

# INSTRUCTIONS FOR READERS

## Logistics

- Please arrive 15 minutes before the service – this gives you time to make sure the Lectionary book is set for you.
- Keep to the forms given in the Lectionary Book ( “A reading from the prophet Isaiah,” etc.) After each reading, keep a short silence, a few seconds, then say, “the Word of the Lord.” Please, no extra commentary.
- The psalm is not a lesson. It is a responsive hymn. When we use a psalm, *most of the time*, it will be said in unison. Introduce it by saying: “Let us say together, in unison, Psalm 72.”
- The Church secretary will send you the readings by Friday of the week you are to read. If you do not receive them, you can go to The Lectionary Page and find the date and look them over. Occasionally, we move a feast day or utilize different readings, but this is rare. Depending on the Sunday, you may read as little as one reading and as much as two readings and lead the psalm. The website for lectionary readings is: [www.lectionarypage.net](http://www.lectionarypage.net)
- Pronunciation resource online: <http://netministries.org/Bbasics/bwords.htm>

*What follows is a set of notes from a workshop for readers conducted by Sandy Zulauf. Please read over and take to heart!*

1. You are Readers – an important part of the service.  
You are bringing the Word to the people of God.  
You are Readers because you like to read aloud and want to serve God and God’s people.  
You also want to read as well as you can.
2. **Four P’s** (your ABC’s)
  - a. **PROJECTION** – You must be heard all the way to the last person in the last row. Don’t mumble. Be confident and sure.
  - b. **PRECISION**
    1. You want to read the words as they are written – all of them, not missing any or adding any.
    2. You want to make eye contact with your audience – you are not a robot. They could easily read this for themselves.
    3. Use your fingers at the lectern to keep your place in the text.
    4. Read slowly and clearly. This is not a race. Read as if you are reading this to God. Because you are.
    5. Everybody in the congregation wants you to succeed. They don’t want to feel sorry for you. You don’t want their pity.
    6. If you do this right, you will probably not hear a word from anybody except me. And that’s the way it should be. You are presenting the **AWESOME WISDOM OF THE AGES, AND THE CORRECT RESPONSE** would be that your listeners have absorbed what they have heard and have understood.
    7. You are the beginning of the service – you set the tone for the entire worship service. So, you want to be **PRECISE. EVERYBODY WANTS YOU TO SUCCEED.**

**c. PRONUNCIATION**

1. Go over the text the day before your reading. The Revised Common Lectionary is online (see above for link). Forward Day By Day also has the lessons for the day (go to your Sunday and look at the bottom of the page).

THREE PARTS: OT - PSALM - EPISTLE

PRIEST or DEACON: THE HOLY GOSPEL

2. Make sure you KNOW how to pronounce every word.

Voice sounds –

Accents –

I have given pronunciation guides to Readers about 4 or 5 years ago.

Ironically, I can't find my own now, and I've been looking for them all week. You can ask me before service.

- Names of the books of the Bible
- Names of the people and places in the Bible
- Difficult words

These three things are problems.

Dictionary

Guide

Internet

**d. PRACTICE - PRACTICE - PRACTICE**

- So, Review:
1. What is your job?
  2. What are the Four P's?
  3. Quiz