



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Year 'B' REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY 2020 – 2021

(Below in the right hand column : C = Colour; P = Purple; W = White; G = Green; R = Red; B = Black)

ADVENT

A season of preparation, beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, in which the Church recalls its hope and expectation in the coming of Christ, past, present and future.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
Nov 29 2020	Advent 1	Is 64:1-9	Ps 80:1-7,17-19	1 Cor 1:3-9	Mk 13:24-37	P
Dec 6 2020	Advent 2	Is 40:1-11	Ps 85:1-2,8-13	2 Pt 3:8-15a	Mk 1:1-8	P
Dec 13 2020	Advent 3	Is 61:1-4, 8-11	Ps 126 or Luke 1:46b-55	1 Thes 5:16-24	Jn 1:6-8,19-28	P
Dec 20 2020	Advent 4	2 Sm 7:1-11,16	Lk 1:46b-55 or Ps 89:1-4,19-26	Rom 16:25-27	Lk 1:26-38	P

CHRISTMAS

The Christmas season includes Christmas Eve/Day and the twelve days of Christmas. It recalls the stories of the birth and infancy of Christ. The Church in this time celebrates the wonder of the incarnation. (Any of the Nativity selections may be used either for Christmas Day or Christmas Eve services.)

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
Dec 24/25 2020	Nativity 1	Is 9:2-7	Ps 96	Ti 2:11-14	Lk 2:1-14, (15-20)	W
	Nativity 2	Is 62:6-12	Ps 97	Ti 3:4-7	Lk 2:(1-7), 8-20	W
	Nativity 3	Is 52:7-10	Ps 98	Heb 1:1-4,(5-12)	Jn 1:1-14	W
Dec 27 2020	Christmas 1	Is 61:10-62:3	Ps 148	Gal 4:4-7	Lk 2:22-40	W
Jan 1 2021	Naming of Jesus	Num 6:22-27	Ps 8	Gal 4:4-7 or Phil 2:5-11	Lk 2:15-21	W
Jan 1 2021	New Year's Day	Ecc 3:1-13	Ps 8	Rev 21:1-6a	Mt 25:31-46	W
Jan 3 2021	Christmas 2	Jer 31:7-14	Ps 147:12-20	Eph 1:3-14	John 1:(1-9), 10-18	W

EPIPHANY

An 'Epiphany' is a revealing, appearing or manifesting of something or someone, and in this season the Church reflects on the manifestation of Christ to all people. The length of this period varies depending on the date of Easter.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
Jan 6 2021	Epiphany	Is 60:1-6	Ps 72:1-7,10-14	Eph 3:1-12	Mt 2:1-12	W
Jan 10 2021	Baptism of Jesus	Gn 1:1-5	Ps 29	Acts 19:1-7	Mk 1:4-11	W
Jan 17 2021	Epiphany 2	1 Sm 3:1-10, (11-20)	Ps 139:1-6,13-18	1 Cor 6:12-20	Jn 1:43-51	G
Jan 24 2021	Epiphany 3	Jon 3:1-5,10	Ps 62:5-12	1 Cor 7:29-31	Mk 1:14-20	G
Jan 31 2021	Epiphany 4	Dt 18:15-20	Ps 111	1 Cor 8:1-13	Mk 1:21-28	G
Feb 2 2021	Presentation of the Lord	Mal 3:1-4	Ps 84 or Ps 24:7-10	Heb 2:14-18	Lk 2:22-40	G
Feb 7 2021	Epiphany 5	Is 40:21-31	Ps 147:1-11,20c	1 Cor 9:16-23	Mk 1:29-39	G
Feb 14 2021	Transfiguration of Jesus	2 Kgs 2:1-12	Ps 50:1-6	2 Cor 4:3-6	Mk 9:2-9	W

LENT

A season of preparation and discipline that begins with Ash Wednesday and concludes at sundown on Holy Saturday. During the forty weekdays and six Sundays in Lent, the Church remembers the life and ministry of Jesus and renews its commitment to him in Christian discipleship. The season is the traditional time to prepare for baptisms and confirmations to be celebrated at the Easter Vigil or on Easter Sunday, or during the season of Easter.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
Feb 17 2021	Ash Wednesday	Jl 2:1-2,12-17 or Is 58:1-12	Ps 51:1-17	2 Cor 5:20b-6:10	Mt 6:1-6,16-21	P
Feb 21 2021	Lent 1	Gn 9:8-17	Ps 25:1-10	1 Pt 3:18-22	Mk 1:9-15	P
Feb 28 2021	Lent 2	Gn 17:1-7, 15-16	Ps 22:23-31	Rom 4:13-25	Mk 8:31-38 or Mk 9:2-9	P
Mar 7 2021	Lent 3	Ex 20:1-17	Ps 19	1 Cor 1:18-25	Jn 2:13-22	P
Mar 14 2021	Lent 4	Nm 21:4-9	Ps 107:1-3,17-22	Eph 2:1-10	Jn 3:14-21	P
Mar 21 2021	Lent 5	Jer 31:31-34	Ps 51:1-12 or Ps 119:9-16	Heb 5:5-10	Jn 12:20-33	P
Mar 25 2021	Annunciation of the Lord	Is 7:10-14	Ps 45 or 40:5-10	Heb 10:4-10	Lk 1:26-38	W
Mar 28 2021	Passion Sunday	Is 50:4-9a	Ps 31:9-16	Phil 2:5-11	Mk 14:1-15:47 or Mk 15:1-39,(40-47)	P
Mar 28 2021	Palm Sunday	Is 50:4-9a	Ps 118:1-2, 19-29	Phil 2:5-11	Mk 11:1-11 or - Jn 12:12-16	P
Mar 29 2021	Monday in Holy Week	Is 42:1-9	Ps 36:5-11	Heb 9:11-15	Jn 12:1-11	P
Mar 30 2021	Tuesday in Holy Week	Is 49:1-7	Ps 71:1-14	1 Cor 1:18-31	Jn 12:20-36	P
Mar 31 2021	Wednesday in Holy Week	Is 50:4-9a	Ps 70	Heb 12:1-3	Jn 13:21-32	P
Apr 1 2021	Maundy Thursday	Ex 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	Ps 116:1-2,12-19	1 Cor 11:23-26	Jn 13:1-17,31b-35	P
Apr 2 2021	Good Friday	Is 52:13-53:12	Ps 22	Heb 10:16-25 or Heb 4:14-16, 5:7-9	Jn 18:1-19:42	B or R
Apr 3 2021	Holy Saturday	Job 14:1-4 or Lam 3:1-9,19-24	Ps 31:1-4,15-16	1 Pet 4:1-8	Mt 27:57-66 or Jn 19:38-42	B

UCA Anniversary Readings may be substituted for June 21.

The beginnings or endings of some Psalms vary from those in *Uniting in Worship 2*. You may choose to use the verse selections in *Uniting in Worship 2*.

A Calendar of Other Commemorations is to be found in *Uniting in Worship 2* pages 566 to 571.

EASTER

The great fifty days of Easter includes eight Sundays. It begins with the Easter Vigil and concludes on the Day of Pentecost. The season celebrates the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
Apr 3/4 2021	Easter Vigil	Gn 1:1-2:4a Gn 7:1-5,11-18; 8:6-18;9:8-13 Gn 22:1-18 Ex 14:10-31; 15:20-21 Is 55:1-11 Prv 8:1-8,19-21; 9:4b-6 Ez 36:24-28 Ez 37:1-14 Zep 3:14-20	Ps 136:1-9,23-26 Ps 46 Ps 16 Ex 15:1b-13,17-18 Is 12:2-6 Ps 19 Pss 42 and 43 Ps 143 Ps 98 Ps 114	Rom 6:3-11	Mk 16:1-8	W
Apr 4 2021	Easter Day	Acts 10:34-43 or Is 25:6-9	Ps 118:1-2,14-24	1 Cor 15:1-11 or Acts 10:34-43	Jn 20:1-18 or Mk 16:1-8	W
Apr 4 2021	Easter Evening	Is 25:6-9	Ps 114	1 Cor 5:6b-8	Lk 24:13-49	W
Apr 11 2021	Easter 2	Acts 4:32-35	Ps 133	1 Jn 1:1-2:2	Jn 20:19-31	W
Apr 18 2021	Easter 3	Acts 3:12-19	Ps 4	1 Jn 3:1-7	Lk 24:36b-48	W
Apr 25 2021	Easter 4	Acts 4:5-12	Ps 23	1 Jn 3:16-24	Jn 10:11-18	W
May 2 2021	Easter 5	Acts 8:26-40	Ps 22:25-31	1 Jn 4:7-21	Jn 15:1-8	W
May 9 2021	Easter 6	Acts 10:44-48	Ps 98	1 Jn 5:1-6	Jn 15:9-17	W
May 13 2021	Ascension Day	Acts 1:1-11	Ps 47 or Ps 93	Eph 1:15-23	Lk 24:44-53	W
May 16 2021	Easter 7	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Ps 1	1 Jn 5:9-13	Jn 17:6-19	W
May 23 2021	Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21 or Ezek 37:1-14	Ps 104:24-34, 35b	Rom 8:22-27 or Acts 2:1-21	Jn 15:26-27; 16:4b-15	R

AFTER PENTECOST

A period of time that varies in length depending on whether Easter is early or late. In this period, the Church recalls its faith in the Holy Trinity. It seeks to relate its faith as a people of God to Christ's mission in the world. It commences with Trinity Sunday and concludes with the feast of Christ the King.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
May 30 2021	Trinity Sunday	Is 6:1-8	Ps 29	Rom 8:12-17	Jn 3:1-17	W
Jun 6 2021	Pent 2 [10]	1 Sm 8:4-11 (12-15) 16-20 (11:14-15)	Ps 138	2 Cor 4:13-5:1	Mk 3:20-35	G
Jun 13 2021	Pent 3 [11]	1 Sm 15:34-16:13	Ps 20	2 Cor 5:6-10 (11-13) 14-17	Mk 4:26-34	G
Jun 20 2021	Pent 4 [12]	1 Sm 17:(1a,4-11, 19-23),32-49 or 1 Sm 17:57 - 18:5,10-16	Ps 9:9-20 or Ps 133	2 Cor 6:1-13	Mk 4:35-41	G
Jun 22 2021	UCA Anniversary	2 Chr 30:1-9	Ps 127	Eph 2:19-22	Jn 17:1-11	R
Jun 27 2021	Pent 5 [13]	2 Sm 1:1,17-27	Ps 130	2 Cor 8:7-15	Mk 5:21-43	G
Jul 4 2021	Pent 6 [14]	2 Sm 5:1-5, 9-10	Ps 48	2 Cor 12:2-10	Mk 6:1-13	G
Jul 11 2021	Pent 7 [15]	2 Sm 6:1-5, 12b-19	Ps 24	Eph 1:3-14	Mk 6:14-29	G
Jul 18 2021	Pent 8 [16]	2 Sm 7:1-14a	Ps 89:20-37	Eph 2:11-22	Mk 6:30-34,53-56	G
Jul 25 2021	Pent 9 [17]	2 Sm 11:1-15	Ps 14	Eph 3:14-21	Jn 6:1-21	G
Aug 1 2021	Pent 10 [18]	2 Sm 11:26-12:13a	Ps 51:1-12	Eph 4:1-16	Jn 6:24-35	G
Aug 8 2021	Pent 11 [19]	2 Sm 18:5-9, 15,31-33	Ps 130	Eph 4:25-5:2	Jn 6:35,41-51	G
Aug 15 2021	Pent 12 [20]	1 Kgs 2:10-12; 3:3-14	Ps 111	Eph 5:15-20	Jn 6:51-58	G
Aug 22 2021	Pent 13 [21]	1 Kgs 8: (1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43	Ps 84	Eph 6:10-20	Jn 6:56-69	G
Aug 29 2021	Pent 14 [22]	Song 2:8-13	Ps 45:1-2,6-9	Jas 1:17-27	Mk 7:1-8,14-15, 21-23	G
Sept 5 2021	Pent 15 [23]	Prv 22:1-2,8-9, 22-23	Ps 125	Jas 2:1-10, (11-13),14-17	Mk 7:24-37	G
Sept 12 2021	Pent 16 [24]	Prv 1:20-33	Ps 19	Jas 3:1-12	Mk 8:27-38	G
Sept 19 2021	Pent 17 [25]	Prv 31:10-31	Ps 1	Jas 3:13-4:3,7-8a	Mk 9:30-37	G
Sept 26 2021	Pent 18 [26]	Est 7:1-6, 9-10;9:20-22	Ps 124	Jas 5:13-20	Mk 9:38-50	G
Oct 3 2021	Pent 19 [27]	Jb 1:1;2:1-10	Ps 26	Heb 1:1-4;2:5-12	Mk 10:2-16	G
Oct 10 2021	Pent 20 [28]	Jb 23:1-9,16-17	Ps 22:1-15	Heb 4:12-16	Mk 10:17-31	G
Oct 17 2021	Pent 21 [29]	Jb 38:1-7,(34-41)	Ps 104:1-9,24,35c	Heb 5:1-10	Mk 10:35-45	G
Oct 24 2021	Pent 22 [30]	Jb 42:1-6,10-17	Ps 34:1-8,(19-22)	Heb 7:23-28	Mk 10:46-52	G
Oct 31 2021	Pent 23 [31]	Ru 1:1-18	Ps 146	Heb 9:11-14	Mk 12:28-34	G
Nov 1 2021	All Saints Day	Is 25:6-9	Ps 24	Rev 21:1-6a	Jn 11:32-44	W
Nov 7 2021	Pent 24 [32]	Ru 3:1-5,4:13-17	Ps 127	Heb 9:24-28	Mk 12:38-44	G
Nov 14 2021	Pent 25 [33]	1 Sm 1:4-20	1 Sm 2:1-10	Heb 10:11-14, (15-18), 19-25	Mk 13:1-8	G
Nov 21 2021	Christ the King/ Reign of Christ	2 Sm 23:1-7	Ps 132:1-12, (13-18)	Rv 1:4b-8	Jn 18:33-37	W

Keep up to date at

uniting.church/worship-community/

- Discover publications produced by the Assembly Resourcing Unit
- Liturgical resources to help with preaching and worship;
- Some recently produced Orders of Service;
- Background Papers on a wide range of subjects;
- Other Websites worth investigating for worship and preaching;
- The Lectionary and Liturgical dates;
- Music and the Arts.

ORTHODOX DATES

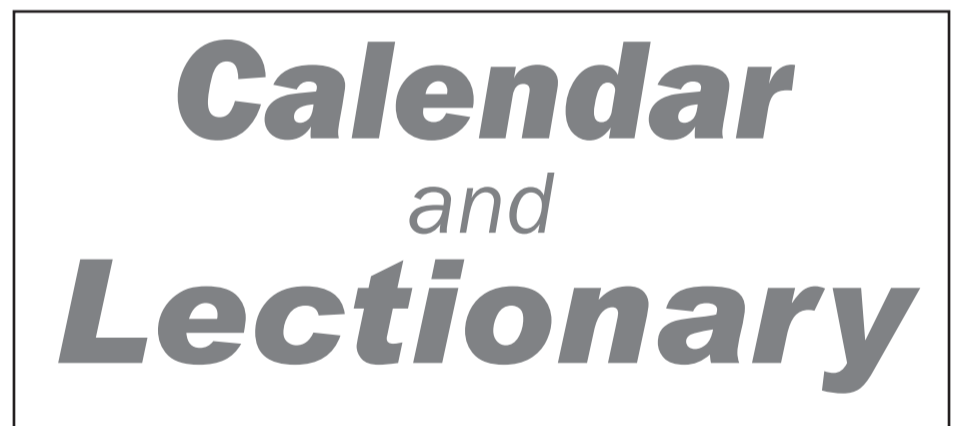
GREAT FRIDAY	30 April 2021
EASTER	2 May 2021
PENTECOST	20 June 2021

In most versions, Mark's gospel features several possible endings supported by different ancient manuscripts. The shortest and most abrupt ending is considered by most scholars to be the most probably authentic to the original. It concludes with scared disciples wondering what to do in the face of the news that Jesus had been raised from the dead, and perhaps was designed by the original author to act as an invitation to listeners or readers to consider what their response would be to the good news about Jesus. May we as preachers constantly invite that same question!

Mark's brevity makes it a great gospel for story-telling. There is an immediacy and urgency in Mark's description of Jesus and the disciples moving from one encounter or teaching to another. Have a look at how many times Mark uses the word 'immediately' in describing the onward movement of Jesus and his friends. (Some English translations try to use other words for variety and better flow, so the NRSV may show this best.) It is a great reminder that there is an urgency and importance to the task of spreading the good news about Jesus, and we can highlight this as we preach through Mark.

The three-year cycle of the Revised Common Lectionary focusses on a different one of the three synoptic gospels each year, with passages from John's gospel used throughout all three years, especially during some of the special seasons of the year. "Year B" gives the opportunity to focus on gospel readings from the book of Mark. It is indeed the book of Mark which introduces itself in the first verse as the 'gospel' (good news) about Jesus Christ, thus modelling for us that designation which becomes used for all of the first four books in our New Testament. While it is the shortest of the gospels, Mark is thought by most scholars to be the earliest written, and to have provided source material for the later development of Matthew and Luke, the other two Synoptic gospels. Mark provides not only stories, and often exact wording, used by Matthew and Luke, but also its distinctive structure. Rather than covering all phases of the roughly three years of Jesus' ministry with a reasonably proportional amount of focus, the Synoptic gospels each follow Mark's approach, which devotes about half of its length to a description of Jesus' general ministry, primarily set in Galilee and the north, but then the second half of the gospel zooms in on a much shorter period encompassing Jesus' (last) trip to Jerusalem and the events of the last week of his life. In between these two sections, we discover a pivot point made up of three passages, each focused in different ways on Jesus, his identity and his purpose. Firstly, there is the passage with Peter's confession (Mark 8:27-30), then there is a passage where Jesus begins to explain to his disciples that he will face trials and death, along with a challenge to true disciples to 'take up their cross' (Mark 8:31-9:1). Finally the culmination of this focus on Jesus' identity comes with the story of the transfiguration (Mark 9:2-9:10). Each of the Synoptic gospels share this middle 'hinge' with these three stories told one after the other in this order.

Lectionary Notes – Year of Mark



Calendar and Lectionary of the UNITING CHURCH Year B 2020- 2021

'The Uniting Church acknowledges that the Church has received the books of the Old and New Testaments as unique prophetic and apostolic testimony, in which it hears the Word of God and by which its faith and obedience are nourished and regulated...'

The Uniting Church lays upon its members the serious duty of reading the Scriptures, [and] commits its ministers to preach from these...'

Basis of Union (1992 Edition), paragraph 5



UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
ASSEMBLY RESOURCING UNIT

* *Seasons of the Word* – Year B – Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary – Editors: David L Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor. 4 Volumes. Westminster John Knox Press.
* *Feasting on the Word* – Year B – Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary – Editors: David L Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor. 4 Volumes. Westminster John Knox Press.
* *Pulpit Resource* by William H Willimon, has become the serious preacher's best homiletical aid for crafting sermons that communicate, all selected and honed to the RCL text and theme.
* *Words for Worship* published by MediaCom Education Inc, contains contemporary, scriptural and relevant prayers based on the RCL especially written for Australian congregations.
* *Prayers to Share – Year B* by David Sparks. Responsive Prayers for each Sunday of the Church Year. An entire year's worth of responsive prayers, written in inclusive, contemporary language.
* *The Abingdon Preaching Annual 2021* edited by David N Mosser, Sermon helps include lectionary based sermons for each Sunday and special liturgical events of the year.

Resources to use with the Lectionary

Barrett, C.K. 2006. *John. 2 volumes*. Translated by Yong Ok Kim et al. Seoul: Korea Theological Study Institute.

Korean Text

Mokhoi and Sinhak *Commentary Series, Commentary on Mark's gospel* (edited by Mokhoi and Sinhak) (Tyranus Academy, Seoul, South Korea, 2009)

Seohe, Seoul, South Korea, 1999)
Dr. Sooram Park, *Commentary on the gospel of Mark* (Daehan Kidockyo

Williamson, Lamar Jr. 2001. *Mark*. Translated by Ki Cheon So. Seoul: PCK Publishing House.

Gnilka, Joachim. 2006. *Mark. 2 Volumes*. Translated by Yong Ok Kim et al. Seoul: Korea Theological Study Institute.

Korean Texts

Woodward, J. *Journeying with Mark: Reflections on the Gospel*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2017.

Gundry, R.H. Hare, D.R.A. *Mark*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 1996.
- Not technical, focus on use for preaching and teaching

Boring, M.E. *Mark: A Commentary* Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012.
* Wilhelm, D.O. *Preaching The Gospel of Mark* Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2008.

Commentaries and Resources for the Gospel of Mark

Websites with Lectionary Listing and Links

The Revised Common Lectionary: A Vanderbilt Divinity Library Online Resource <https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu> (includes links to relevant Christian art)

The Text This Week: Lectionary, Scripture Study and Worship Links and Resources <http://textweek.com> (extensive links to a range of resources)

Websites with Commentary on Lectionary Passages

Bill Loader's Home Page <http://www.staff.murdoch.edu.au/~loader>

Howard Wallace's Home Page <http://hwallace.unitingchurch.org.au>

With Love to the World, a quarterly Uniting Church publication, provides daily commentary on all lectionary readings, along with other associated texts. WLW brings good scholarship to readers to help make faith meaningful in daily life. Hymn suggestions and other resources are included. To subscribe go to <http://www.withlovetotheworld.org.au> (*Paid Print Subscription*). With Love to the World now also has Apps available on the Google Play Store or Apple App Store.

Websites with Lectionary based liturgies, sermons and worship activities

Bruce Prewer's Home Page <http://www.bruceprewer.com/>

Laughing Bird Liturgical Resources (Nathan Nettleton) <http://www.laughingbird.net>

Liturgies Online (Moirá Laidlaw) <http://www.liturgiesonline.com.au>

Mustard Seeds (Ann Scull) <http://www.seedstuff.blogspot.com/>

The Billabong (Rev Jeff Showder) <http://thebillabong.info>

Together to Celebrate: Contemporary Christian Music Resources for Worship (Rev David MacGregor) <http://www.togethertocelbrate.com.au>

Sermons, Liturgies, Prayers, and Articles, from a post-liberal, progressive perspective. Rex A. E. Hunt, a retired UCA minister, is a leader in the progressive religion movements in Australia and New Zealand. <https://www.rexaehuntprogressive.com>

Roots - Worship and Learning Resources for the Whole Church. Ecumenical resources for worship from UK groups including Methodist, Church of England and United Reformed Churches. To subscribe go to <https://www.rootsontheweb.com> (*Paid Print and Digital Subscriptions*)

Podcasts covering Lectionary topics

"By the Well" A preacher's guide to the lectionary with Fran Barber and Robyn Whitaker,

Podcast – <https://bythewell.com.au/>,

Community FB page for further discussion – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/455941231724262/>

"Tea with Two Revs" Join Revs Ann and Amanda over a cup of tea and a chat about what's coming up in the lectionary. <https://growingfaithdownunder.wordpress.com/>

How are Sundays identified in this table?

Sundays and other days which are special "Feast Days" are simply identified by their name (eg. Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday, Christ the King). Otherwise, Sundays are identified by the number of Sundays after the start of a Season (Epiphany 2, Easter 3, Pentecost 16). It is important to note that sometimes one of the Sundays after a Season starts has its own name but it is still counted for the purposes of counting Sundays in that season (eg. Pentecost 1 is named Trinity Sunday, but it is also the first Sunday after Pentecost, so the next Sunday is Pentecost 2). A long standing practice in some Christian traditions counts all the Sundays which are not in a special season (ie. those after Epiphany and after Pentecost). This count of Sundays in "Ordinary Time" (from the same root word as "ordinal" thus meaning "counted time") varies depending on when Easter lands in the year. We indicate this number in brackets in case it is useful in reading lectionary resources from traditions who identify Sundays in Ordinary Time.