is required and LEMs serve approximately twice each month.

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