

CUSTOMARY FOR LECTORS

SAINT THOMAS OF CANTERBURY EPISCOPAL CHURCH Temecula, California

A Lector is one who reads the Lessons before the Gospel and leads the congregation in the Gradual (generally a Psalm, but may be a Canticle)—when not sung. The Bible passages to be read are found in the *Lectionary*¹ (marked with Post-It® Flags) located on the Ambo. The Gradual is in the Book of Common Prayer on the Ambo marked with Post-It® Flags. When there are two Lectors, the Lector who reads the first Reading will lead the Gradual (when not sung) and then be seated. The other Lector will move to the Ambo following the Psalm. The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible is the translation that we use.

SCHEDULING:

- ◆ Lectors are scheduled by the Church Office staff in order to minimize the possibility that anyone will be scheduled for more than one liturgical ministry on a given Sunday.
- ◆ The schedule is available by going to the church website (www.stthomastemecula.org) and clicking on ‘Server Schedule.’ Also, you may call the church office to get scheduling information.
- ◆ If you are not available to serve on a Sunday or Sundays that have yet to be scheduled, please notify the Church office as soon as possible.
- ◆ If you are not available to serve on a Sunday or Sundays that have already been scheduled, please obtain your own substitute and notify the Church office as soon as possible.

PREPARATION:

- ◆ During the week that precedes the service, please read through all the Propers—the Collect of the Day, the Readings that precede the Gospel reading, the Gradual (Psalm or Canticle), and the Gospel passage—that will be used. The Propers to be used are listed on the back of the Church Calendar page, and on the Church Website (www.stthomastemecula.org). If you have any questions, call the Church Office. Since we are using the Revised Common Lectionary: Episcopal Edition, the lectionary in the Book of Common Prayer is no longer helpful. After reading through the Propers, it is a good idea to consult a bible commentary and a pronunciation guide. (A pronunciation guide is kept in the narthex for your use.) Also, you might choose to participate in a Bible Study group. Perhaps several Lectors would like to form one. If you have any questions, please make sure you get them answered before the service. There are several ways to get your questions answered. You may consult another Lector, the Coordinator of Lectors, or the Vicar.

¹ Effective 1 Advent 2007, we use the New Revised Common Lectionary – Episcopal Edition.

- ◆ On the day of the service, please arrive at least ten minutes before the service and go to the Ambo to make sure that the correct Readings (and Gradual) are in place. Also, this will allow you time to familiarize yourself with the particular placement of the Readings (and Gradual). If there appears to be a discrepancy between the Propers which you prepared to read and the ones that are in place, please notify the Celebrant immediately.

READING THE PROPERS:

- ◆ Make sure that the microphone is adjusted properly for your use.
- ◆ **First Reading:** The Lector goes to the Ambo following the Collect of the Day. After allowing a brief period of time for the congregation to be seated, the Lector begins with the introductory sentence. The introductory sentence appears in the *Lectionary Book* just prior to each Reading. The appropriate introduction includes the word *Reading* rather than *Lesson*, as in *A Reading from the Book of Genesis*. Whenever a bulletin is provided that includes the Biblical citation(s) for the reading(s), the introduction will not include any reference to chapter or verse. Readings will not be identified as the *First Reading*, as in *The First Reading is a Reading from the Book of Genesis*. As you read, please do so in a clear voice so that all will be able to hear. Please do not read in an overly dramatic fashion or attempt to look up from your reading to look at the congregation until the end of the reading. At the end of the Reading, a slight pause is observed just prior to the closing statement, which will generally be *The Word of the Lord*. The congregation responds *Thanks be to God*. Following the congregation's response the following is to be observed:

8:00 am: Remain at the Ambo for ten seconds of silence;
9:30 am: Return immediately to your seat;
11:00 am: Remain at the Ambo until the music for the Psalm begins.

- ◆ **The Gradual:** After the First Reading and ten seconds of silence, if the Gradual is not going to be sung, the Lector will introduce the Gradual, including the identification of the Psalm or Canticle number, as found printed in the Bulletin. For example, 'Let us say in unison Psalm 145 (or Canticle 15) as found on page 801 (or 91) in the Book of Common Prayer.' When not sung, the Gradual will always be read in unison. After announcing the Gradual, the Lector will boldly say the first *sense-line* of the Gradual, allowing the congregation to join-in at the beginning of the second sense-line.
- ◆ **Second Reading:** The Lector introduces, reads, and concludes the Second Reading in the same manner as the First Reading. Following the congregation's response the following is to be observed:

8:00 am: Remain at the Ambo for ten seconds of silence;
9:30 am: Return immediately to your seat;
11:00 am: Remain at the Ambo until the music for the Sequence Hymn begins.

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Revised: *December 2008*