

Lector's Guide
St. James Episcopal Church
Louisa, VA

- Lectors do not vest and usually come up from the congregation to the lectern to read. The exception is when the Lector is also functioning as an acolyte, L.E.M., or member of the choir.
- Reading the Lessons occurs after opening prayers and the Gloria (if used); the officiant will ask the congregation to be seated for the reading of the lessons. (One Lector is generally used at our church.)
- The Lector then moves from their place in the congregation toward the chancel, reverences the altar, and moves to the lectern.
- The Lector reads the Old Testament lesson and the appointed Psalm, and then reads the Epistle or New Testament lesson and, if at the 10:00 a.m. service, announces the Sequence hymn.
- The Lector will move down, reverence the altar and then proceed to return to their seat within the congregation.

Preparation before the service

- Pre-read the passage aloud to find the pace, rhythm and voice inflections most appropriate for the passage. Check pronunciations of difficult words with a Bible dictionary. If you don't know how to pronounce something, simply give it your best guess and read confidently! No one else will know either.
- The church office will email readings to readers who are scheduled for a particular Sunday. They are from the NRSV translation.
- The readings can also be found in the bulletin when you arrive, and a large print version will be available on the lectern.

Reading at the service

- Introduce the lesson using words such as the following:
 - A reading from First Thessalonians, Chapter 3, verses 9 through 13
 - Or, A reading from the first letter of Paul to the Thessalonians.
- At the end of the reading, *pause* before ending with the proclamation: THE WORD OF THE LORD. The congregation responds, —THANKS BE TO GOD.
- **There are three ways to read the psalms along with the congregation. (Read in unison, responsively by whole verse, and responsively by half verse.)**
 - “The psalm appointed for today is Psalm 25, verses 1 through 9. Let us read it together responsively by half verse (by whole verse) (in unison).”
 - When reading in unison, be sure to set a pace that is slower than you would normally read, as if you were reading out loud.
 - If reading responsively, the Lector begins reading and will either pause at the end of the verse if reading by whole verse or pause at the asterisk (*) if reading by half verse.
 - Set a calm reading pace so that the congregation does not rush.
- After the psalm, read the second reading.
- Wait for the congregation to finish before stepping down after the last reading.
- At the 10 a.m. service, announce the sequence hymn before stepping down and returning to your seat.