

Worship Ministry

Lectors Guidelines

Lectors are entrusted with a special ministry within the church. Reading passages of scripture before the congregation is an ancient practice in Judaism that was already well established by the time of Jesus. Luke 4:16-20 tells us that Jesus himself functioned as a lector in Nazareth. Through the Lector, the people of God encounter the word of God.

General Instructions

Service schedules for Lectors are issued from the parish office each quarter. Schedules are published in the weekly email update, and on St. Mark's website. If you are unable to serve at a scheduled service, you are responsible for finding a replacement AND for notifying the parish administrator.

Before the Service

1. In the week prior to your assigned Sunday, consult the Lectionary and determine your lesson. Lectionaries:
 - a. Book of Common Prayer p. 889
 - b. <http://satucket.com/lectionary>
 - c. <http://www.lectionarypage.net>
 - d. <http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu>
2. Prayerfully read the lesson in its context i.e.; the preceding verses, the entire chapter, etc.
3. Practice reading the lesson aloud.
4. On Sunday, arrive at least 10 minutes before the service and notify the Verger of your presence.

At the time of the Readings

The First Lesson

1. After the Collect, when the congregation is told to be seated for the readings, proceed from your pew to the alter rail, reverence the altar and proceed to the lectern.
2. Adjust the microphone so it will pick up your voice.
3. Introduce the first reading with the words, "A reading from the book of [name of the book]."
4. If you are going to read from a translation other than the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), you should announce the translation you will be using and explain that it differs from the text that is printed in the bulletin inserts.
5. Read the lesson clearly, projecting to the choir loft.

6. Breath during the reading, using commas and periods to pause for a breath.
7. Be aware of your inflection and pacing. No one complains about slow readings, but it is possible to read too quickly.
8. When you reach the end of the lesson, pause briefly, then conclude with the words, "The Word of the Lord."
9. When the congregation responds, "Thanks be to God", leave the lectern and proceed to the front of the altar.
10. Before going down the steps, turn and honor the altar, then return to your pew.

The Second Lesson

1. After the congregation concludes the Psalm, proceed from your pew to the altar rail, reverence the altar and proceed to the lectern.
2. Adjust the microphone so it will pick up your voice.
3. Introduce the second reading with the words, "A reading from the Epistle of (name)". If there were multiple epistles, then place the number before "epistle". Examples: "A reading from the First Epistle to the Thessalonians" or "A reading from the Third Epistle of John".
4. If you are going to read from a translation other than the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV), you should announce the translation you will be using and explain that it differs from the text that is printed in the bulletin inserts.
5. Read the lesson clearly, projecting to the choir loft.
6. Breath during the reading, using commas and periods to pause for a breath.
7. Be aware of your inflection and pacing. No one complains about slow readings, but it is possible to read too quickly.
8. When you reach the end of the lesson, pause briefly, then conclude with the words, "The Word of the Lord."
9. When the congregation responds, "Thanks be to God", leave the lectern and proceed to the front of the altar.
10. Before going down the steps, turn and honor the altar, then return to your pew.