

SCRIPTURE READER'S (LECTOR'S) CHECKLIST

Prior to the worship service:

- It is recommended to obtain, several days in advance, from the Church office the scripture references for the appointed Sunday and to read through the passages at least once, preferably using the version of the Bible that will be used during the service (typically, the New International Version – NIV).
- In “rehearsing” the readings, there are various aids available to assist in understanding the contents. Reading more than one Bible translation can help, as can “study” Bibles and guides.
- One of the challenges in reading scripture aloud is to find the correct pronunciation of names (both personal and place names). One helpful Internet site is the “Biblical Words Pronunciation Guide”, at <http://netministries.org/bbasics/bbwords.htm>, which includes audible phonetic pronunciation. Other similar sites also exist (these can easily be found using an Internet search engine).
- The Church secretary will normally leave a “large print” version of the texts on the shelf by the photocopier in the secretary’s office. It is recommended that you use these texts, which will be the same as those printed in the bulletin, so that parishioners can follow along.
- It is strongly recommended that the Lay Reader arrive at least 15 minutes prior to the beginning of the service, in order to pick up the ‘large print’ text of the Lessons for the day and also to do a ‘sound check’ with the Sound Team.
- It is also advisable to place a glass of water on the lectern in case you encounter a voice-related problem while reading. (The ushers may already have done this as part of their duties, but best to check.)

The readings:

- The Lay Reader normally reads the first and second Lessons. The Pastor (or worship leader) reads the Gospel.

.../2

- Both the Pastor and the service bulletin will signal at which point the lay readings take place in the service. Check the bulletin to see whether any music will be played between the two Lessons (be alert to this).
- Read in a strong, clear voice, recognizing that the sound system should help project your voice without the need to shout. Take care not to read too quickly, pause where appropriate, and avoid speaking in a monotone.
- We do not use any particular prescribed introductory wording from the liturgy. Suggested wording is as follows:

“The first reading assigned for this Sunday is from”

Likewise, the second reading can be introduced as follows:

“The second reading is from”

- When the two readings are completed, the Reader may simply say:
“This is the Word of the Lord”.
- There is no congregational response required at this point, and the Reader may return to his/her seat. The Gospel (read by the Pastor or worship leader) will follow.