



St. Paul's Episcopal Church

2117 Walnut Street, Bellingham, Washington 98225

Telephone: (360) 733-2890 Fax: (360) 738-8558

E-Mail: office@stpaulsbellingham.org

Web: www.stpaulsbellingham.org

Lector Responsibilities

Before the service

- **Check the rota to determine date and duty you are assigned.**
- Access the readings for the week (<http://www.lectionarypage.net/>) and rehearse your reading. Refer to the document “Books of the Bible – Lector Handout” to learn how to introduce your passage. A pronunciation guide to difficult-to-pronounce biblical words is available in the vesting room.
- Arrive early and sign in on the white board in the clergy vesting room.
- Please double-check that the lectionary book is set up accurately ahead of time. Double-check the reading in the service leaflet, in case of accidental miscommunication.

During the 10:30 service

- First lector: Sit behind the rood screen on the epistle side, even if you are processing with the altar party or choir. When the Collect is finished, step into the lectern. Give people a chance to settle into their seats before introducing the reading.
- If the psalm is being spoken by the congregation, it is to be led by the second lector.
 - Introduction form: “Today’s psalm is number 126, found on page 2 of your service leaflet.” When the psalm is printed in the service leaflet, there is no need to announce a page number in the Book of Common Prayer.
 - When the psalm is not printed, please use this form: “Today’s psalm is number 126, found on page 782 of the red Book of Common Prayer.” Wait until most people have found the page, then continue.
 - If the psalm is relatively short, invite unison reading: “We will read it in unison.” If the psalm is longer, invite responsive reading: “We will read it responsively.” Pause, then read the first verse. Never break at the asterisk; our standard practice here is to break at the verse.
 - While it is customary in the Daily Office to close the psalm with the Doxology (“Glory to the Father, and to the Son ...”), this is not necessary during a celebration of Holy Eucharist. Our practice is simply to finish the psalm and then go on to the second reading.
- Second lector: If the psalm is sung and you are vested, sit in the second chair on the epistle side, and do not approach the lectern until the music is finished. If you are coming from the congregation, please approach the gate towards the end of the psalm, but do not enter until the music is finished.
- Both lectors: Pause after your reading, then conclude with, “The word of the Lord.”
- Return to your seat promptly by the way you came. If you intend to sit in the congregation, exit by way of the side door.