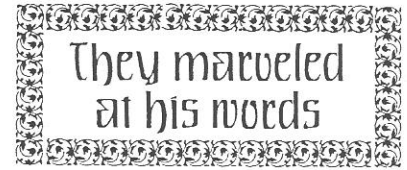


*PRAYER OF PREPARATION
FOR A LECTOR OR READER OF THE WORD*



*Lord, invest me with Your Power
as I prepare to proclaim
the marvel of Your message.
I have prepared my readings,
I have tried to take within me
the meaning of what I am about to read;
help me, I ask, to read not just with my lips
but with my heart and soul.*



*Lord, make me a hollow reed
so that Your voice will be heard
by all who will hear me.
Free me of excessive concern over my performance,
over the impression I create in this sacred action.
Convert my feelings of nervousness,
turn all my apprehensions into an energy
for proclaiming Your Word with power and authority.*

*May your spirit fill me
as it fills the holy words
that I am about to proclaim*

Amen

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