

**St. Thomas Episcopal Church**  
**Choir Rubrics and Customs**  
**10:15 am Sung Eucharist**

*Before the liturgy:*

- Choir will warmup in the choir room and/or the church.
- If the church practices in the church before the service, they should wear red cassocks only. This will be indicated on the “Welcome Sign” to the choir room.
- Choir line-up takes place in the Parish Hall, with full vestments, at approximately 10:05am.

*During the liturgy:*

- The choir processes down the center aisle, up the chancel steps.
- Choir members may touch the water in the baptismal font and make the sign up the cross, if they wish.
- Each pair of singers bows together at the altar rail and then proceeds to the choir stalls.
- Choir sits during the readings and the psalm (unless chanted only by the choir; then standing).
- The choir stands for the sequence hymn and follows the procession of the book to the center of the church.
- The choir sits during the sermon.
- The choir stands for the creed, and kneels (or sits, if necessary) during the Prayers of the people.
- The choir stands for the Peace and sits at the direction of the choir director.
- The choir stands for the Offertory Anthem, Hymn, and the start of the Eucharistic Prayer.
- The choir kneels (or sits, if necessary) following the *Sanctus*.
- The choir remains kneeling (or sitting) for the singing of the *Fraction Anthem*. (“Christ our Passover, et al”)

*During communion:*

- The choir may be seated if singing a congregational hymn, stand if singing an anthem.
- Following the anthem, the choir director may seat the choir.
- The choir moves to the communion rail by rows, beginning with the back row. The choir kneels as stands as one each time.
- If there are few people in consecutive rows, they may use good judgement and determine if they can fit at the rail together.
- Following communion, the choir remains standing.

*Dismissal:*

- During the procession, the choir forms pairs at the communion rail, turns and processes out slowly.
- The choir separates at the last pew and proceeds up each side aisle, turning to face the congregation.
- Following the dismissal, the choir is free to find a seat for the organ postlude, encouraged to greet members of the congregation, visit coffee hour, or head to the choir and robing rooms.