



THE READING OF THE RITUAL PRAYERS

1. **PRECEDENTS** for the reading of the Ritual Prayers
2. **PROBLEMS** regarding the reading of the Ritual Prayers
 - People don't realize the importance or the potential.
 - We are attempting to lead an audience in prayer to God.
 - People don't know how to read the Ritual Prayers effectively
3. **POTENTIAL** regarding the reading of the Ritual Prayers
 - This is not only your prayer. It is "our" collective prayer offered to God.
 - An effective oral reading of the prayers can greatly contribute to an audience's understanding and appreciation of the ritual. When a person reads a book, the author gets into their head. When you read a prayer, you are attempting to get into the listener's head.
4. **PRIMARY Tips** to improve the reading of the Ritual Prayers.
 - Speak slower than normal and speak clearly. You may think you are speaking too slow, when really you appear to be speaking thoughtfully and meaningfully. Unlike printed stories, those listening can't ask you to stop and repeat yourself. You need to speak slowly enough that they can understand you. Obviously, don't overdo it!
 - Speak naturally, but remember it is your responsibility to be heard and understood. Many readings simply aren't loud enough.
 - Enunciate. Don't read the words in a garbled or low-toned voice. Droning or speaking in a monotone, sends a signal to the brain of the listener that this is simply a sound without information and thus not important or meaningful.
 - Hold your prayer at eye level and do not look down. You are reading your prayer to the people, not the book or the table.
 - Observe thought and sentence units. Remember, punctuation marks are there for a reason. A period means pause and count to 2. A comma means pause and count to 1.
 - Practice

**When words are spoken, the meaning is not in the words alone,
but in the emphasis, the phrasing, and the expression given to those words.**