

Customary for Emmanuel Episcopal Church

Liturgical Ministries

Lectors

The reading of Scripture in worship is a ministry of speaking the lessons in a way that allows the assembled congregation to hear together the lessons for the day.¹

Description

The Lector reads the lections (lessons) from the Old Testament and/or the New Testament at weekly and/or special liturgies. The Lector is responsible for reading the Word of God at public worship in such a way that the people can hear and comprehend each passage of Scripture, in preparation for the Gospel and the sermon to follow.

General Instructions

1. Service schedules for Lectors are issued from the parish office each quarter. Schedules are published in the monthly *Messenger*, the weekly e-mail update, and on Emmanuel's website (www.emmanuelbristol.org).
2. If you who are unable to serve at a scheduled service, you are responsible for finding a replacement AND for notifying the parish office as soon as possible.
3. If in addition to being the Lector, you also happen to be scheduled as a Eucharistic Minister, follow the guidance provided in the Customary chapter for Lay Eucharistic Ministers. Notice that special instructions are provided near the end of the chapter for lay leaders serving dual roles.

Preparation for Worship

1. Lections are distributed to scheduled lectors from the parish office several days before the service. Read and become familiar with each Lesson prior to the worship service.
2. Arrive at least ten minutes before the service begins and select your seat. It is preferable that you sit near the front of the nave. It is also helpful if you make your presence as the day's lector known to the rector or to another lay minister prior to the service.

Responsibilities for Assisting in Worship

1. At the time for the Lessons, walk from your seat in the nave to the lectern. Facing the congregation, speak into the microphone and introduce the Lesson with the words: "A reading (lesson) from _____." Then read the first lesson from the lectern Bible or from the order of service.
2. You may end the lesson with the words, "*Here ends the reading (epistle)*" or you may conclude the reading with the words, "*The Word of the Lord*" to which the congregation responds, "*Thanks be to God.*"
3. Invite the congregation to stand for the Psalm appointed for the day. Unless it is indicated that the Psalm is to be sung, lead the congregation in a responsive reading of the Psalm.
4. Following the Psalm, Invite the congregation to sit for the reading of the second Lesson. Introduce the Lesson with the words: "A reading (lesson) from _____." Then read the second lesson from the lectern Bible or from the order of service.
5. You may end the lesson with the words, "*Here ends the reading (epistle)*" or you may conclude the reading with the words, "*The Word of the Lord*" to which the congregation responds, "*Thanks be to God.*"
6. Return to your seat at the conclusion of the readings.

References:

¹ The Christian Formation Committee of the Diocesan Commission on Ministry, *Liturgical Ministries Profiles: A Customary for the Diocese of Vermont* (2006)

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