

Reader Guide

Resurrection Lutheran Church

The Reader is a member of the congregation that ministers through the proclamation of God's Word. This ministry is essential as it demonstrates congregational leadership through the speaking of the words of God, to God's people, in the presence of God. The Lutheran faith places a high value on Scripture, therefore Resurrection Lutheran Church desires that the people of God should hear it in the most beneficial way.

Tools of the Reader:

- Confidence
- Verbal clarity
- Warmth
- Energy

The Role of the Reader:

Before worship:

- Readings will be sent to the reader via email by the RLC Staff a couple weeks in advance.
- The designated readings for worship should be practiced ahead of time, especially out loud as to be aware of pauses, difficult names or phrases, etc. Ask any questions of the pastor before service begins.
- Immediately before the worship service, confirm that copies of the readings are on the lectern and adjust the lectern's microphone height and volume level.

During worship:

- After the assisting minister leads the Prayer of the Day, the reader should calmly come forward to the lectern.
- The First Reading (from the Old Testament) should be introduced (*ex. "A reading from the Book of Exodus, chapter 15)* with a pause afterward for those who are finding the reading in their Bibles. The reader then proclaims the First Reading, and ends with "Word of God, Word of Life" or "The Word of the Lord".
- After a period of silence for comprehension, meditation and reflection, the reader then introduces the Psalm (*ex. Please join in the response for Psalm 51*). The cantor/psalmist and accompanist will then begin the musical setting. The reader should step down from the lectern until the Psalm has concluded - he/she make take a seat in the front row or remain standing off to the side of the lectern.

- In the absence of a cantor/psalmist, the reader will provide the page number for the Psalm for the congregation to follow along in their Bibles and will lead the Psalm antiphonally from the lectern: gesturing to his/her own side speaking the first verse, then alternating to the piano side, until the Psalm concludes.
- After a period of silence for comprehension, meditation and reflection, the reader returns to the lectern for the Second Reading (from the New Testament), and begins with an introduction (ex. *“A reading from the Book of Revelation, chapter 2”*) with a pause afterward for those who are finding the reading in their Bibles. The reader then proclaims the Second Reading, and ends with “Word of God, Word of Life” or “The Word of the Lord”.
- After a period of silence for comprehension, meditation and reflection, the reader asks the congregation to rise and welcome the Gospel. The cantor and pianist will then begin the service music. The reader should return to her/his seat at this time.

After worship:

- Confirm that the readings are still on the lectern for the next service.

Helpful notes:

- When proclaiming the Word of God, use appropriate seriousness, clarity, emotion, pacing, pausing, etc. to assist the congregation in entering the living Word.
 - The voice should correspond to the genre of the text itself (ex. *praise, lament, thanksgiving, etc.*)
- Attempt to make eye contact with the congregation; involve them in God’s story.
- Do not add additional comments to the reading.
 - If you realize that you have misread something, pause briefly and then restart the sentence.

Wednesday worship services may be held in different locations and with different service structures. Communicate with the Worship and Music Coordinator or Pastor for details concerning the role of the Reader in these occasions.

“The Word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart”

Hebrews 4:12