

THURIFER'S GUIDE FOR SERVING AT EUCHARISTIC SERVICES

Preparation

- 1) About ten minutes before the start of the service, light two charcoal blocks and place them in the thurible. Make sure you have the incense boat to hand. The easiest way to light the charcoal is to hold it on end in a candle flame. When the sparks stop and it glows red when you blow on it, you are ready.
- 2) Place the thurible stand by your seat on the altar platform. Ask someone to hold the thurible for you while you do this. For a seat, we normally use the pine-coloured wooden bench. This is placed on the north side of the altar platform, facing the altar. Leave an extra block or two of charcoal on top of the stand.

Notes

Swing the thurible from time to time to keep the charcoal burning nicely. You will need to do this throughout the service.

Charging the Thurible

This is required at several points in the service, and is always performed in the same way.

Hold the thurible in your right hand and the incense boat in your left. Pass the boat to the priest. Lift the locking ring, raise the lid on the thurible by pulling the appropriate chain, and hold it for the priest to charge. After the thurible is blessed, close it and take the boat from the priest.

Entrance Procession

Just before this, the priest charges the thurible.

At the beginning of the first hymn, lead the procession into the church (ahead of the Crucifer). Swing the thurible gently throughout. Don't forget to take the incense boat with you!

After the procession, be ready to hand it to the priest when he or she requests it. Once the altar has been censed, put the thurible back on the stand.

Gradual Hymn

At or near the start of the hymn, perform the charging procedure with the priest. Then lead the gospel procession into the centre of the church. Stop so as to be on the Deacon's right, with the thurible ready to hand to the Deacon so that they may cense the gospel.

Add the spare block of charcoal during the sermon. Keep swinging the thurible gently from time to time to keep it burning nicely.

Preparation

After the altar is prepared, hold the thurible and boat for the charging procedure as before. Hand the thurible to the priest that he or she might cense the prepared altar. When the thurible is handed back to you, cense the altar and party together, then turn and cense the congregation. In each case, use three lots of two "swings" - two to the centre, two to the left and two to the right. Don't worry about making a lot of noise with the chains here.

Communion

Receive standing in front of your seat. You may like to add a little incense towards the end so as to have some smoke for the recessional.

Recessional

Lead the procession out, ahead of the Crucifer. Take the thurible with you. Don't forget to stop near the back of the church, turn, and bow before continuing – just as the Crucifer would normally do.