



UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Year 'A' REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY 2022 – 2023

(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 27 2022	Advent 1	Is 2:1-5	Ps 122	Rom 13:11-14	Mt 24:36-44	P
Dec 4 2022	Advent 2	Is 11:1-10	Ps 72:1-7, 18-19	Rom 15:4-13	Mt 3:1-12	P
Dec 11 2022	Advent 3	Is 35:1-10	Ps 146:5-10 or Lk 1:46b-55	Jas 5:7-10	Mt 11:2-11	P
Dec 18 2022	Advent 4	Is 7:10-16	Ps 80:1-7, 17-19	Rom 1:1-7	Mt 1:18-25	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 2022	Christmas Day 1	Is 9:2-7	Ps 96	Tit 2:11-14	Lk 2:1-14, (15-20)	W
	Christmas Day 2	Is 62:6-12	Ps 97	Tit 3:4-7	Lk 2:(1-7), 8-20	W
	Christmas Day 3	Is 52:7-10	Ps 98	Heb 1:1-4, (5-12)	Jn 1:1-14	W
Jan 1 2023	Christmas 1	Is 63:7-9	Ps 148	Heb 2:10-18	Mt 2:13-23	W
Jan 1 2023	New Year's Day	Eccl 3:1-13	Ps 8	Rev 21:1-6a	Matt 25:31-46	W
Jan 1 2023	Holy Name of Jesus	Num 6:22-27	Ps 8	Gal 4:4-7 or Phil 2:5-11	Luke 2:15-21	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 2023	Epiphany of the Lord	Is 60:1-6	Ps 72:1-7, 10-14	Eph 3:1-12	Mt 2:1-12	W
Jan 8 2023	Baptism of Jesus	Is 42:1-9	Ps 29	Acts 10:34-43	Mt 3:13-17	W
Jan 15 2023	Epiphany 2	Is 49:1-7	Ps 40:1-11	1 Cor 1:1-9	Jn 1:29-42	G
Jan 22 2023	Epiphany 3	Is 9:1-4	Ps 27:1, 4-9	1 Cor 1:10-18	Mt 4:12-23	G
Jan 29 2023	Epiphany 4	Mic 6:1-8	Ps 15	1 Cor 1:18-31	Mt 5:1-12	G
Feb 2 2023	Presentation of the Lord	Mal 3:1-4	Ps 84 or Ps 24:7-10	Heb 2:14-18	Luke 2:22-40	G
Feb 5 2023	Epiphany 5	Is 58:1-9a (9b-12)	Ps 112:1-9 (10)	1 Cor 2:1-12 (13-16)	Mt 5:13-20	G
Feb 12 2023	Epiphany 6	Deut 30:15-20	Ps 119:1-8	1 Cor 3:1-9	Mt 5:21-37	G
Feb 19 2023	Transfiguration of Jesus	Ex 24:12-18	Ps 2 or Ps 99	2 Pt 1:16-21	Mt 17:1-9	W

LENT

A season of preparation and discipline that begins on 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. This 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 22 2023	Ash Wednesday	Joel 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 26 2023	Lent 1	Gn 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Ps 32	Rom 5:12-19	Mt 4:1-11	P
March 5 2023	Lent 2	Gn 12:1-4a	Ps 121	Rom 4:1-5, 13-17	Jn 3:1-17 or Mt 17:1-9	P
March 12 2023	Lent 3	Ex 17:1-7	Ps 95	Rom 5:1-11	Jn 4:5-42	P
March 19 2023	Lent 4	1 Sm 16:1-13	Ps 23	Eph 5:8-14	Jn 9:1-41	P
March 25 2023	Annunciation of the Lord	Is 7:10-14	Ps 45 or Ps 40:5-10	Heb 10:4-10	Lk 1:26-38	W
March 26 2023	Lent 5	Ez 37:1-14	Ps 130	Rom 8:6-11	Jn 11:1-45	P
April 2 2023	Palm Sunday	Is 50:4-9a	Ps 118:1-2, 19-29	Phil 2:5-11	Mt 21:1-11	P
April 2 2023	Passion Sunday	Is 50:4-9a	Ps 31:9-16	Phil 2:5-11	Mt 26:14 – 27:66 or Mt 27:11-54	P
April 3 2023	Monday in Holy Week	Is 42:1-9	Ps 36:5-11	Heb 9:11-15	Jn 12:1-11	P
April 4 2023	Tuesday in Holy Week	Is 49:1-7	Ps 71:1-14	1 Cor 1:18-31	Jn 12:20-36	P
April 5 2023	Wednesday in Holy Week	Is 50:4-9a	Ps 70	Heb 12:1-3	Jn 13:21-32	P
April 6 2023	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
April 7 2023	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/R
April 8 2023	Holy Saturday	Job 14:1-14 or Lam 3:1-9, 19-24	Ps 31:1-4, 15-16	1 Pt 4:1-8	Mt 27:57-66 or Jn 19:38-42	B

EASTER

The great fifty days of Easter includes eight Sundays beginning with the Easter Vigil and concluding 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
April 8/9 2023	Easter Vigil	Gen 1:1–2:4a Gen 7:1-5, 11-18; 8:6-18; 9:8-13 Gen 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 (resp) Is 12:2-6 (resp) Ps 19 Pss 42 and 43 Ps 143 Ps 98 Ps 114	Rom 6:3-11	Matt 28:1-10	W
April 9 2023	Easter Day	Acts 10:34-43 or Jer 31:1-6	Ps 118:1-2, 14-24	Col 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43	Jn 20:1-18 or Mt 28:1-10	W
April 9 2023	Easter Evening	Is 25:6-9	Ps 114	1 Cor 5:6b-8	Lk 24:13-49	W
April 16 2023	Easter 2	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Ps 16	1 Pt 1:3-9	Jn 20:19-31	W
April 23 2023	Easter 3	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Ps 116:1-4, 12-19	1 Pt 1:17-23	Lk 24:13-35	W
April 30 2023	Easter 4	Acts 2:42-47	Ps 23	1 Pt 2:19-25	Jn 10:1-10	W
May 7 2023	Easter 5	Acts 7:55-60	Ps 31:1-5, 15-16	1 Pt 2:2-10	Jn 14:1-14	W
May 14 2023	Easter 6	Acts 17:22-31	Ps 66:8-20	1 Pt 3:13-22	Jn 14:15-21	W
May 18 2023	Ascension Day	Acts 1:1-11	Ps 47 or Ps 93	Eph 1:15-23	Lk 24:44-53	W
May 21 2023	Easter 7	Acts 1:6-14	Ps 68:1-10, 32-35	1 Pt 4:12-14, 5:6-11	Jn 17:1-11	W
May 28 2023	Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21 or Num 11:24-30	Ps 104:24-34, 35b	1 Cor 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21	Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 7:37-39	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
Jun 4 2023	Trinity Sunday	Gn 1:1 – 2:4a	Ps 8	2 Cor 13:11-13	Mt 28:16-20	W
Jun 11 2023	Pent 2 [10]	Gn 12:1-9,	Ps 33:1-12	Rom 4:13-25	Mt 9:9-13, 18-26	G
Jun 18 2023	Pent 3 [11]	Gn 18:1-15, (21:1-7)	Ps 116:1-2, 12-19	Rom 5:1-8	Mt 9:35-10:8, (9-23)	G
Jun 22 2023	UCA Anniversary	Ez 37:15-28	Ps 122	Heb 13:1-8	Jn 17:20-26	R
Jun 25 2023	Pent 4 [12]	Gn 21:8-21 or Gn 22:1-14	Ps 86:1-10, 16-17	Rom 6:1b-11	Mt 10:24-39	G
Jul 2 2023	Pent 5 [13]	Gn 22:1-14	Ps 13	Rom 6:12-23	Mt 10:40-42	G
Jul 9 2023	Pent 6 [14]	Gn 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67	Ps 45:10-17 or Song 2:8-13	Rom 7:15-25a	Mt 11:16-19, 25-30	G
Jul 16 2023	Pent 7 [15]	Gn 25:19-34	Ps 119:105-112	Rom 8:1-11	Mt 13:1-9, 18-23	G
Jul 23 2023	Pent 8 [16]	Gn 28:10-19a	Ps 139:1-12, 23-24	Rom 8:12-25	Mt 13:24-30, 36-43	G
Jul 30 2023	Pent 9 [17]	Gn 29:15-28	Ps 105:1-11, 45b or Ps 128	Rom 8:26-39	Mt 13:31-33, 44-52	G
Aug 6 2023	Pent 10 [18]	Gn 32:22-31	Ps 17:1-7, 15	Rom 9:1-5	Mt 14:13-21	G
Aug 13 2023	Pent 11 [19]	Gn 37:1-4, 12-28	Ps 105:1-6, 16-22, 45b	Rom 10:5-15	Mt 14:22-33	G
Aug 20 2023	Pent 12 [20]	Gn 45:1-15	Ps 133	Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32	Mt 15:(10-20), 21-28	G
Aug 27 2023	Pent 13 [21]	Ex 1:8 – 2:10	Ps 124	Rom 12:1-8	Mt 16:13-20	G
Sept 3 2023	Pent 14 [22]	Ex 3:1-15	Ps 105:1-6, 23-26, 45b	Rom 12:9-21	Mt 16:21-28	G
Sept 10 2023	Pent 15 [23]	Ex 12:1-14	Ps 149	Rom 13:8-14	Mt 18:15-20	G
Sept 17 2023	Pent 16 [24]	Ex 14:19-31	Ps 114 or Ex 15:1b-11, 20-21	Rom 14:1-12	Mt 18:21-35	G
Sept 24 2023	Pent 17 [25]	Ex 16:2-15	Ps 105:1-6, 37-45	Phil 1:21-30	Mt 20:1-16	G
Oct 1 2023	Pent 18 [26]	Ex 17:1-7	Ps 78:1-4, 12-16	Phil 2:1-13	Mt 21:23-32	G
Oct 8 2023	Pent 19 [27]	Ex 20:1-4, 7-9, 12-20	Ps 19	Phil 3:4b-14	Mt 21:33-46	G
Oct 15 2023	Pent 20 [28]	Ex 32:1-14	Ps 106:1-6, 19-23	Phil 4:1-9	Mt 22:1-14	G
Oct 22 2023	Pent 21 [29]	Ex 33:12-23	Ps 99	1 Thes 1:1-10	Mt 22:15-22	G
Oct 29 2023	Pent 22 [30]	Dt 34:1-12	Ps 90:1-6, 13-17	1 Thes 2:1-8	Mt 22:34-46	G
Nov 1 2023	All Saints Day	Rv 7:9-17	Ps 34:1-10, 22	1 Jn 3:1-3	Mt 5:1-12	W
Nov 5 2023	Pent 23 [31]	Jos 3:7-17	Ps 107:1-7, 33-37	1 Thes 2:9-13	Mt 23:1-12	G
Nov 12 2023	Pent 24 [32]	Jos 24:1-3a, 14-25	Ps 78:1-7	1 Thes 4:13-18	Mt 25:1-13	G
Nov 19 2023	Pent 25 [33]	Jgs 4:1-7	Ps 123	1 Thes 5:1-11	Mt 25:14-30	G
Nov 26 2023	Christ the King or the Reign of Christ	Ez 34:11-16, 20-24	Ps 100	Eph 1:15-23	Mt 25:31-46	W

UCA Anniversary Readings may be substituted for the Sunday before or after the 22nd June.

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.

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	14 April 2023
EASTER	16 April 2023
PENTECOST	4 June 2023



Basis of Union (1992 Edition), paragraph 5

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

obedience are nourished and regulated...

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

Year A 2022 - 2023

UNITING CHURCH

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Lectionary Notes – Year A, focus on Matthew

One of the notable features of the New Testament is that it is not one book but a collection of books. Within that collection, Christians, who are named after our allegiance to Jesus the Christ, may be especially interested in those books that deliberately set out to tell the story of Jesus. We know them as Gospels, a name deriving from Old English words meaning ‘good’ and ‘story’ or ‘talk’, a translation of the Greek εὐαγγέλιον, Latinized as *evangelium*, and meaning ‘good news’.

That four books tell the story of Jesus’ life, teachings, death, and resurrection are particularly noteworthy. Since the earliest days of the church, there has been discussion about why there is more than one such account in the canon of the New Testament and, conversely, why other similar books are not included. Without wanting to re-litigate the arguments of the early church in the development of the canon, the task for the modern preacher is to decide what it means for us today that we have four such accounts of Jesus’ life within our Scriptures. The idea that this is primarily about providing extra information – ‘filling in the gaps’ in one account from another – might lead to an instinct to harmonise the four gospels, trying to draw together one ‘complete’ picture of Jesus’ life drawn from the four sources. However, even in the church’s earliest days, this harmonising project was not generally looked upon favourably. A much more constructive approach sees that each of the gospel writers was constructing an account for a particular time and audience to address specific concerns and explore particular theological ideas that were of interest to the writer’s audience(s). The contemporary reader or preacher might ask, ‘What is the unique picture of Jesus I gain from this gospel? How is it similar, and how does it differ from the other gospels? Are any of this gospel’s specific themes and emphases especially relevant to our current context and circumstances?’

Some scholars believe the gospel of Matthew was written at a time when the Christian community was distancing itself from an increasingly rabbinic form of Judaism. In that setting, this gospel’s focus on Jesus’ interpretations of the law and the prophets, and the robust arguments with and condemnation of the ‘scribes and the Pharisees’, could be seen as a way of establishing the importance of maintaining Jewish heritage to an increasingly gentile Christian community or as an apologetic making the case that the way of Jesus was the true fulfilment of Jewish commitments and practices. Perhaps it functions in both these ways at once.

Most scholars also place the gospel of Matthew within a time period when there was significant upheaval for the Jewish community in Palestine, with the repercussions of the first Jewish Roman war (AD 66-73) and the destruction of the Temple reverberating throughout their society.

If this is the setting for the gospel of Matthew, then it may have much for us to ponder in an age when political polarisation is rife, where interfaith dialogue is critical and where the spectre of global warfare hangs closer to us than for many years. I encourage preachers in this year of Matthew to explore some of the resources listed on this leaflet and thus to wrestle with the messages of Matthew in a way that will enable listeners to follow better the Christ to whom Matthew witnesses.

Rev Lindsay Cullen
National Consultant, Assembly Resourcing Unit

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.

“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/>

Podcasts covering Lectionary topics

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)

Sermons, Liturgies, Prayers, and Articles, from a post-liberal, progressive perspective. Rev A. E. Hunt, a retired UCA minister, is a leader in the progressive religion movements in Australia and New Zealand. www.rexaxehuntprogressive.org.com

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

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

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

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

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

Websites with Lectionary based liturgies, sermons and worship activities

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. With Love to the World now also has Apps available on the Google Play Store or Apple App Store. (Paid Print Subscription). With Love to the World now also has Apps available on the Google Play Store or Apple App Store.

Bill Loader’s Home Page <http://www.billloader.com>

Websites with Commentary on Lectionary Passages

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 Lectionary Listing and Links

Commentaries and Resources on the Gospel of Matthew

- * Barclay, William, *The Gospel of Matthew Vol 1 and Vol 2*, Westminster John Knox.
- * Culpepper, R. Alan, *Matthew: A Commentary*, Westminster John Knox.
- * Hare, Douglas R.A, *Matthew Interpretation Series*, Westminster John Knox.
- * Long, Thomas G, *Matthew*, Westminster John Knox.
- * Wright, NT. *Matthew for Everyone, Part 1 and Part 2*, Westminster John Knox.
- * *Feasting on the Gospels – Matthew, Vol. 1 and Vol. 2*, Westminster John Knox Press.

Commentaries on the Gospel of Matthew in Korean

- Chun, Kyungyun, *The Theology of Matthew*, Hankook Sungseo Hakhui: Seoul, Korea, 2003.
- Park, Su-Ahm, *Commentary on Matthew’s Gospel*, Christian Literature Society of Korea, 2004.
- Jang, Heung Khil, *Commentary on Matthew’s Gospel* (for preachers), Korea Institute of Biblical Studies, 2008.

Resources to use with the Lectionary

- * *Lay Leaders Liturgy* (subscription). MediaCom Education Inc., Adelaide
- * *Seasons of the Spirit™ curriculum* (subscription). MediaCom Education Inc. Adelaide
- * *Words for Worship* subscription. MediaCom Education Inc., Adelaide
- * *Bringing the Word to Life Year A*. MediaCom Education Inc, Adelaide.
- * *Together in Worship and Prayer Year A*, MediaCom Education Inc. Adelaide.

- * *Abingdon Preaching Annual 2023*, Abingdon Press
- * *Abingdon Theological Companion to the Lectionary year A*. Abingdon Press
- * *Abingdon Worship Annual 2023*, Abingdon Press
- * *Will Willimon’s Lectionary Sermon Resource Year A, Part 1 and Part 1*. Abingdon Press. Nashville.

- * *Acts for Everyone*, N.T. Wright Westminster John Knox
- * *Advent for Everyone, Matthew: A daily devotional*, N.T. Wright, Westminster John Knox
- * *Isaiah 1–39, Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching*, Seitz, Christopher R, Westminster John Knox
- * *Connections: Year A*. Westminster John Knox
- * *Everyday Connections: Reflections and Practices for Year A*
- * *Feasting on the Word Year A, 4 volumes*, Westminster John Knox.
- * *Feasting on the Word Advent Companion and Lenten Companion*. Westminster John Knox
- * *Preaching God’s Transforming Justice: A Lectionary Commentary Year A*, Westminster John Knox Press
- * *Isaiah 1 - 39*, Walter Brueggemann, Westminster John Knox
- * *Isaiah 40 – 66*, Walter Brueggemann Westminster John Knox
- * *Isaiah for Everyone*, John Goldingay, Westminster John Knox
- * *Isaiah 40–66 Interpretation: A Bible Commentary for Teaching and Preaching*, Paul D, Hanson, Westminster John Knox
- * *John for Everyone*, N.T. Wright, Westminster John Knox

* *Fulfilling the Law and the Prophets: The Prophetic Vocation of Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew*, Matthew Anslow, Picwick Publications, an imprint of Wipf and Stock Publishers. 2022