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A Pattern for Reading the Bible

Part of the original purpose of the monastic offices was to allow the Bible to be read through in some systematic way. In the middle ages the growing number of saints days interrupted the regular pattern of readings, and one of Archbishop Cranmer's objectives was to enable lay people to hear the whole Bible read.

Central to both Morning and Evening Prayer are the readings from the Bible. In Cranmer's plan, there was to be one reading from the Old Testament and one from the New at each service. Most of the Old Testament and the Apocrypha would be read through each year, and the New Testament (except the Book of Revelation) was to be read through three times each year. The psalms were divided into sixty portions with the purpose of reading daily portions morning and evening and so using all the psalms once each month.

How to Use Morning (and Evening) Prayer

For most Christians daily attendance at church morning and evening will be impractical, but the Daily Offices from the Book of Common Prayer (BCP) can be used at home (before breakfast or after dinner, for example) or in the office or while traveling. Longer and shorter versions can be used, as follows:

1 - Full Morning Prayer (Rite II)

Opening sentences (choose one or more)	pages 75-78 BCP
Invitatory	page 80 BCP
Canticle (<i>Venite</i> or <i>Jubilate</i> , except Christ our Passover at Easter time)	pages 82-83 BCP
Psalm (selections listed on pg. 936, or 585)	
First Lesson (selections listed on pg. 936, or begin with Genesis and read a chapter a day)	
Canticle (choose one)	pages 85-95 BCP
Second Lesson (selections listed on pg. 936, or begin with St. Matthew and read a chapter a day)	
The Apostles' Creed	page 96 BCP
The Prayers (Lord's Prayer and Suffrages from pg. 97, one collect from pg. 98-100, one prayer from pg. 100-101, other prayers optional)	
Conclusion	page 102 BCP

2 - A Shorter Version of Morning Prayer (Rite II)

Opening sentences (choose one or more)	pages 75-78 BCP
Invitatory	page 80 BCP
Canticle (<i>Venite</i> or <i>Jubilate</i> , except Christ our Passover at Easter time)	pages 82-83 BCP
Psalm (selections listed on pg. 936 ff., or 585 ff.)	
One Lesson (selections listed on pg. 936, or begin with Genesis and read a chapter a day)	
The Apostles' Creed	page 96 BCP
The Prayers (Lord's Prayer and Suffrages from pg. 97, one collect from pg. 98-100, one prayer from pg. 100-101, other prayers optional)	
Conclusion	page 102 BCP