

PIEDMONT EPISCOPAL CHURCH
Madison, Virginia

GUIDELINES FOR LECTORS

It is our tradition at *Piedmont* to have two lectors at each service, one to read the Lessons, and another to lead the congregation in certain prayers. At the service of Holy Eucharist the second lector leads the Prayers of the People, and at the service of Morning Prayer, the intercessions and Thanksgivings. At times, a lector may be asked to lead the congregation in reciting the Psalm, or other prayers used in the service. At Holy Eucharist, the priest reads the Gospel with the congregation standing. At Morning Prayer the lector reads all three lessons.

The Lector Coordinator will provide each lector with an assignment sheet in advance of the service, indicating the readings or prayers to be said. He or she will also provide the lector with a copy of the Lessons that will be included in the Sunday Bulletin.

Prior to beginning reading, the lector should review the Sunday Bulletin to verify the sequence of the service. For Holy Eucharist, the *First Lesson* follows the Collect for the Day. This is followed by the Psalm, then the *second Lesson*, the Sequence Hymn, the Gospel, the Sermon, the Nicene Creed, and the *Prayers of the People*.

At Morning Prayer, the Psalm follows the Venite (page 82, the Book of Common Prayer). The Psalm is followed by the *First Lesson*, then a Canticle, the *Second Lesson*, another Canticle, and the *Gospel*, followed by the Sermon Hymn. *Intercessions and Thanksgivings* come immediately after the hymn that follows one of the prayers for mission on page 100-01 of the Prayer Book. The second lector leads the *Intercessions and Thanksgivings* assisted by 2 or more parishioners.

SCRIPTURE READING

The lector introduces each lesson with the words -A reading from -. and ends with, "The Word of the Lord", to which the Congregation responds "Thanks be to God". Upon completion of each lesson, the lector announces the Psalm, Hymn, or Canticle that follows. The music for the Canticle is contained in a leaflet in the Bulletin or in the Hymnal. For those who have difficulty reading music, it is recommended that the page number of the Canticle in the Prayer Book be announced as well as its number in the Hymnal. Occasionally a Hymn is substituted for the Psalm or Canticle. In rare occasions when there is no music, the lector leads the congregation in reciting the Psalm, in unison, or responding by verse or half verse, at his or her discretion. If the Psalm is not contained in the leaflet, the lector should announce its number in the Prayer Book. Psalms begin on page 585. Canticles used in Rite H Morning Prayer begin on page 85.

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PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Prayers of the People provide members of the congregation an opportunity to participate in the worship by personal petitions to God. The lector, therefore *lead*.~ rather than just reads.

There are six "Forms" beginning on page 383 of the Book of Common Prayer. Normally, they are assigned sequentially (i.e. Form I at the first Holy Eucharist Sunday, Form lithe next, etc.); however they occasionally get out of sequence. For this reason, the lector should verify that the Form assigned agrees with that listed in the Bulletin before the service begins.

INTERCESSIONS AND THANKSGIVINGS

Intercessions and Thanksgivings conclude the Service of Morning Prayer, coming before the Offertory and final blessing. It is the time when members of the congregation can ask God for help or comfort for a personal problem or someone in need. It is similar to the Prayers of the People at Holy Eucharist, but much less structured. It consists of an opening prayer, followed by other prayers, intercessions, or thanksgivings, separated by periods of silence, during which the congregation adds their own intercessions, either silently or aloud. A lector opens with a prayer and asks 2 or 3 other parishioners to assist by including prayers for the Church, the persons or things listed in the Sunday Bulletin, and/or other appropriate prayers. Either the lector or the Rector concludes with a closing prayer.

It is wise for the lector to read his or her assignment in advance, to make sure that he or she understands it, and can pronounce the words or names. A pronunciation guide is located on the lectern, but names can usually be sounded out phonetically. For the hearing impaired, it is suggested that the Lesson be read from the leaflet, however if the lector has a strong preference for another translation, he or she may use that instead. For all readings it is important that it be read slowly and distinctly, and loud enough so that it can be heard clearly in the back pew. It is important that lectors assigned to lead prayers consult with the Rector prior to the service to see if anything should be added or changed. All members of the congregation should be given ample opportunity to pray aloud during periods of silence, and the lector needs to allow ample time.

More detailed guidance is included in the assignment sheet each lector receives. An example follows:

VENITE, PAGE 82 OF PRAYER BOOK

THE PSALM 146

FIRST LESSON – FIRST KINGS 17:8-16

A READING FROM FIRST KINGS

READ LESSON OUTLINE

“A READING FROM FIRST KINGS”

READ THE FIRST LESSON

“THE WORD OF THE LORD”

RESPONSE: THANKS BE TO GOD

WE WILL NOW SING CANTICLE - _____ ON PAGE _____

SECOND LESSON – HEBREWS 9:24-28

A READING FROM HEBREWS

READ LESSON OUTLINE

“A READING FROM HEBREWS”

READ THE SECOND LESSON

“THE WORD OF THE LORD”

RESPONSE: THANKS BE TO GOD

WE WILL NOW SING CANTICLE - _____ ON PAGE _____

GOSPEL – MARK 12:38-44

“THE GOSPEL FROM MARK”

READ THE GOSPEL

"THE WORD OF THE LORD"

RESPONSE: THANKS BE TO GOD

WE WILL NOW SING HYMN -