

'You are a voice, an instrument in the service of God'

- + What happens to us when we hear the Word of God?
- + Preparation for reading Scripture or Prayers of the People
 - Pray for guidance of the Holy Spirit and for those who will hear the Word of God as you read it
 - Practice (consult Pronunciation book, if necessary) by reading aloud at home. This will enable you to note the rhythm of the lesson and will allow you to read with appropriate emphasis.
 - Study the text and learn about the context of it so that you read it appropriately. We will be sending a brief overview of the scripture passage to you along with your reading(s). There are more commentaries in the Church Library or you may contact a priest for further information. The reading must make sense to you if it is to make sense to your hearers.
- + Mechanics
 - Be aware of your footwear and dress...☺ You want people's attention to be directed toward the Scripture, not you.
 - Adjust the microphone to your height. Speak normally. Read slowly and clearly. (Remember that many parishioners experience hearing loss.)
 - To introduce the Lesson, say, for example 'A Reading from the Book of Jeremiah.' (Consult your handout).
 - Check to see if the passage needs a clarifying 'lead in.' An example of this is from First Kings 19: 9-18. The opening sentence begins this way: "And there he came to a cave, and lodged there..." The lead in would read: "On Horeb, the mount of God, Elijah came to a cave and lodged there..."
 - Pause at the end of the reading before saying, 'Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.'
 - When assigned as a Reader, consider sitting on the side of the lectern itself. The First Reader will read the first lesson and then lead the Psalm (if it is said). The Psalm can be varied in its reading. It may be read in unison. The Psalm may also be read responsively by verse (with the Reader and congregation) or alternating sides of the congregation by verse (antiphonal reading). Make sure you announce this clearly to the congregation. Example: "Let us read Psalm 100 responsively by whole verse."
 - The Second Reader should come forward before the Psalm is finished. Move quietly to the lectern or aisle.
 - The Prayers of the People are to be read from the center aisle microphone (or lectern, if done by a Choir member). Please travel to the microphone either before the Nicene Creed or toward the end of the Creed. Be ready with the Prayers immediately after the end of the Creed. The microphone is voice-activated. Make sure that you are directly in front of the microphone and use a louder voice than normal when speaking into this microphone. The Prayers are read from the congregation, on its behalf. It is very important that your voice be audible to everyone present. When you reach

the point in the prayers in which parishioners can add their own petitions, please read what is written in the bulletin and then wait until you hear no more prayers being offered. After the Prayers, pause before continuing with the Confession of Sin.

- * Remember to WAIT for the Verger on the Sundays in which the Verger is present. The Verger will lead you to the lectern or the aisle microphone.**
- Don Phipps does the scheduling for our various ministries. He has mastered a schedule which allows all lectors to have an equal opportunity to read. The assignments are mailed to you quarterly, with the reading enclosed. If you cannot read on an assigned Sunday, check the list of lectors and call exchange a Sunday. Then, call Kathy Sulock at 448-8276 and give her the updated information. If an emergency occurs and you can't call, leave a message at 448-8276 and someone will step forward to take your place.**

Thank you for sharing in this vital ministry. You truly are God's Voice.

Hannah Anderson and Bill Frazier