

May those of us who preach and teach in the Year of Mark lead people to meet this irresistible Christ who reaches out to each of us through the pages of Scripture!

'The Christ that emerges from Mark, trampling through the haphazard events of His life, had a ringing intensity about Him that I could not resist. Christ spoke to me through His isolation, through the burden of His death, through His rage at the mundane, through His sorrow.' (*Revelations*, Canongate Books, 2006)

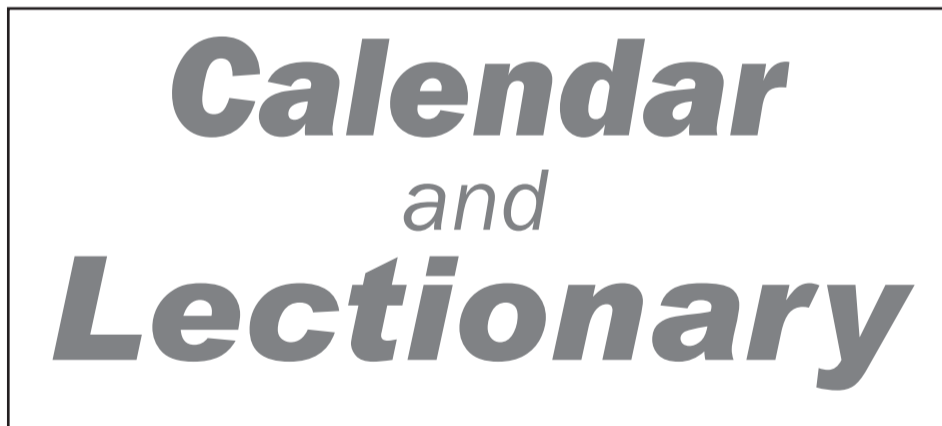
Along the way, Mark treats us to the most succinct and the most urgent telling of the stories of Jesus, perhaps the reason that this gospel is often recommended to new readers. One such new reader was the Australian-born singer Nick Cave, who later wrote an introduction to the gospel of Mark, in which he had this to say:

This year, Year B of the Lectionary cycle, is focussed for the gospel readings on the Gospel according to Mark, interestingly, the only one of the four gospels to use that designation of itself (see Mark 1:1). Mark is also the gospel most scholars agree was probably the first written and was known to and used as a starting point for the work of the writers of the other two synoptics. So, preachers this year have the opportunity to help worshippers engage with the framework of the story of Jesus that undergirds all three of the synoptic gospels – a focus on Jesus' ministry in Galilee and the north, a critical turning point with Peter's great declaration, 'You are the Christ, Jesus' predictions of his death and the story of the Transfiguration), then the journey to Jerusalem, the events of the Passion week and Jesus' death and resurrection.

The Lectionary itself is structured around the four books of the Bible given the label of 'gospels', with each year of the three-year cycle focussed on one of the three synoptic gospels – Matthew, Mark and Luke – and readings from John's gospel spread throughout all three years, especially on the special days and times within the Church's calendar. This format makes sense, as the synoptic gospels share a common way of telling the story of Jesus, which we can thus work our way through in each of the three years of the Cycle, whereas John's gospel adds some quite different ways of telling the stories of Jesus' ministry, passion, death and resurrection.

The Uniting Church's Basis of Union tells us that 'The Uniting Church lays upon its members the serious duty of reading the Scriptures, commits its ministers to preach from these and to administer the sacraments of Baptism and the Lord's Supper as effective signs of the Gospel set forth in the Scriptures'; As such, the element of our corporate worship services where we open the Bible and engage with the Word is a critical component of our discipleship. For that reason, a tool for ensuring we engage with a full diet of different parts of the Scriptures is incredibly helpful, and that is exactly what we have in the Lectionary. The quote from the Basis also points to what we receive from engagement with both Word and sacrament, and that is 'Gospel' – good news.

Year B – The Year of Mark



of the UNITING CHURCH Year B 2023- 2024

'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

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.

Commentaries and Resources for the Gospel of Mark

- * *Mark for Everyone*, N.T. Wright, Westminster John Knox Press
- * *Mark for Everyone*, N.T. Wright, Westminster John Knox Press
- * *The Gospel of Mark: A Beginner's Guide to the Good News*, Amy-Jill Levine, Abingdon Press
- * *The Gospel of Mark*, with a new foreword, William Barday, Westminster John Knox Press
- * *Mark for Everyone – 20th Anniversary Edition with Study Guide*, N.T. Wright, Westminster John Knox Press
- * *Feasting on the Gospels – Mark*, Cynthia A. Jarvis & E. Elizabeth Johnson, Westminster John Knox Press
- * *Conversations with Scripture: The Gospel of Mark*, Marcus J. Borg, Church Publishing
- * *Feasting on the Gospels – Acts and John*, vols. 1 and 2, Westminster John Knox Press
- * *Acts for Everyone*, N.T. Wright, Westminster John Knox Press
- * *John for Everyone Part 1 and Part 2*, N.T. Wright, Westminster John Knox Press
- * *Provoking the Gospel of John: The storytellers Commentary A, B, C*, Richard W. Swanson, The Pilgrim Press
- * *Abingdon Preaching Annual 2024*, Abingdon Press
- * *Abingdon Theological Companion to the Lectionary Year B*, Abingdon Press
- * *Abingdon Worship Annual 2024*, Abingdon Press
- * *Will William's Lectionary Resource Year B, Part 1 and Part 2*, Abingdon Press
- * *Connections: A Lectionary Commentary vol. 1, 2, 3, 4*, Westminster John Knox Press
- * *Feasting on the Word – Preaching the Revised Common Lectionary (4 volumes)*, Editors: David L. Bartlett and Barbara Brown Taylor, Westminster John Knox Press
- * *Feasting on the Word: A Thematic Resource – Advent Companion and Lenten Companion*, David L. Bartlett, Barbara Brown Taylor, Kimberly Bracken Long, Westminster John Knox Press
- * *Liturgy, Learning, and (purposeful) Life*, subscription, MediaCom Education
- * *Words for Worship* subscription, MediaCom Education
- * *Bringing the Word of Life Year B*, Andrew Collis & Dorothy McKae-McMahon, MediaCom Education.
- * *Together in Worship and Prayer Year B*, MediaCom Education
- Studies – Devotional**
- * *Disciplines 2024 A book of daily devotions based on Revised Common Lectionary*, The Upper Room
- * *Everyday Connections: Reflections and Practices for Year B*, Ed: Heidi Haverkamp
- * *Journeying with Mark: Bringing the Gospel Alive for Groups and Individuals*, James Woodward, Paul Gooder, Mark Pryce, SPCK
- * *Advent for Everyone, Mark: A daily devotional*, N.T. Wright, Westminster John Knox Press
- Advent**
- * *The Coming of Jesus Christ: 4 studies on Hope*, Christopher C. Walker, MediaCom Education
- * *Holy Disruption: Discovering Advent in the Gospel of Mark*, Tracy S. Daub, Westminster John Knox Press
- Lent**
- * *The Call to Discipleship – Six Lenten studies on what it means to follow Jesus*, Christopher C. Walker, MediaCom Education
- * *Journeying with Jesus: Reading Mark in Lent*, Robert Bos, MediaCom Education

* Available from
MediaCom Education
08 8371 1399
mediacomeducation.org.au

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.billloader.com>

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

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

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

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

The Billabong (Rev Jeff Shrowder) <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. www.rexaehuntprogressively.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/>

"Talking about the Text – Two old guys trying to make sense of the lectionary text for the coming week" <https://sundaybible.substack.com>



THE UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Year 'B' REVISED COMMON LECTIONARY 2023 – 2024

(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
Dec 3 2023	Advent 1	Is 64:1-9	Ps 80:1-7,17-19	1 Cor 1:3-9	Mk 13:24-37	P
Dec 10 2023	Advent 2	Is 40:1-11	Ps 85:1-2, 8-13	2 Pt 3:8-15a	Mk 1:1-8	P
Dec 17 2023	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 24 2023	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 2023	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 31 2023	Christmas 1	Is 61:10-62:3	Ps 148	Gal 4:4-7	Lk 2:22-40	W
Jan 1 2024	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 2024	New Year's Day	Ecc 3:1-13	Ps 8	Rev 21:1-6a	Mt 25:31-46	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 2024	Epiphany	Is 60:1-6	Ps 72:1-7,10-14	Eph 3:1-12	Mt 2:1-12	W
Jan 7 2024	Baptism of Jesus	Gn 1:1-5	Ps 29	Acts 19:1-7	Mk 1:4-11	W
Jan 14 2024	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 21 2024	Epiphany 3	Jon 3:1-5, 10	Ps 62:5-12	1 Cor 7:29-31	Mk 1:14-20	G
Jan 28 2024	Epiphany 4	Dt 18:15-20	Ps 111	1 Cor 8:1-13	Mk 1:21-28	G
Feb 2 2024	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 4 2024	Epiphany 5	Is 40:21-31	Ps 147:1-11, 20c	1 Cor 9:16-23	Mk 1:29-39	G
Feb 11 2024	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 14 2024	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 18 2024	Lent 1	Gn 9:8-17	Ps 25:1-10	1 Pt 3:18-22	Mk 1:9-15	P
Feb 25 2024	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 3 2024	Lent 3	Ex 20:1-17	Ps 19	1 Cor 1:18-25	Jn 2:13-22	P
Mar 10 2024	Lent 4	Nm 21:4-9	Ps 107:1-3,17-22	Eph 2:1-10	Jn 3:14-21	P
Mar 17 2024	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 24 2024	Liturgy of the Palms		Ps 118:1-2,19-29		Mk 11:1-11 or Jn 12:12-16	P
	Liturgy of the Passion	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 25 2024	Annunciation of the Lord	Is 7:10-14	Ps 45 or 40:5-10	Heb 10:4-10	Lk 1:26-38	W
Mar 25 2024	Monday in Holy Week	Is 42:1-9	Ps 36:5-11	Heb 9:11-15	Jn 12:1-11	P
Mar 26 2024	Tuesday in Holy Week	Is 49:1-7	Ps 71:1-14	1 Cor 1:18-31	Jn 12:20-36	P
Mar 27 2024	Wednesday in Holy Week	Is 50:4-9a	Ps 70	Heb 12:1-3	Jn 13:21-32	P
Mar 28 2024	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
Mar 29 2024	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
Mar 30 2024	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 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.

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
Mar 30/31 2024	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			W
(A minimum of 3 OT readings to be read; Ex 14 & 15 always included)						
Mar 31 2024	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
Mar 31 2024	Easter Evening	Is 25:6-9	Ps 114	1 Cor 5:6b-8	Lk 24:13-49	W
Apr 7 2024	Easter 2	Acts 4:32-35	Ps 133	1 Jn 1:1-2:2	Jn 20:19-31	W
Apr 14 2024	Easter 3	Acts 3:12-19	Ps 4	1 Jn 3:1-7	Lk 24:36b-48	W
Apr 21 2024	Easter 4	Acts 4:5-12	Ps 23	1 Jn 3:16-24	Jn 10:11-18	W
Apr 28 2024	Easter 5	Acts 8:26-40	Ps 22:25-31	1 Jn 4:7-21	Jn 15:1-8	W
May 5 2024	Easter 6	Acts 10:44-48	Ps 98	1 Jn 5:1-6	Jn 15:9-17	W
May 9 2024	Ascension Day	Acts 1:1-11	Ps 47 or Ps 93	Eph 1:15-23	Lk 24:44-53	W
May 12 2024	Easter 7	Acts 1:15-17, 21-26	Ps 1	1 Jn 5:9-13	Jn 17:6-19	W
May 19 2024	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 26 2024	Trinity Sunday	Is 6:1-8	Ps 29	Rom 8:12-17	Jn 3:1-17	W
Jun 2 2024	Pent 2 [9]	1 Sm 3:1-10, (11-20)	Ps 139:1-6,13-18	2 Cor 4:5-12	Mk 2:23-3:6	G
Jun 9 2024	Pent 3 [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 16 2024	Pent 4 [11]	1 Sm 15:34-16:13	Ps 20	2 Cor 5:6-10 (11-13) 14-17	Mk 4:26-34	G
Jun 22 2024	UCA Anniversary	2 Chr 30:1-9	Ps 127	Eph 2:19-22	Jn 17:1-11	R
Jun 23 2024	Pent 5 [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 30 2024	Pent 6 [13]	2 Sm 1:1,17-27	Ps 130	2 Cor 8:7-15	Mk 5:21-43	G
Jul 7 2024	Pent 7 [14]	2 Sm 5:1-5, 9-10	Ps 48	2 Cor 12:2-10	Mk 6:1-13	G
Jul 14 2024	Pent 8 [15]	2 Sm 6:1-5, 12b-19	Ps 24	Eph 1:3-14	Mk 6:14-29	G
Jul 21 2024	Pent 9 [16]	2 Sm 7:1-14a	Ps 89:20-37	Eph 2:11-22	Mk 6:30-34, 53-56	G
Jul 28 2024	Pent 10 [17]	2 Sm 11:1-15	Ps 14	Eph 3:14-21	Jn 6:1-21	G
Aug 4 2024	Pent 11 [18]	2 Sm 11:26-12:13a	Ps 51:1-12	Eph 4:1-16	Jn 6:24-35	G
Aug 11 2024	Pent 12 [19]	2 Sm 18:5-9, 15, 31-33	Ps 130	Eph 4:25-5:2	Jn 6:35, 41-51	G
Aug 18 2024	Pent 13 [20]	1 Kgs 2:10-12; 3:3-14	Ps 111	Eph 5:15-20	Jn 6:51-58	G
Aug 25 2024	Pent 14 [21]	1 Kgs 8: (1,6,10-11), 22-30, 41-43	Ps 84	Eph 6:10-20	Jn 6:56-69	G
Sep 1 2024	Pent 15 [22]	Song 2:8-13	Ps 45:1-2,6-9	Jas 1:17-27	Mk 7:1-8,14-15, 21-23	G
Sep 8 2024	Pent 16 [23]	Prv 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23	Ps 125	Jas 2:1-10, (11-13),14-17	Mk 7:24-37	G
Sep 15 2024	Pent 17 [24]	Prv 1:20-33	Ps 19	Jas 3:1-12	Mk 8:27-38	G
Sep 22 2024	Pent 18 [25]	Prv 31:10-31	Ps 1	Jas 3:13-4:3, 7-8a	Mk 9:30-37	G
Sep 29 2024	Pent 19 [26]	Est 7:1-6, 9-10; 9:20-22	Ps 124	Jas 5:13-20	Mk 9:38-50	G
Oct 6 2024	Pent 20 [27]	Jb 1:1; 2:1-10	Ps 26	Heb 1:1-4; 2:5-12	Mk 10:2-16	G
Oct 13 2024	Pent 21 [28]	Jb 23:1-9,16-17	Ps 22:1-15	Heb 4:12-16	Mk 10:17-31	G
Oct 20 2024	Pent 22 [29]	Jb 38:1-7, (34-41)	Ps 104:1-9, 24, 35c	Heb 5:1-10	Mk 10:35-45	G
Oct 27 2024	Pent 23 [30]	Jb 42:1-6,10-17	Ps 34:1-8, (19-22)	Heb 7:23-28	Mk 10:46-52	G
Nov 1 2024	All Saints Day	Is 25:6-9	Ps 24	Rev 21:1-6a	Jn 11:32-44	W
Nov 3 2024	Pent 24 [31]	Ru 1:1-18	Ps 146	Heb 9:11-14	Mk 12:28-34	G
Nov 10 2024	Pent 25 [32]	Ru 3:1-5, 4:13-17	Ps 127	Heb 9:24-28	Mk 12:38-44	G
Nov 17 2024	Pent 26 [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 24 2024	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

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ORTHODOX DATES

GREAT FRIDAY	3 May 2024
EASTER	5 May 2024
PENTECOST	23 June 2024