

Bible Readings

For
the
Christian
Year

Revised
Common
Lectionary
Year C
2006-2007

by The Rev. H. A.
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Advent

Advent has a double meaning. On one hand it is a looking forward to the Advent (the coming of God in Jesus Christ) as celebrated in Christmas. As such, Advent is the beginning of the Church year. At the same time, it is also the end of the last Church year. The final several Sundays of the previous Church year contain lections about “end times” and the first Sundays of Advent pick up this same theme, the return of Jesus, or the Second Coming. Advent is a time of expectation, of the first Advent and the Second. Shades of purple are colors usually associated with this season, but blue is also appropriate.



DATE	SUNDAY	OLD TESTAMENT	PSALM	EPISTLE	GOSPEL
Dec. 3 2006	1st in Advent	Jeremiah 33:14-16 Time is coming I will choose a King.	25:1-10 (756)	1 Thess. 3:9-13 Thank God for you. Be ready when He comes.	Luke 21:25-36 Coming of Son of Man Fig tree; watch out.
Dec. 10	2nd in Advent	Malachi 3:1-4 I will send my messenger.	Luke 1: 68-79 (208)	Philippians 1:3-11 I pray your love will keep growing until that Day.	Luke 3:1-6 John the Baptist. “Get ready.”
Dec. 17	3rd in Advent	Zephaniah 3:14-20 Rejoice Jerusalem! Punishment over.	Isaiah 12:2-6	Philippians 4:4-7 Rejoice, be gentle, do all good. Lord coming soon.	Luke 3:7-18 The preaching of John the Baptist.
Dec. 24	4th in Advent	Micah 5:2-5a God promises a ruler from Bethlehem.	Luke 1: 47-55 (199)	Hebrews 10:5-10 Why Christ come? To be sacrifice for us.	Luke 1:39-45 Mary visits Elizabeth. Magnificat.



Christmas

Christmas or Christmastide is the period from Christmas through Epiphany, January 6 (though the Epiphany readings are now often moved to the first Sunday of January). It is the fulfillment of the Advent expectation, at least concerning the first Advent. A combination of impatience and commercial interest have made us begin celebrating Christmas earlier in our culture than does the rhythm of the Christian Year. The color most associated with this season is white.

DATE	SUNDAY	OLD TESTAMENT	PSALM	EPISTLE	GOSPEL
Dec. 24	Christmas Eve	Isaiah 9:2-7 We have seen a great light; a child is born.	96 (815)	Titus 2:11-14 God has shown grace for all in Christ.	Luke 2:1-20 Birth of Jesus; shepherds, angels.
Dec. 25	Christmas Day	Isaiah 52:7-10 Messenger’s feet beau- tiful. People comforted.	98 (818)	Hebrews 1:1-4 (5-12) Jesus is reflection of God’s glory.	John 1:1-14 The Word became flesh; we have seen his glory.

DATE	SUNDAY	OLD TESTAMENT	PSALM	EPISTLE	GOSPEL
Dec. 31	First After Christmas Day	I Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Boy Samuel in the temple; he grows.	148 (861)	Colossians 3:12-17 Do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus.	Luke 2:41-52 Boy Jesus in the temple; he grows.
Jan. 6	Epiphany	Isaiah 60:1-6 Glory of God's people. All will come to them.	72:1-7, 10-14 (795)	Ephesians 3:1-12 God's plan shown to Paul: for Gentiles.	Matthew 2:1-12 The visitors from the east.

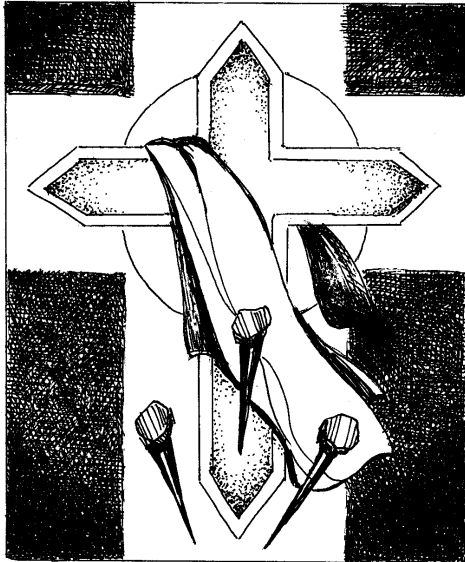
(The following readings may be used January 7)



After Epiphany

The time between January 6 and Ash Wednesday (from 4 to 9 Sundays) is designated variously as Sundays after Epiphany or Sundays in "ordinary time." As is true also in the Post-Pentecost time, readings are chosen to be independent and semi-continuous rather than in "thematic harmony."

DATE	SUNDAY	OLD TESTAMENT	PSALM	EPISTLE	GOSPEL
Jan. 7	Baptism of the Lord	Isaiah 43:1-7 God has called us by name. Will protect us.	29 (761)	Acts 8:14-17 Apostles send Peter and John to Samaria.	Luke 3:15-17, 21-22 John the Baptist and the baptism of Jesus.
Jan. 14	2nd after Epiphany	Isaiah 62:1-5 Jerusalem no longer forsaken. Lord pleased.	36:5-10 (771)	1 Corinthians 12:1-11 Gifts from Spirit many, but spirit is one.	John 2:1-11 The wedding in Cana.
Jan. 21	3rd after Epiphany	Nahum 8:1-3,5-6,8-10 Ezra reads Law to people at Watergate.	19 (750)	1 Corinthians 12:12-31a Christ's body one, many parts. You are his body.	Luke 4:14-21 Jesus begins his work; preaches in Nazareth.
Jan. 28	4th after Epiphany	Jeremiah 1:4-10 Before I formed you in the womb I knew you.	71:1-6 (794)	1 Corinthians 13:1-13 The nature of Christian love.	Luke 4:21-30 Jesus is rejected in Nazareth.
Feb. 4	5th after Epiphany	Isaiah 6:1-8 (9-13) Isaiah's vision in the Temple. His call from God.	138 (853)	1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Paul preaches Christ's Resurrection.	Luke 5:1-11 Jesus calls disciples. Become fishers of people.
Feb. 11	6th after Epiphany	Jeremiah 17:5-10 Blessings and curses if God is trusted or not.	1 (738)	1 Corinthians 15:12-20 We are foolish if Christ has not been raised.	Luke 6:17-26 Beatitudes and curses.
Feb. 18	Transfiguration	Exodus 34:29-35 Moses on Sinai, transfigured.	99 (819)	2 Corinthians 3:12-4:2 Law a veil over minds. In Christ we display glory.	Luke 9:28-36 (37-43) The Transfiguration.



Lent

Lent, the 40 days before Easter (not counting Sundays), begins with Ash Wednesday and runs for six Sundays including Passion/Palm Sunday. Earliest emphasis was upon preparation for baptism and membership. Later emphasis turned toward penitence. Recent practice is to return to discipline and learning in preparation for the Easter celebration. The color purple is traditionally associated with this season.

DATE	SUNDAY	OLD TESTAMENT	PSALM	EPISTLE	GOSPEL
Feb. 21	Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:1-2,12-17 Day of Lord is coming. Return, fast, repent.	51:1-17 (785)	2 Corinth. 5:20b—6:10 Be reconciled to God. Now is the time.	Matt. 6:1-6, 16-21 Teaching on religious observances, fasting.
Feb. 25	1st in Lent	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 My ancestor was a wandering Aramean.	91:1-2, 9-16 (810)	Romans 10:8b-13 This is our faith. It is open to all equally.	Luke 4:1-13 The temptation of Jesus.
March 4	2nd in Lent	Genesis 15:1-12,17-18 God makes a covenant with Abram.	27 (758)	Philippians 3:17—4:1 Imitate me and others who set right example.	Luke 13:31-35 Jesus' love for Jerusalem.
March 11	3rd in Lent	Isaiah 55:1-9 An invitation to abundant life.	63:1-8 (788)	1 Corinthians 10:1-13 Don't worship idols. Stand firm in test of faith.	Luke 13:1-9 Turn from your sins. Parable of fig tree.
March 18	4th in Lent	Joshua 5:9-12 Observing Passover. Manna stops.	32 (766)	2 Corinthians 5:16-21 God through Christ changes enemies into friends.	Luke 15:1-3,11b-32 Parable of Lost Son with introduction.
March 25	5th in Lent	Isaiah 43:16-21 Escape from Babylon. Road through wilderness.	126 (847)	Philippians 3:4b-14 Judging worth by Christ. Running for the prize.	John 12:1-8 Jesus is anointed in Bethany.
April 1	Passion Sunday	Isaiah 50:4-9a The Servant: suffer in obedience.	31:9-16 (764)	Philippians 2:5-11 Your attitude like Christ: emptied self.	Luke 22:14—23:56 or Luke 23:1-49. Last Supper, Pilate, crucifixion.
	Palm Sunday		118:1-2, 19-29 (839)		Luke 19:28-40 Triumphal entry into Jerusalem.
April 5	Holy Thursday	Exodus 12:1-4, 11-14 Institution of first Passover.	116:1-4, 12-19 (837)	1 Corinthians 11:23-26 Institution of Lord's Supper.	John 13:1-17, 31b-35 Jesus washes disciples' feet. New commandment.
April 6	Good Friday	Isaiah 52:13—53:12 The last of the Suffering Servant passages.	22 (752)	Hebrews 10:16-25 God's covenant: laws in hearts, sins forgiven.	John 18:1—19:42 The Passion Narrative.

Easter

Easter is the “queen of feasts” and lasts not a day or week but a week of weeks. So all of the Sundays are labeled Sundays OF Easter, not Sundays after Easter. Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are inextricably linked with Easter Day in what is called the Triduum (“trid-jum,” three days). Together, the three days straddle the seasons of Lent and Easter. Easter is a season of great rejoicing which culminates in the Day of Pentecost. Hence, in this season we re-present those central events of our faith: the Crucifixion, the Resurrection, and the gift of the Holy Spirit. The seasonal color is white.



DATE	SUNDAY	ACTS OF APOSTLES	PSALM	EPISTLE	GOSPEL
April 8	EASTER DAY	Acts 10:34-43 God treats all equally. Gospel is for all.	118:1-2, 14-24 (839)	1 Corinthians 15:19-26 Christ's resurrection and ours. Paul's description.	John 20:1-18 or Luke 24:1-12 The empty tomb.
April 15	2nd of Easter	Acts 5:27-32 Peter to Council: "We obey God, not humans."	150 (862)	Revelation 1:4-8 Greeting to seven churches: "He is coming."	John 20:19-31 Jesus appears to the Disciples and Thomas.
April 22	3rd of Easter	Acts 9:1-6 (7-20) Paul, on the road to Damascus, is converted.	30 (762)	Revelation 5:11-14 Multitude around throne. "Worthy is the Lamb."	John 21:1-19 Jesus appears in Galilee and to Peter.
April 29	4th of Easter	Acts 9:36-43 Peter raises Dorcas from the dead.	23 (754 or 137)	Revelation 7:9-17 Crowd from every nation. Robes washed with blood.	John 10:22-30 "Are you Messiah?" "Father and I are one."
May 6	5th of Easter	Acts 11:1-18 Peter's vision shows Gentiles included.	148 (861)	Revelation 21:1-6 "I saw a new heaven and a new earth."	John 13:31-35 The New Commandment.
May 13	6th of Easter	Acts 16:9-15 Paul converts Lydia in Macedonia.	67 (791)	Revelation 21:10,22—22:5 The Holy City and the Lamb.	John 14:23-29 "I will give you a helper, the Spirit."
May 17	Ascension Day	Acts 1:1-11 Jesus: after Resurrection until his Ascension.	47 (781)	Ephesians 1:15-23 Paul's prayer. Christ is ruler over all.	Luke 24:44-53 End of Luke. "You are my witnesses. Wait in city."
<i>(Note: These readings may also be used on the 7th Sunday of Easter.)</i>					
May 20	7th of Easter	Acts 16:16-34 Paul and Silas bound in jail; doors open.	97 (816)	Rev. 22:12-14,16-17,20-21 "I am coming soon. I am the First and the Last."	John 17:20-26 "Pray that they may be one as you and I are one."
May 27	Day of Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21 Day of Pentecost. Spirit comes upon Apostles.	104:24-34, 35b (826)	Romans 8:14-17 Spirit makes us God's children. We inherit.	John 14:8-17 (25-27) "If you love me I will send a Helper. Peace."

After Pentecost

We enter now a period when all three readings in the Common Lectionary go their separate directions. Because this period covers half of the year, one might want to experiment to provide some variety in color beyond the recommended green. Perhaps the season might begin with green and move toward warmer colors of brown, yellow, orange as the year progresses. In the last several Sundays the readings begin to speak of “end times,” beginning to prepare us for the coming Advent season. And we prepare once more to start the cycle.



DATE	SUNDAY	OLD TESTAMENT	PSALM	EPISTLE	GOSPEL
June 3	Trinity Sunday	Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31 God created world thru Wisdom: master worker.	8 (743)	Romans 5:1-5 God's love poured into us through the Holy Spirit.	John 16:12-15 Spirit will guide you in all truth and glorify me.
June 10	2nd after Pentecost	1 Kings 17:8-24 Elijah brings to life a child who "had no breath."	146 (858)	Galatians 1:11-24 Paul's former life, conversion and new zeal for Christ.	Luke 7:11-17 Jesus heals a Centurion's slave.
June 17	3rd after Pentecost	1 Kings 21:1-21a Ahab takes Naboth's field. Elijah confronts Ahab.	5:1-8 (742)	Galatians 2:15-21 Jews and Gentiles justified by faith in Christ.	Luke 7:36—8:3 Woman anoints Jesus' feet. Other women.
June 24	4th after Pentecost	1 Kings 19:1-15a Elijah: "I alone am left." Meets God at Horeb.	42 (777)	Galatians 3:23-29 Law in charge until Christ. Now we are saved by faith.	Luke 8: 26-39 Jesus heals demoniac; people afraid.
July 1	5th after Pentecost	2 Kings 2:1-2, 6-14 Elijah goes up in chariot. Elisha asks for Spirit.	77:1-2, 11-20 (798)	Galatians 5:1, 13-25 Don't become slaves again. What living by Spirit does.	Luke 9:51-62 He set his face for Jerusalem. Discipleship cost.
July 8	6th after Pentecost	2 Kings 5:1-14 Elisha cures leper, Naaman, the Syrian.	30 (762)	Galatians 6:(1-6) 7-16 It is Cross that matters, not circumcision.	Luke 10:1-11,16-20 Sending of the seventy. Harvest is plentiful.
July 15	7th after Pentecost	Amos 7:7-17 The plumb line. Israel shall go into exile.	82 (804)	Colossians 1:1-14 I pray you be filled with knowledge of God's will.	Luke 10:25-37 Parable of Good Samaritan Who is my neighbor?
July 22	8th after Pentecost	Amos 8:1-12 A warning of a famine of the words of the Lord.	52 or 82 (804)	Colossians 1:15-28 You an enemy made a friend. God's secret wisdom for you.	Luke 10:38-42 "Martha, you are troubled with many things."
July 29	9th after Pentecost	Hosea 1:2-10 The family of Hosea. Israel restored.	85 (806)	Colossians 2:6-15 (16-19) Baptized to life in Christ. Forgave our sins.	Luke 11:1-13 Lord's prayer. God's care for all of us.
Aug. 5	10th after Pentecost	Hosea 11:1-11 "How can I give you up, Ephraim: I am Holy One."	107:1-9, 43 (830)	Colossians 3:1-11 As you have been raised in Christ, put to death old.	Luke 12:13-21 Who made me judge? Parable of rich fool.

DATE	SUNDAY	OLD TESTAMENT	PSALM	EPISTLE	GOSPEL
Aug. 12	11th after Pentecost	Isaiah 1:1, 10-20 "Stop your sacrifices, make yourselves clean."	50:1-8, 22-23 (783)	Hebrews 11:1-3, 8-16 Now faith is...By it Abraham obeyed and went out.	Luke 12:32-40 Where your treasure is. Marriage feast parable.
Aug. 19	12th after Pentecost	Isaiah 5:1-7 Israel the vineyard shall be trampled.	80:1-2, 8-19 (801)	Hebrews 11:29—12:2 Faith of Israelites. Cloud of witnesses; run race.	Luke 12:49-56 Came not to bring peace. House divided.
Aug. 26	13th after Pentecost	Jeremiah 1:4-10 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you."	71:1-6 (794)	Hebrews 12:18-29 You have come not to fearful Sinai but living Zion.	Luke 13:10-17 Jesus heals on sabbath, is criticized.
Sept. 2	14th after Pentecost	Jeremiah 2:4-13 Solomon's prayer of dedication of temple.	81:1, 10-16 (803)	Hebrews 13:1-8, 15-16 Final advice on Christian conduct: hospitality, love.	Luke 14:1, 7-14 On banquets: where sit, whom to invite.
Sept. 9	15th after Pentecost	Jeremiah 18:1-11 Parable of the potter. Amend your ways.	139:1-6, 13-18 (854)	Philemon 1-21 Paul returns a slave. Treat as you would me.	Luke 14:25-33 Discipleship cost: hate family, renounce world.
Sept. 16	16th after Pentecost	Jer. 4:11-12, 22-28 Judgment against Israel; shall suffer.	14 (746)	1 Timothy 1:12-17 "Christ came to save sinners: I am foremost."	Luke 15:1-10 Parables of lost sheep and lost coins.
Sept. 23	17th after Pentecost	Jeremiah 8:18—9:1 "Is there no balm in Gilead?"	79:1-9 or 4 (741)	1 Timothy 2:1-7 Pray for rulers, for all persons are to be saved.	Luke 16:1-13 Parable: shrewd steward. Can't serve God & money.
Sept. 30	18th after Pentecost	Jer. 32:1-3a, 6-15 Jeremiah buys a field during siege.	91:1-6, 14-16 (810)	1 Timothy 6:6-19 Love of money root of evil. Fight the good fight.	Luke 16:19-31 Parable of rich man and Lazarus.
Oct. 7	19th after Pentecost	Lamentations 1:1-6 Zion suffers, all is desolate.	137 (852)	2 Timothy 1:1-14 Guard the truth, proclaim the faith.	Luke 17:5-10 "We are unworthy servants."
Oct. 14	20th after Pentecost	Jeremiah 29:1, 4-7 Exiles: settle. Seek welfare of the city.	66:1-12 (790)	2 Timothy 2:8-15 Paul fettered, Word is not. He remains faithful.	Luke 17:11-19 Healing of ten lepers. Only one gives thanks.
Oct. 21	21st after Pentecost	Jeremiah 31:27-34 Sour grapes. God will make a new covenant.	119:97-104 or 19 (750)	2 Timothy 3:14—4:5 Charge: preach the Word. Listeners: itching ears.	Luke 18:1-8 Parable of judge and persistent widow.
Oct. 28	22nd after Pentecost	Joel 2:23-32 Rejoice! You will dream dreams, see visions.	65 (789)	2 Timothy 4:6-8, 16-18 "I have kept faith. Lord stood by me."	Luke 18:9-14 Parable: Pharisee and tax collector.
Nov. 1	All Saints	Daniel 7:1-3, 15-18 Daniel's vision. Saints receive kingdom forever.	149 or 150 (862)	Ephesians 1:11-23 Riches of glorious inheritance of the Saints.	Luke 6:20-31 Blessings and woes. Love your enemies.
<i>(Note: November 4 may be observed as All Saints using these lessons.)</i>					
Nov 4	23rd after Pentecost	Habakkuk 1:1-4; 2:1-4 Righteous shall live by their faith.	119: 137-144 (840)	2 Thess. 1:1-4, 11-12 The judgment at Christ's coming.	Luke 19:1-10 Zaccheus receives Jesus. Gives to poor. Is graced.

DATE	SUNDAY	OLD TESTAMENT	PSALM	EPISTLE	GOSPEL
Nov. 11	24th after Pentecost	Haggai 1:15b—2:9 Hannah's prayer for a son is answered.	145:1-5, 17-21 (857)	2 Thess. 2:1-5, 13-17 The coming of the Lord. We chosen as first fruits.	Luke 20:27-38 Sadducees try to trap Jesus about resurrection.
Nov. 18	25th after Pentecost	Isaiah 65:17-25 God will create new heavens and new earth.	Isa. 12 or Psalm 118 (839)	2 Thessalonians 3:6-13 Let all work. Do not weary of well doing.	Luke 21:5-19 Signs about End of Age. Persecutions first.
Nov. 22	Thanks-giving	Deuteronomy 26:1-11 Harvest festival instructions to Israel.	100 (821)	Philippians 4:4-9 Be joyful. Have thankful heart.	John 6:25-35 Jesus as the Bread of Life.
Nov. 25	Christ the King/Reign of Christ	Jeremiah 23:1-6 Israel shall be restored after exile.	Luke 1: 68-79 (208)	Colossians 1:11-20 All things made through and for Christ.	Luke 23:33-43 "Today you shall be with me in Paradise."

Prepared by The Rev. H. A. 'Bud' Tillinghast. Numbers in parentheses in the Psalm column refer to the page number of the Psalter in *The United Methodist Hymnal*, 1989. The lectionary readings are from *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, 1992.

Why This Resource?

There are now many resources on the market for using the lectionary. Why add this one?

This booklet is designed to fill a gap. There are available listings of the lectionary which are brief, giving the readings by book, chapter, and verses only. Also, one can get materials which give the whole reading.

The advantage of the latter is making available the readings so that you can know exactly what they are. The readings for the coming Sunday are right in one's hands.

The disadvantages are:

1. One is not directed to the Bible itself. Thus the readings are not seen in context.
2. One cannot get easily an overall view of the readings for seasonal and long range worship planning.
3. The result is a body of material which is too expensive to put in the hands of each church member.

The advantage of the former is its simplicity and inexpensiveness. A copy of the year's readings can be easily made available to every member. Also, one is directed back to looking up the passage in its own Biblical setting.

The disadvantage is that no one can tell what the lection is about by just having the chapter / verse reference. Can you immediately plan the music for a service knowing only that the Gospel reading is Luke 10:25-37?

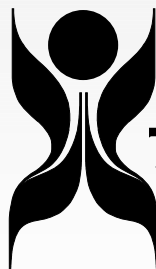
This guide fills the gap between. Its addition of a capsule summary of each reading means that the lections are more recognizable. Adding to Luke 10:25-37 the phrases "Parable of the Good Samaritan. Who is my neighbor?" means that a worship planner can recall enough of the lection to choose appropriate material. By seeing this reading is followed on subsequent Sundays by parables is even more help in long-range planning. But by not giving the whole reading, persons are directed to the Scripture itself for better understanding.

This guide, while most helpful to clergy, is primarily designed to help get the lectionary into the hands of the average church member. If you are not ready to go that far yet, begin with copies for musicians, liturgy planners and Bible class members.

Members of The Fellowship may purchase additional copies of this booklet for \$3.00 each; 5 or more to the same address: \$2.00 each. All orders must be PREPAID. Send check with order to The Fellowship, attn: Lectionary Guide, PO Box 24787, Nashville, TN 37202.

Consider using this resource in conjunction with "Hymns for the Lectionary," which appears regularly in *Worship Arts*.

The art in this publication is by Suzanne Christensen.



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