
ST. MONICA'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH, NAPLES, FL CUSTOMARY FOR LECTORS

Revised: February 8, 2020

Scheduling

Please review the quarterly schedule and arrive in time to prepare yourself for worship. Please arrive at least 10 minutes before the service, proceed to the lectern and verify the readings in the bulletin and those marked in the book match.

Finding a substitute

If you are unable to serve when scheduled, please contact your Lector (Lay Reader) Team Leader who will assist you in finding your replacement. Remember, it is your responsibility to contact your replacement and arrange the schedule change. Please notify the office afterward.

Come prepared

Please read your lesson(s) ahead of time. Consider practicing reading it aloud several times. If possible, read in your Bible a little of what comes just before and just after your reading: it will give you the context of the reading.

Pronunciation. Some of the readings have difficult words to pronounce. Today, with the Internet, it is easier than ever to find out how to pronounce names properly. <http://biblespeak.org> is a great resource that will provide you with the proper pronunciation.

The Ambo (Lectern)

- The Lectionary Book on the Ambo has all the readings for the particular day. The book will be marked by the altar guild prior to the service. Remember, you don't have to bring papers with you when you read, but please verify the readings marked match the bulletin before the service.
- When you are at the lectern to read, please adjust the microphone for your particular height: 1) avoid tapping on the lectern, and 2) make sure that the microphone is pointed directly at your mouth, but not too close – too close and your breath will sound explosive. Take a deep breath and project your voice. Speak loudly enough that you can hear your voice bounce back to you from the far wall. Breathe from the abdomen, not from the chest. You draw in a lot more air that way and will speak more strongly and with more confidence.

Reading the lessons.

- Please approach the lectern during the Collect of the Day. (The Prayer right after "The Lord be with You")
- **NOTE: Please do not add an additional greetings before you read, such as "good morning."**
- Begin your reading by identifying the genre of the pericope.
 - If it is a prophetic book, say "A reading from the Book of the prophet Malachi, Isaiah, etc."
 - If it is another book of the Old Testament, say "A reading from the book of (Genesis/Exodus/etc.)"
 - If it is a letter, say "A reading from the (first or Second) Letter of _____ (Paul/Peter/etc) to the (Philippians/Galatians/etc.)"
 - If it is from Acts, say, "A reading from the Acts of the Apostles."
 - If it is from the Revelation of John, say "A reading from the Revelation to John"

- Read the lesson at a moderate pace. Read clearly and annunciate.
- After reading the lesson, pause 2 seconds then say, "The Word of the Lord."
- Conclude the Old Testament (Acts during Easter) and the Epistle with the phrase, "The Word of the Lord." Please do not say, "This is the Word of the Lord."

Leading the Psalm

- The 5:00 pm, 9:30 am, and 11:15 services normally chant the Psalm with choir and organ accompaniment. Do not announce the Psalm.
- Please be seated if you like during the Psalm.

NOTE: According to page 582 of the Book of Common Prayer, there are only four methods for reading the psalms:

1. **Direct recitation** denotes the reading or chanting of a whole psalm, or portion of a psalm, in unison. It is particularly appropriate for the psalm verses suggested in the lectionary for use between the Lessons at the Eucharist, when the verses are recited rather than sung, and may often be found a satisfactory method of chanting them. (Used currently at St. Monica's)
2. **Antiphonal recitation** is the verse-by-verse alternation between groups of singers or readers; e.g., between choir and congregation, or between one side of the congregation and the other. The alternate recitation concludes either with the Gloria Patri, or with a refrain (called the antiphon) recited in unison. This is probably the most satisfying method for reciting the psalms in the Daily Office. (Used currently at St. Davids)
3. **Responsorial recitation** is the name given to a method of psalmody in which the verses of a psalm are sung by a solo voice, with the choir and congregation singing a refrain after each verse or group of verses. This was the traditional method of singing the Venite, and the restoration of Invitatory Antiphons for the Venite makes possible a recovery of this form of sacred song in the Daily Office. It was also a traditional manner of chanting the psalms between the Lessons at the Eucharist, and modern composers increasingly favor it. (Something we may try someday)
4. **Responsive recitation** is the method, which has been most frequently used in Episcopal churches, the minister alternating with the congregation, verse by verse. (Currently used at St. Monica's)

**** Please note "Responsive Recitation by HALF VERSE," "Responsive Recitation by Male/Female voices" both have been used in many parishes. However, these methods are not listed an option in the Book of Common Prayer for reading the Psalms.**

If the Psalm is not chanted, please introduce the Psalm, by saying "The Psalm for today is Psalm ___ (verses ___ to ___), found in your bulletin."

Then continue with either:

- "Let us read it in unison."
- "Let us read it responsively by whole verse, I will read the odd verses, the congregation, the even."
- "Let us read it responsively by whole verse, (point) this side will say the odd verses, (point) this side will say the even verses."

Leading the Prayers of the People:

- Talk with the clergy before the service. Ask for any special instructions.
- Please **Pray** the prayers, don't just read them. Take your time as you read.
- Insure that you name (where appropriate) the clergy. Say, "Michael, Our Presiding Bishop," "Dabney, Our Bishop," "Eric, Our Rector" and all lay leaders of St. Monica's. Also, please name where appropriate, " _____, Our President," and/or " _____, Our Governor."
- Feel free to insert intercessions and thanksgivings from the Prayer List and from things happening in the world (disasters, celebrations, etc.) into the prayers at appropriate places.

Miscellaneous.

If you make a mistake in your reading, don't panic and please don't apologize. Just go back to the start of the place where you made the mistake and say it again - correctly. And continue on. You are ministering so that God's word will resonate in the hearts of the hearers.

Please:

- Read clearly and simply, and read from the heart.
- Take your time.
- Allow pauses.
- Be dramatic. Don't worry about being *too* dramatic in your reading: it's very hard to do.
- Take your time.
- Read in order that God's people will understand.

Your purpose in reading is not just to get to the end of the passage: the purpose is to help the congregation come into a new and deeper relationship with God. Do it well.

Most Important

When you read God's word in public, you are serving in a very important ministry. God is actively working through your gifts, through your voice, to bring about a proclamation of Scripture. Above all, enjoy your time reading. Embrace the joy and satisfaction of knowing that you are lifting your voice to bring praise and worship to Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

NOTE: As we lead worship together, we need to remember that all we do is for God's glory and we seek not **perfection** in the dance of liturgy, but we are called to always offer the best we have offer to God.

RECORDING NOTICE: At St. Monica's, in an effort to reach out to others and to provide another evangelism tool, we are recording, and may place on our website, the 9:30 a.m. Sunday worship and other special services such as: Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, etc. Liturgy participants are consenting to the capture of their voice and image and the broadcast of their participation in worship services through livestreaming and video.