

INFORMATION FOR LECTORS
(Revised April 15, 2011 - Jay Hansen)

New Lectors

If you haven't done so in the past, please make an appointment with Fr. Joe Dirbas. He wants to have each new lector read in the church just to get you used to checking and using the microphone for making your voice be heard well enough in the back. The wood, carpeting and seat cushions significantly absorb sound. Then when the congregation is present, especially when people wear heavier clothing, it takes more effort to be heard in the back. Check the podium sometime after a service to check for how and where to switch it on, in case it is not on when you start to read.

The Lector Website

At the end is a sample of what the lector website at www.stpetersdelmar.net/content.cfm?id=314 looks like. Using it is fairly intuitive. A bit more information is written under the image at the end.

Lector Email and Phone List

I send a list of lector names, phone numbers and email addresses to all lectors each year with the December schedule, just before the new liturgical year begins. I also send a copy to each new lector. I do not post this on the website to avoid spammers who harvest email addresses and other contact information. I have switched to listing the email addresses of the office staff in the format JDirbas(at)StPetersDelmar(dot)net on the posted lector schedule.

Scheduling Lectors and Finding Substitutes

I send an email around the beginning of odd-numbered months to ask you for dates when you will not be available to read during the next two-month period. My name, phone number, and email address appear on my emails. Being a lector is a personal responsibility of the laity, so if you later find that you are scheduled on a day you cannot be present, please find a substitute. Also please call or email the church office (858-755-1616) so they can change the bulletin, and call or email your substitute to remind him or her. I suggest that you make a group email list, or "distribution list" as Microsoft Outlook refers to it, for the service you attend. When I email all lectors, I typically list all the 7:45 lectors first, the 9:00 lectors second and 11:00 lectors third. You can use those for creating your own group email list.

All the lessons are now posted on the website, so they are available there anytime. I email a two-month schedule and post it on the lector website in the second half of odd-numbered months, and the schedule begins with each even-numbered month. I plan to have about 8 to 12 weeks of lessons on the website. For lectors who do not have a computer or access to the Internet, I can make arrangements to get you a hard copy. If you don't get a schedule by the week before the first Sunday in even-numbered months, something is wrong, and you need to contact me. I send a schedule, even if you are not scheduled during a given two-month period. Please look at each

schedule immediately and mark your calendar for when it is your turn to read. Also check the bulletin before the service to see if your name appears as a lector. Sometimes the assigned lectors are present, but they've forgotten that it is their turn to read. I know, because I've just plain forgotten or misread the schedule myself.

Where to Stand

The lectern should be located (or moved) slightly to the left side of the center aisle as you face the congregation, or right as you face the altar. It might have been moved out of the way for the choir to enter. If so, the first lector should move it close enough in the direction of the altar to be visible from both transepts. You may read all the lessons and prayers from this location. There is a light on the lectern that you can turn on to light the text. For those reading the Prayers of the People, check the lectern before the service to be sure the copy of the prayers is there. You can even take it to your seat to review it and the names on it before you lead the prayers. There is usually a different copy for the 7:45 a.m., 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. services, and each is identified by service time.

Tips on Reading and Covering for My Blunders

1. **Be sure you have the correct lesson before reading.** Compare it with the lesson in the bulletin. (Rarely there have been times that the lessons for the wrong Sunday sneaked into the bulletin.) If they don't match, look at the hymn board for the Sunday in the liturgical year to see if the Sunday on the hymn board compares with the bulletin or the lesson you printed. The lessons have a pronunciation guide in them. However, you can use this website to hear most words pronounced: <http://netministries.org/bbasics/bbasics.html>. Just be sure you have the volume turned up on your computer. There is what I believe is a better pronunciation guide at <http://betterdaysarecoming.com/bible/pronunciation.html>, but there is no audio pronunciation.
2. Raise your voice so those in the rear and the transepts can hear. It is difficult to be too loud. At those times when the number of people or the quantity of heavy clothing is significant, your voice will be muted even more.
3. Read slowly at a deliberate, but not tedious, pace.
4. Practice each lesson by reading out loud at home. Mark your copy to plan your phrasing.
5. Emphasize your consonants, especially final hard consonants like “d” and “t.” Unless you do so, words like “Lord” sound like “lore,” “that” like “tha,” and so on.
6. Avoid a monotone, but do not be overly dramatic. Emphasize key words (usually verbs) by prolonging the vowels, not by increasing intensity.
7. The printed lessons should contain pronunciations of uncommon proper nouns and other unusual Biblical words where they first appear in the lesson. I added these using Bible dictionaries and the websites listed in item #1 above and under “Pronunciation Guides” on page 7. However, pronunciation conventions vary from one source to another. If you feel

uncomfortable about a particular pronunciation, check the websites above and in the pronunciation guides, a Bible dictionary in the Church library, the rear sections of some Bibles, or ask the clergy. Whatever you pronunciation you use, be consistent throughout. If you don't know, say it as if you know the proper pronunciation, and most people will not know the difference. The Harper's pronunciation convention is attached.

The Lector's Lessons and Errors You May Find

I have the texts we use stored on a computer. They are repeated in 3-year cycles for Years A, B and C. (Year A begins with Advent, the last Sunday in November or first Sunday in December, of years evenly divisible by 3.) Many high holy days and special holy days use the same text in all three years. All the texts changed to the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV) from the original Revised Standard Version (RSV) as of Advent in Year C (December, 1991). As of Advent in Year C in 2009, St. Peter's changed to using the Revised Common Lectionary ("RCL") which is used by many denominations. We have been modifying our printed texts to match the new Lectionary, and that means errors will crop in, at least during the first 3-year cycle.

The heading of each lesson on the website something like the following:

Proper 16 (Sunday closest to 8/24) – Lesson 1 – Year A (Alt 1) RCL (2 Pages)

----A----- -----B----- ----C---- ---D--- ---E--- -F- ----G----

Part A identifies the season of the liturgical year, specifically Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Pentecost. The lessons in the Season of Pentecost are identified as "Proper ##" for a Sunday that is closest to a particular date as shown in the part B parenthetical. Part C identifies the first or second lesson, but the readings on the website also include the Collect, the Psalm, and the Gospel for the day. Part D shows the liturgical year in which lessons belong. Some holy days, like Christmas, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, etc. have the same lessons each year, and those appear as "Year ABC" in Part D.

Part E shows where there may be more than one set of lessons for that Sunday. During the Season of Pentecost or "Ordinary Time," all the numbered Propers have at least two choices that I have identified as Alt 1 and Alt 2, because there are two series of lessons in the 3-year cycle. There are occasionally such choices in the rest of the liturgical year, but it is consistent throughout Ordinary Time. Both series generally use the same second or New Testament lesson and Gospel. The Alt 1 series contains the stories of the Patriarchs and Exodus in Year A, the stories of the Hebrew kings in Year B, and readings from the Prophets in Year C. The Alt 2 series is thematic. It contains Old Testament readings that are thematically related to the Gospel readings. Each series has a different Psalm that follows with the Old Testament reading. In general, we will use the current series for full a three-year cycle through the end of Year C of 2012-13. At that point, we may switch to the other cycle (my "Alt 2"), but it is not mandatory. If we switch I will let you know, and I will remind you when we start Ordinary Time which set of lessons to use. Occasionally there will be two choices for a lesson or the Psalm. When this occurs, I identify them as Alt 1A and Alt 1B or Alt 2A and Alt 2B. You may need to check with the clergy or check the bulletin to see which one you need to read.

Part F just shows that these lessons are from the Revised Common Lectionary. Finally, if the lesson is too big to fit on one page, part G shows how many pages there are, because there are no page numbers on the pages. There are a few lessons that span 3 pages, but most multi-page lessons span just 2 pages.

Below the line above I have listed the book, chapter and verses that the reading encompasses. On the Psalm, it says something like “(Psalm 119:105-112 Page 772, BCP).” The Psalm is taken from the version in the Book of Common Prayer (BCP), not the NRSV, so this lists the page or pages of the BCP on which the Psalm is found.

If you find any errors in the printed copy, please email or call me or give me a corrected copy so I can make a permanent correction.

Nuances in Services by Liturgical Season and Service Times

More on Readings during the Season of Pentecost: Propers 1 through 29

The readings after Trinity Sunday are identified as Propers. Depending on how early Easter falls the numbered Propers can start at Proper 1, and they run through Proper 29. Proper 1 is for the Sunday closest to May 11, which could be May 11 plus or minus 3 days, *i.e.* May 8-9-10-11-12-13-14. Each subsequent Proper is for a Sunday closest to the date seven days later. Proper 29 is for the Sunday closest to November 23, which can be any date between November 20 and 26. Thus the first Sunday of Advent can vary between November 27 (when Proper 29 falls on November 20) and December 3 when Proper 29 falls on November 26). Just recognize that, if you are reading in the Season of Pentecost, there is only about one chance in seven that the date you read will actually match the date in the parenthetical “(Sunday closest to _____)” on the printed lesson.

We use Rite I in the 7:45 AM service. We assign the same person to all readings at this service: 1st and 2nd lesson plus leading the Psalm. Occasionally, the 7:45 AM service may start earlier (as on Easter Sunday) or later (as on the Sunday after Christmas).

We use Rite II at the 9 AM and 11 AM services. Based on the number of lectors we have. We also use Rite II for a combined 10 AM Service or on special occasions, such as the Lessons and Carols Service on the 1st Sunday after Christmas or at the Annual Meeting.

At the 7:45 AM Service - Rite One

Depending on the number of lectors we have, lector assignments generally repeat every 6 to 8 weeks. The lector should read the 1st Lesson. At the end of the 1st lesson, the lector introduces the Psalm with the pre-printed introduction at the end of the 1st lessons, specifically “Please join in *[reading / singing]* the Psalm as printed in your bulletin.” Because there is no choir, the lector uses “*reading*” and continues by leading the congregation in the Psalm. The lector follows by reading the 2nd lesson.

The lector now leads the Prayers for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world (BCP p. 328). One of the clergy adds the intercessions to this prayer, and the modified copy is placed on the lectern for the lector each week.

At the 9 AM and 11 AM Services - Rite Two

At both services we schedule two lectors. Depending on the number of lectors we have, lector assignments generally repeat every 10 to 11 weeks at the 9 AM service and every 6 to 7 weeks at the 11 AM service. The first lector may read either the Old Testament or New Testament lesson. The preacher for each Sunday selects which text the first lector should read for the lesson, and I list those readings at the top row of the 9 AM schedule, just below the dates. It is always possible that the preacher may make a last minute change, but this is fairly rare, and the preacher will generally let you know by email or a phone call. The first lector may ignore the pre-printed introduction to the Psalm at the end of the lesson which says "Please join in [*reading / singing*] the Psalm as printed in your bulletin." You may just return to your seat. If this changes in the summer or at other times when the lector may need to start and lead in reading the Psalm, we will let you know. The second lector leads the Prayers of the People. See more about reading the Prayers of the People below.

At the 11 AM service, the choir is usually present, so the Psalm is sung when they are present and read when they are not. The first lector may ignore the pre-printed introduction to the Psalm at the end of the lesson which says "Please join in [*reading / singing*] the Psalm as printed in your bulletin." You may just return to your seat. If this changes in the summer or at other times when the lector may need to start and lead in reading the Psalm, we will let you know. The first lector will also lead the Prayers of the People later in the service. See more about reading the Prayers of the People farther below. The second lector at 11 AM will read just the 2nd lesson.

Prayers of the People

As mentioned above, the 7:45 AM service typically uses the prayers for the whole state of Christ's Church and the world (p. 328) as the Prayers of the People modified with additional intercessions.

For the 9 AM and 11 AM services, for the Prayers of the People, we typically use one of the following Prayers of the People: Form III (p. 387), Form IV (p. 388), or Form VI (p. 392). The form of the Prayers may change from one liturgical season to the next.

There are two copies of the Prayers of the People in a plastic sheet on the lectern, each identified for the service in question. At 9 AM, the prayers are typically one of the three prayers mentioned above, but it could be any of the standard six prayers on pages 383-393 of the Prayer Book. Parenthetical reminders about who says what and pausing are printed in the copies on the lectern. There are samples on the website of the Prayers of the People from the Prayer Book as well as a sample of one that contains the additional information we add to the Prayer Book version. Both copies on the lectern are updated weekly for changes in the Anglican and Diocesan Cycles of Prayer, prayers for the sick, travelers, etc. Fr. Joe has been sending the prayers of the people for the 11:00 AM services to the lectors in advance of the services so they

can read through the intercessions before they arrive on Sunday morning. It is also helpful to arrive at church either early enough to read through the appropriate copy for any last minute changes or take it to your pew before the service so that you can review it before you have to read.

When you finish leading the Prayers of the People, you can return to your seat after the priest adds the concluding Collect. You do not need to wait through the Prayer of Confession (p. 360) and absolution. Leave the copy of the prayers on the lectern when you finish reading.

I always schedule a lector to read the Prayers of the People, but there are sometimes that they are omitted. In general, we do not read the Prayers of the People under the circumstances identified below. On the other hand, do not assume that you can follow these rules categorically, so be prepared to lead the Prayers of the People. The Sunday bulletin is the most likely the best place to check or ask the clergy if you are unsure.

The prayers are omitted ...:

- ❖ Sometimes during Lent, including Palm Sunday. During Lent, the Priest may begin the service with a Bidding Prayer or with the Great Litany on the first Sunday in Lent.
- ❖ For a Baptismal Service, but the Lector should read the Prayers for the Candidate(s). See **“Prayers for the Baptismal Candidate(s)”** in the next section below. NOTE: The Baptism in January is on the 1st Sunday after Epiphany, The Baptism of Christ. Since Epiphany is January 6, The Baptism of Christ will fall on the second Sunday in January in all years, except for those years when January 6 falls on a Saturday. Baptisms during Advent or Lent are unusual but may occur. If you are scheduled to read the Prayers of the People, and it is a baptismal Sunday, you will read the prayers for the candidates (see below).

Prayers for the Baptismal Candidate(s)

When there is a baptism, the priests would like the lector scheduled for the prayers to lead the congregation in the “Prayers for Candidates” on page 305 of the BCP. There is a copy of these prayers on the website. The prayers have lines like the following:

“Deliver *them*, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.”

Use “*them*” when there is more than one person being baptized and “*him*” or “*her*” when there is just one person being baptized. If you don’t hear the name, or if a baby’s name is “Francis/Frances” or some other name that sounds like it could be either gender, ask the priest.

Occasionally, the family members may want someone else to lead these prayers, but assume it will be the lector. The priests or I will try to let you know when a baptism is scheduled, but that doesn’t always happen. Thus, when you are scheduled to lead the prayers, it is best to:

- ❖ Check the bulletin for whether there is a baptism.

- ❖ Check the bulletin to see if your name appears in the lector's list for the Prayers. If not, you will probably not need to lead.
- ❖ Check with the priests before the service. This is the best choice.

Guide to Pronunciation from Harper's Bible Dictionary

We have tried to use the following pronunciation conventions in the printed copies of the texts you will receive by mail.

a	cat	uuh	put	
at	pay	oo	boot	
ah	father	ow	how	
ahr	lard	oy	boy	
air	care	p	pat	
aw	jaw	r	runs	so
k	catch	sh	sure	
ch	chew	t	toe	
d	do	th	thin	
e	pet	uh	cut	
ee	seem	v	vow	
uhr	purr, teller	w	weather	
f	fun	y	young	
g	good	z	zone	
h	hot	zh	vision	
hw	whether			
i	it			
i or eye	sky or ELISHA (ee-lye'shuh)			
ihr	ear			
j	joke			
k	king			
kh	ch as in German buch			
ks	vex			
kw	quill			
l	love			
m	mat			
n	not			
oh	go			

On the first page of the lectors' schedule, I list a calendar for the liturgical year. I highlight the key dates for each two-month period. When there is a symbol in front of a date on the schedule like those shown below for Easter, Pentecost or All Saints, I put those symbols next to the lessons for the lectors scheduled for that date to alert them to anything unusual on that date, such as changes in service times, etc. Below show some of the key holy days, not all of which are celebrated on Sunday in a given liturgical year. This table shows when some of the "lesser" holy days are celebrated on a Sunday in place of the regular readings for that date.

Holy Days in the Order found on the Liturgical Calendar

<u>Holy Day</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Additional Information about Date</u>
Advent Sunday	(floating)	(Between November 27 and December 3, depending on date of Christmas)
Christmas	December 25	(fixed)
Holy Name	January 1	(fixed; when it is a Sunday, it supersedes the 1st Sunday after Christmas; falls on Sunday in 2006, 2012 & 2017)
Epiphany	January 6	(fixed; falls on Sunday in 2002, 2008, 2013 & 2019 - St. Peter's celebrates it on the closest Sunday to January 6)
Confession of St. Peter	January 18	(fixed)
The Presentation	February 2	(When it falls on Sunday, it supersedes Epiphany 4; falls on Sunday in 2003 & 2014)
Ash Wednesday	(floating)	(Depends on Easter)
Palm Sunday	(floating)	(Depends on Easter)
† Easter	(floating)	(The first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox)
Ascension Day	(floating)	(Depends on Easter)
♥ Pentecost (Whitsunday)	(floating)	(Depends on Easter)
Trinity Sunday	(floating)	(Depends on Easter)
St. Peter & St. Paul	June 29	(Peter is our patron saint, so we usually celebrate it on the Sunday closest to the actual date. When it falls on Sunday, it supersedes Proper 8; it falls on Sunday next in 2014)
Transfiguration	August 6	(When it falls on Sunday, It supersedes Proper 13; falls on Sunday in 2017)
§ All Saints	November 1	(Always celebrated on the 1st Sunday in November)

The Episcopal Lectionary, Bible and Dictionaries on the Internet

The last time I checked, all these URLs worked.

The Episcopal Lectionary On-Line

<http://www.lectionarypage.net> ("The Lectionary Page" - I like this one)

<http://www.textweek.com> (Textweek – This has many interesting citations to other sources)

<http://divinity.library.vanderbilt.edu/lectionary> (Revised Common Lectionary and Readings)

The Bible in Various Translations

www.devotions.net/bible/00bible.htm (New Revised Standard Version)

<http://bible.oremus.org> (New Revised Standard Version in American and Anglicized English)

<http://etext.virginia.edu/frames/bibleframe.html> (King James Only)

<http://quod.lib.umich.edu/r/rsv> (Revised Standard Version Search)
www.biblegateway.com (20 different versions)

Book of Common Prayer on Line

If you are looking for the current and historical versions of the Book of Common Prayer on-line, go to <http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp>. For other on-line sources for the 1979 Episcopal Prayer Book, see the links at http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/Other_1979.htm (multiple options cited) and <http://www.bcponline.org>.

Pronunciation Guides

<http://www.studylight.org/dic/hbd> (Holman Bible Dictionary)

<http://netministries.org/bbasics/bbasics.html> (Biblical Words Pronunciation Guide)

<http://betterdaysarecoming.com/bible/pronunciation.html> (Bible Words – Phonetic Pronunciation

<http://www.htmlbible.com/sacrednamebiblecom/kjvstrongs/index.htm> (King James Bible with Strongs Dictionary) From this link click on the book, then chapter, then verse, then the name you want to check. I believe these are more likely to be the Hebrew pronunciations (for Old Testament names) or Greek pronunciations (for New Testament names).

Evensong Lectoring

Anyone who wishes to read at our evensong services should let me know. These are strictly volunteer positions. We have two lectors for each service and one person assigned as a backup. Lectors will read at approximately one evensong service every six months. While I make tentative assignments, about one year in advance, I check with the lectors before each evensong service to be sure the assigned lectors are still available on that date.

New Lectors

We can usually use more lectors. If you know someone who would like to read, have him or her contact the clergy, the church office (858-755-1616) or Jay Hansen (760-944-0872). For the most part, we try to limit the lectors to adults.

Lector Website Appearance

See the image on the next page.

The Lector Website

The screenshot shows a web browser window with the URL <http://www.stpetersdelmar.net/content.cfm?id=314>. The page title is "St. Peter's Episcopal Church...". The navigation menu includes: About Us, Worship, Grow and Learn, Get Involved, Resources, Contact Us, and Ways to Give.

Lectors

Home \ Get Involved \ Serve our Church \ Worship Ministries \ Lectors

Serving as a lector gives lay people—both adults and youth—the opportunity to participate leading worship by reading the lessons, leading psalms and the prayers for the day. Anyone interested in becoming a lector should contact Jay Hansen at [JWH92024X-lectors\(at\)yahoo\(dot\)net](mailto:JWH92024X-lectors(at)yahoo(dot)net) or one of the clergy.

Lector Resources

- Lector Schedules
 - [April_May Lector Schedule revised 3-31-12](#)
- Readings for Liturgical Years
 - [Readings for Year A](#)
 - [Readings for Year B \(Current Year\)](#)
 - [Readings for Year C](#)
- Information for Lectors
 - [Prayers of the People Forms](#)
 - [Biblical Pronunciation Guide](#)

A complete Lectionary can be found by visiting the [Lectionary Page](#)

Evensong Schedule and Lessons

- [Evensong Lector Schedule \(tentative\)](#)
- [05-06 Lector Copies](#)
- [05-06 Bulletin Insert](#)

The Information for Lectors, Prayers of the People Forms, Biblical Pronunciation Guide, etc. are links that you can open just by clicking on them. All the files are in PDF format. Be careful when printing the PDFs. It is best to click, File, Print and specify the pages you want, or print the current page one at a time. If you just click “print,” you may get the entire document.