

Lector Guidelines

LITURGY is "the work of the people." Worship on the weekend prepares us for our "liturgy" during the week in job, home, and all interactions with others. Good worship draws on the gifts of all the assembled people, and as lectors, your gift helps to equip the people to go out and do "liturgy."

History

The lectionary system (collection of Scripture readings) used by the ELCA is called *The Revised Common Lectionary* (RCL) and was developed by an ecumenical organization called the Consultation on Common Texts. The RCL is divided into 3 annual cycles (beginning on the first Sunday in Advent through the final Sunday, Christ the King) and in each, the gospel readings come primarily from one book: Year A- Matthew; Year B – Mark; Year C – Luke (the gospel of John is used in all 3 years).

The readings are chosen specifically to highlight the unique and saving ministry of Jesus. As a lector, you become an integral part of the liturgy by proclaiming Jesus' ministry to all gathered.

Guidelines (These are *guidelines* only, and are meant to assist you in defining your own degree of comfort and style.)

1. You can find the lessons in the previous week's bulletin, by calling the church office, or on the ELCA website - <http://www.elca.org/worship/default.asp>.
2. Read through the lessons several times during the week to familiarize yourself with the text and to become comfortable with pronunciations (for a phonetic pronunciation of names and places, go to <http://netministries.org/bbasics/bbwords.htm>). (Include the Psalm and Gospel in your reading to gain an understanding of the theme for that Sunday.)
3. Arrive on Sunday morning with enough time to note any changes to the readings or schedule.
4. Gather in the narthex (choir room if no procession) with other worship leaders for prayer right before worship.
5. Go to the lectern to read the 1st lesson. In order to continue the flow of worship, sit in the cantor's chair during the psalm, return to the lectern for the 2nd lesson, and then return to your pew.
6. Begin each reading: *"The 1st (2nd) lesson is from the (3rd) chapter of (Numbers)."*
7. End each reading with, *"Holy wisdom, holy word."*
8. The microphones are set at an average setting and should accommodate all voice types.
9. Read the lessons slowly and clearly in order to enable the congregation to hear your words.
10. Eye contact is an effective enhancement to communicating the message, so use eye contact as much as you are comfortable doing so.

11. Also see document, "*Lector Study and Preparation of Passages.*"

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