

St. James Episcopal Church
Lector Training

Introduction

The Lector is essential to Communion Service worship. The Lector and the Priest present the Word of God to the congregation. Thank you for accepting this call to serve as a Lector at St. James.

Preparation

Know when you are scheduled. Go to www.saintj.com. In the Worship menu, click on [Liturgy](#). Click on the first paragraph to get to the schedule. The direct link is [2021-2022 Saint James Liturgy Planning and Rota.xlsx - Google Sheets](#) You will also get a Serving Reminder e-mail from the St. James Office each week.

Lectors are scheduled for specific weeks of the month. If you are unable to read on the Sunday when you are assigned, send an e-mail to George Siegmann at gsiegm@comcast.net or to lectors@saintj.com to arrange for a substitute. You can also call George Siegmann at 510-792-0684.

The first Lector on the schedule for the Communion Service is responsible for reading the 1st Lesson and reading/directing the reading of the Psalm. The Church Bulletin will inform you as to whether the Psalm will be read or chanted in unison or read responsively.

Direct everyone to read the Psalm together, **in unison**.

Or Direct everyone to read the Psalm **responsively** (this is when they respond after the asterisk. Lector reads the first part of each verse up to the asterisk and congregation reads the second part).

The second Lector will read the 2nd Lesson.

To see the readings for any Sunday, go to the Worship menu. Click on [Liturgy](#). Then click on "Lectionary Page" to see the readings for any Sunday. The direct link is <http://www.lectionarypage.net/>. If there are two Tracks, we are currently using Track 2 during Ordinary Time. It may change during other church seasons (e.g. Advent, Christmas, Lent, etc.) The readings will also be in the St. James Weekly News e-mail that comes out on Thursday.

You will notice in the [Liturgy](#) page there is also a [pronunciation guide](#). If you need help, click on the pronunciation guide and search for the word. It actually says the word for you. When you come across a difficult word when reading in church, read right through it, don't pause or stumble over it. In some cases, there may be more than one pronunciation of the word. In any case, most people won't notice. But do try to practice it when you are practicing your readings during the week. The pronunciation guide is an excellent tool.

When you practice reading, start by reading the Gospel for the Communion Service. The Gospel sets the theme for the week. Also read all the readings to get familiar with the week's liturgy. (You may also have to read the other lesson if your partner is not there.)

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Read your assigned reading and think about it. Make sure you practice a couple of times reading it out loud, maybe even in front of another person. Read with expression but don't be dramatic. It's like you are reading a story to a child.

Before the Communion Service

Most Lectors prefer to read from the Bulletin rather than the Lectionary Book that is on the lectern. The Lectionary and even the Bulletin may look different from what you have been practicing from a screen or a printout.

Before the Communion Service, you should read your reading from the Lectionary Book or the Bulletin.

Also, refer to the Bulletin to see how the Psalm will be read.

During the Communion Service

Whenever you go to the altar to read, use the center aisle.

First Lesson

After the Priest reads the Collect, he/she will say, "Be seated for the Lessons."

At that time the Lector reading the First Lesson will go to the altar. Stop in front of the altar and bow from the waist. Then go to the lectern. Remove your mask to read.

Make sure you speak loud and clear. The microphone will pick it up. There is no need to adjust the microphone's position.

Announce the Lesson as it is written in the Bulletin – "A reading from the Book of ..." or "A reading from the Acts of the Apostles".

Proceed to read the Lesson. At the completion, look at the congregation and say "The Word of the Lord".

Psalm

The Lector who reads the First Lesson also leads the Psalm.

Announce the Psalm – "The Psalm appointed for today is Psalm . . ." You don't have to announce the verses.

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The Psalm may be read or chanted in unison or read by the Lector to the asterisk with the congregation responding after the asterisk. Announce how the Psalm will be read.

“Please join me in reading the Psalm in unison.”

“Please join me in chanting the Psalm”

“Please respond by reading responsively, breaking at the asterisk.”

Read the Psalm

Put your mask on.

Walk to the front of the altar, bow from the waist and return to your seat using the center aisle.

Second Lesson

The Lector reading the Second Lesson will go to the altar. Stop in front of the altar and bow from the waist. Then go to the lectern. Remove your mask to read.

Make sure you speak loud and clear. The microphone will pick it up. There is no need to adjust the microphone’s position.

Announce the Lesson – “A reading from the Letter of St. . . . to the . . .” e.g. “A reading from the Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians.”

Read the Second Lesson.

At the completion, look at the congregation and say “The Word of the Lord.”
Stay in place until the congregation responds, “Thanks be to God.”

Put your mask on.

Walk to the front of the altar, bow from the waist and return to your seat using the center aisle.

Conclusion

Thank you again for serving at St. James.