

St. Peter's Church, Salisbury, MD
CUSTOMARY FOR TORCH BEARERS
AT SUNDAY 9AM HOLY EUCHARIST (10AM SUMMER)

Before the Service:

1. Arrive at least 15 minutes before the service
2. Vest in red cassock and white cotta. (Exception: wear black cassock during Eastertide.) Put on the torch bearers cross.
3. When instructed, go into the sanctuary with the crucifer to retrieve the torches.
4. Enter the sanctuary, stand at the opening in the altar and bow. Step up on the altar and retrieve the torch from its stand. Return the sacristy.
5. Assemble with the altar party in vesting room five minutes before the service begins.
6. At the direction of the Celebrant, the altar party moves to the back of the church. The torch bearers stand on either side of the crucifer at the head of the procession. The Eucharistic Minister or Deacon will light both torches.

During the Service:

7. Process towards the altar. The torch bearers walk on either side of the crucifer.
8. At the communion rail, bow before the altar, place torch in the holder and move to chairs at Gospel (left) side of the altar and stand. Pick up worship bulletin from chair and follow the service.

Acclamation (stand)

Gloria in excelsis, Kyrie, or Trisagion (stand)

Old Testament Lesson (sit)

Psalm (sit)

Epistle (sit)

Sequence Hymn (stand)

9. During the Sequence Hymn the Gospel Reader (usually the Deacon or Preacher) comes to take the Gospel Book from the altar. The torch bearers will take their candles and move to either side of aisle by the communion rail. When the Gospel Reader starts to walk down the altar steps, to the communion rail, turn and walk on either side of the Gospel Reader.
10. Follow the acolyte down the steps and stop when the acolyte stops and turns around. The torch bearers will stand on either side of the Gospel Book facing each other across the aisle. Torch bearers are to "light" the Gospel book.
11. When the reading is finished, the Gospel Reader may take the book and kiss it and hand it to the acolyte, or if the Deacon is the Gospel Reader, the Deacon will keep the Gospel book.
12. After the Gospel Reader steps to one side, follow the acolyte up the aisle on either side of the acolyte. Continue up the steps to the Altar and place your candle back in the holder. Blow your candle out. (Exception: when the large torches are used, they will remain lit).
13. Move back to your chair and sit down.

Sermon (sit)
Nicene Creed (stand)
Prayers of the People (kneel)
Confession (kneel)
Peace (stand)
Announcements (sit)
Offertory Hymn (stand)
Sanctus (stand)

14. After the *Sanctus* (“Holy, Holy, Holy”), kneel on the cushion near your chair.

The Lord’s Prayer (kneel)
Fraction (kneel)

15. Continue kneeling until the priest serves you communion, then return to your chair.

Post-communion prayer (kneel)
Closing hymn (stand)

16. The acolyte will re-light your torch. When the priest signals, you should retrieve your torch and step down the altar step then move to stand on either side of the aisle with your back to the choir pews. Stand there holding your torch until the hymn has concluded.
17. After the Blessing and Dismissal, turn and walk beside the crucifer down the chancel steps. Unless the Deacon or Celebrant tells you otherwise, you will go down the steps then turn left before the pews and head out the door toward the parlor.
18. Once you are out of the church, extinguish your torch. Proceed to the vesting room. Take your torch back into the church and place in the stand.
19. Return the vesting room to neatly hang up your cassock and cotta in their proper place.
20. Thank you for your ministry!

Revised: August 2023