

# Basic Detail Report

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## Pedestal Bowl containing Orban

**Date**

late 19th century

**Medium**

Alabaster and stamped bread

**Description**

Alabaster bowl with orange to pink veins and scalloped edge containing round cake of Coptic holy bread, known as Orban. The bread is round to signify the sun and righteousness of Jesus Christ while taking Holy Communion. It is pierced with five holes to refer to Christ's wounds on the cross. The stamp bears a motif with a large central cross surrounded by twelve small crosses for

Christ and the Apostles. The large central cross is called "Alasbadikon," and is the piece which the priest puts into the goblet. The priest uses the piece to make the sign of the cross three times during the end of the Divine Liturgy. He places the section back into the goblet until Holy Communion. The stamped inscription around the Orban states the three sanctifications: "Holy God, Holy Mighty, Holy immortal who does not die."

**Dimensions**

Overall: 2 1/4 in. (5.7 cm)