

Lector

“Best Practices”

Theological Notes:

Scripture is meant to be listened to, not merely read. It was written for corporate worship.

Both Jewish and Christian belief is that God’s Word is living and vital, and that God speaks to us through the spoken Word. Remember, God spoke creation into being, and as such works through the spoken word.

In some Christian traditions, it was common for only the priest to read Scripture. It was understood to be part of their priesthood. Luther recovered the concept of the priesthood of all believers, bestowed on all of us in the waters of our baptism.

When you read Scripture in a worship setting, you are exercising your priestly duties among God’s people.

Before Sunday:

- When you receive the lessons from church, first read through the lessons and note the natural pauses in the text.
- Then read the text out loud. Note the flow of the text and try to put in natural pauses. Note the phrases and note the use of commas. Use these as natural pause points.
- Always remember that this is Scripture, and as such should be approached with some solemnity.

On Sunday of the Reading:

- Pray
 - Remember, you are reading Scripture and are a part of the worship team. Ask for God’s spirit to guide you in bringing the Word of God to the People of God gathered in your midst.
- Before worship, confirm that the readings in the Lectionary Book match the bulletin. 95% of the time it is the same, word for word.
- Before worship, if there was a word or two that you have trouble pronouncing, seek out the pastor and ask for clarification. You can also ask myself or Pastor Lee as well if you see us.
- Before the reading, announce the reading
 - Use a formula such as “A Reading from Exodus the 8th chapter”
 - Do not have to announce the verses – it can get confusing if verses are skipped and readings are from several chapters
- The Reading:
 - When reading, do the best you can to bring the Scripture alive with pauses, emphasis, and passion.
 - Read from the Lectionary Book.
 - If the bulletin text does differ, you can bring the bulletin up, but lay it on the Lectionary Book and read. Please don’t hold the bulletin up to read, it muffles your voice and your voice will not carry.
 - Read the text as you practiced, with the natural pauses and emphasis the text
- Conclude the reading with one of these phrases:
 - “The Word of the Lord”
 - “The Word of the God, the Word of Life”
 - The Congregation (many of us) will respond with “Thanks be to God”