

Lectors or Ministers of the Word

reminders, prayer and resources

Prior to Mass:

1. Please arrive 10-15 minutes before liturgy, sign into **Book of Ministries** to let the sacristan know you are here.
2. Check the lectionary and the readings at the ambo. They ought to be the same as the practice sheets.
3. Make sure that the Gospel book is near the baptismal font for the 1st lector to carry during the procession. (*The Sacristan places it by the font.*)

The Procession:

1. The Entrance Procession: 1st lector (with the Gospel Book slightly elevated) followed by the Presider. When there are Altar servers, the Processional Cross and candles will precede the first reader.
2. The presider will signal when the procession will begin. Each person briefly pauses to reverence the altar.
3. Move behind the altar and place the Gospel Book on the altar. Return to your seat.

During Liturgy:

1. At the end of the Opening Prayer, the 1st lector waits until the Presider sits down. (If there is Children's Liturgy of the Word wait for the children to leave.) As you walk to the ambo briefly pause to reverence the altar with a bow. When you are at the ambo, adjust the microphone. Make eye contact with the assembly.
2. In a clear, loud, slow voice announce: "A reading from . . ." At the end of the reading, briefly pause and say "The Word of the Lord." Wait for the community's response and then take a step back from the Ambo and pause for a moment of silent prayer. Return to your seat.
3. The Responsorial Psalm is lead by the choir.
4. After the Responsorial Psalm the 2nd lector moves to the ambo. When you are at the ambo, adjust the microphone, make eye contact with the assembly, and in a clear, loud, slow voice announce: "A reading from . . ." At the end of the reading, briefly pause and say "The Word of the Lord." Wait for the community's response and then take a step back from Ambo and pause for a moment of silent prayer, close the lectionary, remove it from the ambo, bring it to the credence table (side table), and place it on the lower shelf. Return to your seat.

These directions are also on the lector's practice sheet.

A Prayer for Lectors

Yours is a share in the work of the Lord's Spirit
Who opens our hearts to God's holy word.

Yours is the task of our family story,
The story of salvation,
You are a messenger of God's love for us.

Yours is nothing less
Than the ministry of the Lord's voice
Calling out in the midst of God's people.

Prepare the Word, which is yours to speak:
Study the scripture,
Understand the passage,
Let it dwell deep within you.

Yours is to offer the story of the
"Great things the Lord has done for us,"
That we might turn to the table of Eucharist
With good cause to give thanks and praise.

Let your voice echo the sound of the word.
With conviction, with gentleness,
With strength, and with wonder,
For through it the Lord saves his people.

From *Yours Is a Share* by Austin Fleming
The Pastoral Press, Washington, D.C.

Resources for Preparing:

1. Every Fall Lectors can order the **Workbook for Lector, Gospel Readers, and Proclaimers of the Word** — from CTK. The gives Sunday and holy day readings for Cycle A, B, or C beginning with Advent and ending with the Feast of Christ the King. A commentary accompanies every reading, presenting background information. Margin notes are also provided for each reading, pointing out difficult pronunciations and natural divisions within the text.
2. Listen and/or read Sunday and daily scriptures your computer. Go to the Christ the King webpage: ctkmsla.org, click the link for Scripture readings. When you are connected with the United States Conference of Catholic Bishop (USCCB), click NAB Podcast. Click on the month, day and date of the reading you want to read. You can also listen to all the scripture read too!
3. We are also inviting you to get together with the lectors for that weekend to prayerfully prepare for the Sunday liturgy.