

Bible Reading in Church

How are the readings chosen?

Revised Common Lectionary (Church of England Version)

How does the reader find them?

Worship Plan prepared by Abbie using Lectionary App. Suzanne sends out monthly rota with readings from the Worship Plan. All readings are read from the NRSV translation unless otherwise advised (this is the modern translation authorised by the Church of England).

When is the first reading read?

Usually after the Collect prayer.

Where do they read from?

Traditionally from the lectern where the lectionary book (and Gospel book) is kept, but can be read from the pews if arranged in advance to inform those operating the sound system. The reading will be marked with the bookmark but you are welcome to take up your own copy. They need to take their order of service so they know the response to use after the reading.

Should the reading be introduced?

It is helpful to say which book of the Bible the reading is taken from. Details of the chapter and verses are on the notices so people can look them up.

How should it be read?

Moderate pace and pronouncing words clearly. The most important thing is to be able to be heard and understood. The microphone will pick you up and does not need to be moved unless it is in your way.

What if the reader doesn't know how to pronounce a word?

Best guess is fine! Just be consistent if the same word/name appears more than once.

What does the reader say at the end?

There is always a response printed in the order of service to be used.

Gospel Procession

Why?

Jesus is the centre of the church. When we read from the Gospel's which relate his life and ministry, we recognise God has come among us and is still among us, so the Gospel is read from the place of the people.

What roles are there?

Most important is someone to hold the Gospel book to help the Reader. This person could come out from the congregation if nearby, or could be a robed deacon or server who also processes the book from the front.

Two Acolytes (who carry the candles) would traditionally walk in front of the Gospel and stand on either side, both as a sign of where our focus is and to ensure the book is well lit.

Can anyone read the Gospel in church?

Yes! If there were more readers we would be glad to have them read the Gospel as well (and could alter the procession if needed).

Sunday 1 March – 2nd Sunday of Lent
9am Simple Communion and
10.30am Worship Together

Genesis 12: 1-4a

A reading from the book of Genesis.

Now the Lord said to Abram, 'Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you. I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you, and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing. I will bless those who bless you, and the one who curses you I will curse; and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.'

So Abram went, as the Lord had told him; and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Sunday 8 March – 3rd Sunday of Lent
10.30am Communion

Exodus 17:1-7

A reading from the book of Exodus.

From the wilderness of Sin the whole congregation of the Israelites journeyed by stages, as the Lord commanded. They camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for the people to drink. The people quarrelled with Moses, and said, 'Give us water to drink.' Moses said to them, 'Why do you quarrel with me? Why do you test the Lord?' But the people thirsted there for water; and the people complained against Moses and said, 'Why did you bring us out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and livestock with thirst?' So Moses cried out to the Lord, 'What shall I do with this people? They are almost ready to stone me.' The Lord said to Moses, 'Go on ahead of the people, and take some of the elders of Israel with you; take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile, and go. I will be standing there in front of you on the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it, so that the people may drink.' Moses did so, in the sight of the elders of Israel. He called the place Massah and Meribah, because the Israelites quarrelled and tested the Lord, saying, 'Is the Lord among us or not?'

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Sunday 15 March – Mothering Sunday
10.30am Communion

First Reading: Colossians 3:12-17

A reading from the letter to the Colossians.

As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds everything together in perfect harmony. And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in the one body. And be thankful. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly; teach and admonish one another in all wisdom; and with gratitude in your hearts sing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs to God. And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.

This is the word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

Sunday 22 March – Passion Sunday
10.30am Communion

First Reading: Ezekiel 37: 1-14

A reading from the book of the prophet, Ezekiel.

The hand of the Lord came upon me, and he brought me out by the spirit of the Lord and set me down in the middle of a valley; it was full of bones. He led me all round them; there were very many lying in the valley, and they were very dry. He said to me, 'Mortal, can these bones live?' I answered, 'O Lord God, you know.' Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to these bones, and say to them: O dry bones, hear the word of the Lord. Thus says the Lord God to these bones: I will cause breath to enter you, and you shall live. I will lay sinews on you, and will cause flesh to come upon you, and cover you with skin, and put breath in you, and you shall live; and you shall know that I am the Lord.'

So I prophesied as I had been commanded; and as I prophesied, suddenly there was a noise, a rattling, and the bones came together, bone to its bone. I looked, and there were sinews on them, and flesh had come upon them, and skin had covered them; but there was no breath in them. Then he said to me, 'Prophecy to the breath, prophecy, mortal, and say to the breath: Thus says the Lord God: Come from the four winds, O breath, and breathe upon these slain, that they may live.' I prophesied as he commanded me, and the breath came into them, and they lived, and stood on their feet, a vast multitude.

Then he said to me, 'Mortal, these bones are the whole house of Israel. They say, "Our bones are dried up, and our hope is lost; we are cut off completely." Therefore prophecy, and say to them, Thus says the Lord God: I am going to open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people; and I will bring you back to the land of Israel. And you shall know that I am the Lord, when I open your graves, and bring you up from your graves, O my people. I will put my spirit within you, and you shall live, and I will place you on your own soil; then you shall know that I, the Lord, have spoken and will act, says the Lord.'

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**