

THE LENTEN PARAMENTS

PURPLE is the color of **royalty** because in ancient times, purple was the most expensive, primitive dye. It reminds us of the royal priesthood of Jesus, who offered Himself up for our salvation (Hebrews 7:27) and who is also the King of Kings and Lord of Lords (1 Timothy 6:15). The Lenten season helps us repent and encourages us to practice self-discipline as followers of Jesus. Some of these disciplines include: prayer, fasting for the sake of self-control, and deepening our time in God's Word as we walk the way of the cross and empty tomb. This season starts on Ash Wednesday and lasts for forty days (excluding Sundays).



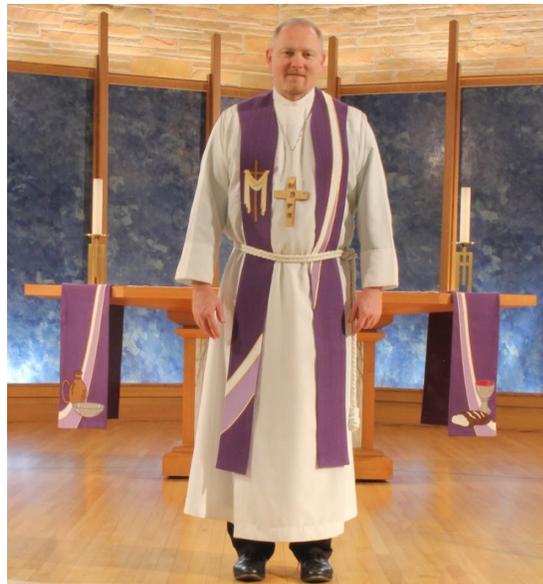
The Lectern

The lectern parament has a white crown of thorns twisted around a cross. These two symbols show Jesus' state of humiliation as He passively and willingly allowed the scorn, abuse, and pain at the hands of the Roman soldiers for the sake of our salvation.



The Pulpit

The pulpit parament depicts Jesus as the lamb without blemish or defect being led to His sacrificial death on a cross for the forgiveness of our sins. Although it appears He will be defeated forever, the circle around the lamb's head reminds us that Jesus is eternal and also the eternal life who has authority to lay down His life and victoriously lift it up again.



The Stoles and Altar Paraments

On the left side of the altar is a purification (washing) jug and a bowl for water. On Maundy Thursday, the night of Jesus' betrayal, Jesus stooped down and washed His disciples' feet. As Jesus did for them, so they too as His disciples are called to a life of Christian love and service in the example of their Lord. On the right side of the altar are the bread and wine. This Sacrament of the Lord's Supper Jesus instituted also on the night of His betrayal and at Passover to show that He is the sacrificial Lamb who takes away the sin of the world. His body and blood are truly present in, with and under the wine and unleavened bread for the forgiveness of our sins and the strengthening of our faith.

The stoles have reminders of our Lord's crucifixion. On one you will see the signs of the cross and the burial shroud He would be wrapped in after His death. On the other is a crown and three nails, one for each hand and one for both feet. Oh, the love of our Savior to endure our punishment for sin so that we might have eternal life through faith in Him!