



SPIRIT OF GRACE READER GUIDELINES

“I will study your teachings and follow your footsteps. I will take pleasure in your laws and remember your words.” Psalm 119:15-16

Welcome to the ministry of serving as a reader at Spirit of Grace. It is a blessing that you have chosen to serve the Lord in this way. The reading of the word of God is an awesome and joyful responsibility. These guidelines are intended to assist you in your task so that together we can continue to make our community of faith a place where all experience the love and grace of Jesus Christ.

- You will receive a copy of the readings prior to the date you will serve by mail or email.
- Remember that proclaiming the Word of God is much more than just reading. It can be a powerful and prayerful experience for you - one that you share with the entire assembly.
- During the week before you will be reading become familiar with both readings so that you understand the flow of the entire Liturgy of the Word and where you need to pause and for how long you pause. Review any words that you find difficult to pronounce and ask the Pastor the correct pronunciation. You can also find assistance with pronunciation online at:

Pronunciation Guide <http://netministries.org/Bbasics/BBwords.htm>

- Become so familiar with the readings that it would seem you know them almost by memory. This will let you feel comfortable enough to lift your eyes from the page occasionally to make eye contact with people.
- There is no designated place for the reader to sit but it would be helpful if you were located somewhere near the end of the row so that you can leave your row easily.
- At the conclusion of the preceding portion of the liturgy (most often the Children’s sermon or the prayer of the day) move toward the Reading Desk (Place of the Word).
- Before you begin the readings, take a moment to compose yourself and check to make sure the microphone is the appropriate height.
- Please do NOT say “Good morning” or any other statement.
- Please smile and make eye contact.
- **Announce the reading**
A reading from.....(no need to add chapter and verse) Do NOT read the introduction to the readings if included in the bulletin.
- **Pause at the end of the reading and then say:**
“Word of God, Word of Life” Say it with conviction because what you have just read is God’s word.
- The Psalm (when included) will be in between the first and second readings. You do not need to announce the Psalm. The Psalm will be introduced by the Pastor or musician.
- When there is no Psalm, pause after the first reading to allow for the congregation to respond with “Thanks be to God” before you proceed to the second reading.
- After the congregation has responded to second reading please return to your seat.

If unable to serve on your appointed day please contact the church office at 376-0919.