

## Reader Training

- Before first class, have read the two handouts on being a Reader for the Church

### OVERVIEW OF READING IN THE CHURCH

#### Psalm 33:6-9

By the word of the LORD the heavens were made; \*  
by the breath of his mouth their starry host.  
He gathers up the waters of the sea as a heap; \*  
he puts the deeps into storehouses.  
Let all the earth fear the LORD; \*  
let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him!  
For he spoke, and it came to be; \*  
he commanded, and it stood firm.

#### Isaiah 55:10-11

“For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven  
and do not return there but water the earth,  
making it bring forth and sprout,  
giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater,  
<sup>11</sup> so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth;  
it shall not return to me empty,  
but it shall accomplish that which I purpose,  
and shall succeed in the thing for which I sent it.

#### 2 Timothy 3:14-17

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it <sup>15</sup> and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>16</sup> All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, <sup>17</sup> that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.

Participating with God’s Word

- as it goes out into all the earth
- as it forms His people

God’s work is not dependent on us

We should seek to be good children

- to grow in our level of maturity
- and trustworthiness with “adult” things

## **OVERVIEW OF THIS CLASS**

This class as a step of formation: like golf, chess, or knitting class

Thinking through the particulars of the responsibility of Reader so that (like all of liturgy) we may become less and Christ may become greater.

### Our Outline

- Preparing to Read
- Actually Reading
- Liturgical Elements & Flow
- Tidbits & Particulars
- Leading the Daily Office and Prayers of the People

### Steps

- attend all classes in vivo or in video
- read at 2 offices (we can plan special Evening Prayers if needed)
- if want to lead Daily Office, then lead with me present at 2 offices

## **PREPARING TO READ WITH HEART, SOUL, & MIND**

### Soul

Soul = all that you are, your life

- leading a Christian life
- seeking God daily in formal prayer times
- growing in your personal prayer life (praying at all times)
- fasting & almsgiving
- regular exposure and meditation on the Scriptures
- familiarity with the whole Bible

### Heart

Sitting with *this* reading

### Lectio Divina

- understanding the reading literally
- what is God saying? how is this “revelation”? what do you notice?
- what is God saying to you? prayer
- what else? Quiet listening

This will not always(usually?) be a profound, epiphany experience. That’s OK.

## Mind

Read before, read after.

Make sure you know the words and how to pronounce them

Make sure you understand the punctuation John 1:16

Think through pacing, pausing – so that we understand clearly what is being communicated

Practice it. Out loud.

## **ACTUALLY READING**

Begin with above (Mind) section

Proper Nouns may need to be added

Come read it through with the text you will be using, sometimes the way the text is printed on the page can throw you for a loop

Standing – hands – no need for eye contact

Introduction – A reading from St. Paul's letter...

Conclusion – “the word of the Lord” “here ends the reading”

There should be a brief pause after Introduction and before conclusion

### Delivery

- Confidence – familiarity with text, practice reading
- If you don't know pronunciation and forgot to check with priest – fake it with authority, not with a question mark
- Read Old Testament on your own and practice faking it
- TONE, TONE, TONE
- See preparing – don't want to misrepresent with tone
- No “kindergarten” voice
- No “bored to tears yourself” voice
- No “thus sayeth the Lord” voice
- Read naturally as if speaking
- Volume = fullness not shouting (see below)

## Practice Projecting

- So much is lost because our volume is “miniaturized” rather than magnified (telephones)
- Shouting is so much from the throat
- Speaking from diaphragm
  - Practice moving a groan from nose to throat to chest and back
- Pacing yourself to speak on exhale – you have to have enough air (fuel for volume)
  - Count on exhale until you cannot
- Relaxed body, throat, mouth
- Good posture – creating space inside for air and volume
- Clear articulation will do much of the work of projecting your voice (don’t rush it – communicate it)

1 Chronicles 1:1-12, 13-27, 28-42, 43-54

## **LITURGICAL ELEMENTS & FLOW**

Liturgy of the Word and Liturgy of the Table

Reading of the Word and the Explication of the Word are *both* part of the Proclamation of the Word

Our actions display our beliefs – *lex orandi lex credenda*

Moving around the church

- solemnly with reverence
- if there’s music – don’t wait til the music is over (often music has become part of the liturgy *so that* people can move from one place to the other)

Making Sign of the Cross

Bowing

- types of bows
- bowing at the Name of Jesus
- bowing toward the cross, altar, the East
- fully
- reverently
- unhurriedly
- not forever
- not about you, partly an act of devotion and partly an act of catechesis

## **TIDBITS AND PARTICULARS**

Particulars won't be the same in other places. Make sure you know the way they do it there.

N, S, E, W – Gospel side, Epistle side, Nave, Chancel, Sanctuary, Altar (showing respect)

When do we do these things in our service?

### Approach

- during last verse of Trisagion hymn
- bow in front of altar
- bowing toward the East
- the altar/cross reps the presence of Christ

How the papers will be set-up. Practice flipping page if needed.

### Leading the Psalm

- responsively or together, how to choose
- the asterisk \* and chanting
- pacing, pausing, volume, and tone
- bowing during final Gloria (toward cross, altar / East)

After readings, make your bow just in front of lectern and return to seat.

Terms: Gradual or Sequence Hymn

The Gospel reading is the climax of the Reading of the Word

How we signify that through liturgical action (you are now a leader of such things)

Bowing toward Cross or Gospeler

A note about crossing yourself at the Gospel announcement and what the Deacon is doing (crossing the beginning of the reading, kissing the book, etc)

Here we can sit after "Praise to you Lord Christ"

## **LEADING THE DAILY OFFICE**

Look at a BCP - MP p.11 –looking at beginning, rubrics, options, etc.

Psalms line formatting: BCP Psalms

Light the candles – bow, light, bow

Going through our prayer book

Facing East at Creed and Gloria

Bowing at Glorias and at other mentions of Christ

Crossing at opening, Creed

Compline

### **LEADING THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

If you are leading make sure you feel comfortable adding in the “especially”s and know where to add prayer requests i.e. what is being prayed for in each petition

Lead each petition, slowly and thoughtfully (see again: know what is being prayed for in each petition)

Tone: not bored, not melodramatic. Natural or monotone.

You say the final bidding to pray “Let us quietly offer our own prayers” - Priest says the concluding prayer