

The Pastor's Robe and Stole

The pastor's clothing teaches an important spiritual lesson.

The **robe**, which is called an alb, is designed to cover the pastor's body and clothing, taking the focus off of the pastor's attire and reminding worshipers that he is a representative of God. The white robe also reminds us of the robe of righteousness that Christ has wrapped around us.

A **stole** is a colored scarf worn over the pastor's robe intended to look like a yoke placed over an animal. The stole is usually worn by those who hold the office of the pastoral ministry, helping to identify him as the called spiritual leader of the congregation. The stole serves its purpose when it reminds both the pastor and the people that he is serving God's people as God's representative yoked to God's Word. The color of the stole is usually the same as the other decorative cloths which change throughout the church year:

Blue in Advent - color of hope and royalty (the King is coming)

Purple in Lent - a color symbolizing mourning and repentance

White for Easter and Christmas - symbolizing purity and joy

Red for Pentecost and a few other festivals - symbolizing the Holy Spirit who came in tongues of fire to spread the Word

Green for Epiphany and the season of Pentecost - symbolizing growth in faith and Christian living