

## Liturgy We Live *by Dr. Gil Haas*

In imperial Roman processions, the positions closer to the emperor at the procession's conclusion were places of honor. Our Christian processions mimic this scenario. A verger, with their verge, "clears the way"...making a "path" through the congregation. The thurifer follows, employing incense to "cleanse" ceremoniously the building in which the procession proceeds. The processional cross, or crucifix (in Anglo-Catholic parishes), is next, lit by honorific torches emphasizing Christ's importance. A single processional cross is the norm in most Anglican processions. If a layperson carries the Gospel book, that person follows next. If a clergy carries the book, that clergy maintains their usual position. Banners are processed before the person(s) that they honor. If the parish is honored with its banner, the banner precedes the choir, who process next. Laypersons in the service follow the choir. A second, smaller cross can be carried before the clergy processing in order of precedence: assisting priests, subdeacon (replaced at St. Paul's by a layperson who reads the epistle), deacon, rector/dean (or celebrant if the bishop is absent), bishop's cross, bishop's banner, bishop's chaplain (carrying the bishop's crosier if the bishop chooses not to), and finally, the bishop.

*If you have a liturgical question or an inquiry about anything that transpires during or around our worship service, please forward the question you would like researched to: [gghaas@aol.com](mailto:gghaas@aol.com), or drop the question in the offering basin. Please note whether we can credit you as the source of the question.*