

Care should be taken, however, that proper cleaning methods are used to preserve the beauty and life of the altar cloth. It is appropriate for those who care for sacred vessels, cloths, and other instruments of the liturgy to accompany their work with prayer.

**Credence Linens:** Credence linens are custom-made linens that cover the credence table, which holds the bread and wine before consecration. The credence table is used at the offertory. Credence linens are embroidered with one centre cross.

**-Bernard Kellett**

**Entrance antiphon:** *As for me, in justice I shall behold your face; I shall be filled with the vision of your glory.*

**First Reading:** Amos 7: 12-15

**Psalm 84: Response:** *Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.*

**Second Reading:** Ephesians 1: 3-14

**Gospel Acclamation:** *Alleluia, alleluia! Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life: you have the message of eternal life. Alleluia!*

**Gospel:** Mark 6: 7-13

**Memorial Acclamation:** *Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.*

**Communion Antiphon:** *The sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for her young: by your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. Blessed are they who dwell in your house for ever singing your praise.*

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*"Let us run to Mary, and, as her little children, cast ourselves into her arms with a perfect confidence." - Saint Francis de Sales*



## **Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time Cycle B, 2023 Weekly**

### **Reflection: Liturgical Linens (i:2):**

**Baptismal Towel:** The dimensions of the baptismal towel are that of the lavabo towel. However, it is embroidered with a shell and not a cross. The shell is used as

the symbol of water in a baptism. Baptismal towels are often given to the parents as keepsakes.

**Altar Cloths:** Altar cloths are custom-made linens that cover the main altar and are embroidered with five crosses, one in each corner of the mensa and a centred embroidery. The five crosses on the fair linen are meant to depict the five wounds of Christ. A fair linen usually includes a drop, which is completely at the discretion of the altar guild. Drops on a fair linen vary enormously, but a short drop (4" or less) on a fair linen is discouraged, as the drop is not sufficient to hang properly. Longer drops on fair linens are encouraged, as they are visually more pleasing. Fair linens often include a lace trim on the drop. Fair linens should be stored rolled when not in use. The fair linen represents the shroud in which Jesus was wrapped for burial.

Just as the altar is a sign for us of Christ the living stone, altar cloths are used "out of reverence for the celebration of the memorial of the Lord and the banquet that gives us his body and blood." By their beauty and form they add to the dignity of the altar in much the same way that vestments solemnly ornament the priests and sacred ministers. Such cloths also serve a practical purpose, however, in absorbing whatever may be spilled of the Precious Blood or other sacramental elements. Thus, the material of altar cloths should be absorbent and easily laundered.

While there may be several altar cloths in the form of draping's or even frontals, their shape, size, and decoration should be in keeping with the design of the altar. Unless the altar cloths have been stained with the Precious Blood, it is not necessary that they be cleaned in the sacarium.