

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Reader Information and Instructions

The public reading of the Holy Scriptures is an indispensable part of worship, constituting the basis for the public proclamation of the Gospel... All the baptized share responsibility for the proclamation of the Word and the formation of the Christian assembly.

"The Use of the Means of Grace"

The reader proclaims the Word of God to the congregation during Sunday worship by preparing and reading the assigned scriptures.

Before Worship

Preparation is a key to success as a reader. Begin with prayerful reading/study of the assigned scripture readings. Then practice the readings aloud while standing. Pay attention to pacing (it should feel too slow), volume (it should feel too loud), and diction (it should feel over-pronounced). If you are at all uncomfortable with public speaking, work with a friend or loved one who will give you honest feedback. And Cantor David would be delighted to practice with you in person, or provide more tips.

The church office will email you the readings the week before you are scheduled. You may also get the readings at lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu, or in the tables in the front of the hymnal.

During Worship

There is a step behind the pulpit that can be raised or lowered. Once you are comfortable with the height, be sure the microphone is pointed at your mouth before you begin reading.

The readings may be introduced by saying “The 1st/2nd reading comes from book, the # chapter.” Or, simply begin with the introduction in the pulpit lectionary book (“A reading from book”).

At the end of the reading, pause, then say “The Word of the Lord,” to which the congregation will respond “Thanks be to God.” This is printed in the pulpit lectionary book.

The psalm is introduced by directing the congregation to the appropriate page in the worship bulletin. The psalms are printed at the back of the bulletin, according to date, along with the method of recitation. For example: “The psalm is found on page 14 of the worship bulletin. The congregation will sing the refrain.”