Lay Leadership in Worship Training - Frequently Asked Questions

What licensed Lay Worship Leaders can do:

- Lead the offices in the BCP, BAS or Pray without Ceasing
- Lead offices from any of the Books of Common Prayer in the Anglican Communion, or resources approved by the Diocese of British Columbia
- Preach sermons from www.sermonsthatwork.com (if you are in the Diocese of British Columbia)
- Grow in creativity, skill and prayerfulness as you say the offices, on your own, or with others.
- Plan the services together in your parish. This is a team effort.

What licensed Lay Worship Leaders cannot do:

- Be a *Lay Reader*. The system of Lay Readers no longer functions in the Diocese.
- Lead a Eucharist service, or use a Eucharistic liturgy (**or part thereof**)
- Do a "Deacon's Mass" (offer communion in the service)
- Offer absolution – see below
- Invent your own services that do not follow a traditional, approved format
- Write your own sermons. Instead, use those written by your priest/incumbent/archdeacon.

The structure of the Offices & Liturgy of the Word

1. Preparation
    - Confession/Absolution (Penitential Rite) or Opening Response
2. Gathering - Invitatory
3. Proclamation of the Word
    - Psalm(s),
    - Scripture Reading(s),
        - Each reading followed by a *Canticle, Responsory, Hymn or Song* – you *choose* what you prefer. BAS Pg 72 ff suggest Canticles for specific times of the year.
4. *Affirmation of Faith* – you can *choose* from approved creeds.
5. Prayers (including *Lord's Prayer, Collects, Litanies, Responses*) – you have a *choice* here.
    - Praise, Intercession, Petition, Thanksgiving – spoken and silent
6. Sending Forth: Dismissal

Confession & absolution:

A Lay Minister cannot offer absolution. There are two options available. Please consult with your priest/archdeacon to ascertain what they prefer.

Replace 'you' with 'us' in the absolution:

Almighty God have mercy upon us, pardon and deliver us from all your sins, confirm and strengthen us in all goodness,and keep us in eternal life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

(BAS p. 46)

OR

Grant, we beseech thee, merciful Lord, to thy faithful people pardon and peace; that they may be cleansed from all their sins, and serve thee with a quiet mind; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Collect for 21st Sunday After Trinity, BCP, p. 252

Note: In the Diocese of British Columbia, the penitence and absolution are not said during the Season of Easter, a season of Resurrection.

A Guide to Lectionary Readings

Sunday services – main service of the day:

- Morning Prayer/ Liturgy of the Word instead of the Eucharist service → **Holy Eucharist readings** (HE)
- Sunday Evening Prayer/Liturgy of the Word – not main service of the day → **D**aily **O**ffice **L**ectionary (DOL)

Weekday or Saturday services

- Morning/Evening Prayer or Liturgy of the Word – DOL
- Use collect from the Sunday preceding unless it is a Saint's Day.
- Access the full text of the Daily Office readings from the Vanderbilt Daily Readings page

Saint's Days: Occasionally - in list in BAS pgs 14-21. See also **For All the Saints**.

There are many ways to access the list of readings in the Revised Common Lectionary. You can find it on the on the **Anglican Church of Canada Lectionary** web page, the **Vanderbilt Lectionary web page**, or in your copy of McCausland's Order of Divine Service (BAS readings only), or even in the propers in your *Book of Alternative Services* **if it was printed after 1992**. These resources all list the same readings, from the Revised Common Lectionary used by millions of Christians around the world.

The primary source for your lectionary readings must always be the **Anglican Church of Canada Lectionary** web page. Vanderbilt is in the USA, and is useful, but their lectionary may have slightly differences. The version of the Bible used sometimes differs, and a particular commemoration day may be unique to that Province of the Anglican Communion. Please check Vanderbilt's readings against those on the Anglican Church of Canada website, as sometimes the translations and the psalm numberings differ.

Note: McCausland's provides a list of readings only, as does the Book of Alternative Services. Vanderbilt provides full text, and the Anglican Church of Canada lectionary webpage provides the lectionary for Sundays and feast days only.

A contemporary alternative to the liturgies of the BCP and the BAS is Pray Without Ceasing, which can be downloaded from the resource website **here**, or purchased as a **wirebound book** from the Anglican Church of Canada online store, as can **McCausland's Ordo**.