

Advancing towards the Altar

When advancing towards the altar to open or close the Volume of the Sacred Law the proper method is to approach by seven steps giving the Reverential Sign At the 3rd, 5th and 7th steps. When retiring the same applies, seven steps giving the Reverential Sign at the 3rd, 5th and 7th steps.

This method of approaching the V.O.T.S.L. is used by the Principal Sojourner when calling off the chapter from labour to refreshment and calling on a chapter from refreshment to labour. This is to be done in conjunction with the Scribes Ezra and Nehemiah who will approach the pedestal by the same steps to place or remove the veil over the Word before the six lights are lit or extinguished.

The Scribe Ezra at the closing of the chapter, however, proceeds to the West by the South and advances to within 3 steps from the V.O.T.S.L. facing the East, salutes the three Principals with the Reverential Sign, S.E. then approaches the altar and salutes the V.O.T.S.L., presents it to the South, West, North then to the East for acknowledgement, removes the triangle, closes the V.O.T.S.L. and salutes. Note that Scribe Ezra salutes three times.

Whenever a Principal Sojourner or a Scribe Ezra approaches the altar, Companions should assume the Sign of Fidelity. Companions will drop the sign of fidelity as he salutes at the 7th step when retiring from the altar before he returns to his station.

Rt. Ex. Comp. George Fairbairn
Grand Third Principal
June 2019

Ref:

Book of the Work, Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Canada in the Province of Ontario