

Calendar and Lectionary

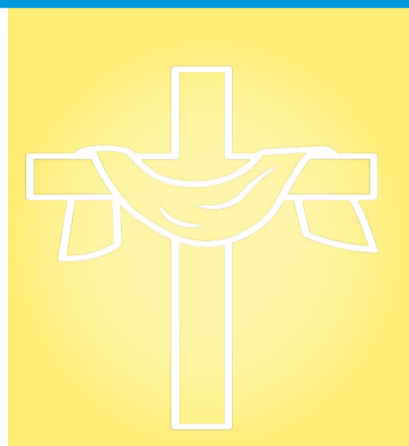
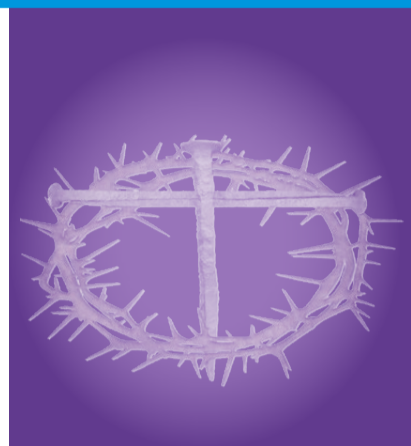


UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
ASSEMBLY RESOURCING UNIT

Year C 2024 - 2025

'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



Lectionary Introduction

The Gospel of Luke invites us into a unique and profoundly compassionate vision of Christ's ministry—a vision that speaks especially to the lost, the marginalised, and the least among us. This gospel highlights a Jesus anointed by the Spirit to bring good news to the poor, proclaim release to captives, recovery of sight to the blind, and to set the oppressed free (Lk 4:18-19). In Luke, we see Jesus fulfilling a radical mission of liberation, with salvation woven through as an inclusive hope for all people.

Luke's narrative also offers a unique space for women, lifting up their voices and experiences in ways unseen in other gospels. Mary, Elizabeth and Anna take central roles in the story of Jesus' birth and early ministry. Through Mary's prophetic song—the Magnificat—we hear the cry for justice and liberation resound as she proclaims a God who scatters the proud and exalts the humble, a truth that echoes through the ages.

Hospitality and fellowship are recurring themes in Luke, where we find Jesus sharing in meals that defy social boundaries and transform lives. Luke brings us memorable stories centred on table fellowship, such as the Emmaus Road, where Jesus breaks bread with the disciples, revealing himself in a simple act of hospitality. These gatherings around food embody God's welcome, where all are invited to taste and see God's grace, and it is this radical hospitality which speaks to our own calling as a community of Christ today.

Some of the most beloved parables and stories are found uniquely in Luke: the Good Samaritan, the Prodigal Son, the lost coin, the annunciation to Mary, and the shepherds who visit the newborn Jesus. Each of these stories holds a mirror to our own lives, challenging us to see Christ in the stranger, to forgive unconditionally, to celebrate the return of the lost, and to find God in the ordinary. They are not just stories for their time; they are stories that call us to a transformative discipleship that is both daring and compassionate.

Luke's gospel is a call to see the kingdom of God not as distant or inaccessible but as breaking into our lives here and now. As we journey through this liturgical year, let us reflect on the Spirit's anointing upon us—to be good news to the poor, to set captives free, and to proclaim God's grace to all.

May Luke's witness inspire us to weave Christ's love that knows no bounds, welcoming all with the same compassion, justice, and joy that Jesus embodied.

Rev Charissa Suli
President of the Uniting Church in Australia

A Short Guide to Using the Lectionary

The *Revised Common Lectionary (RCL)* offers for 4 readings for each week, in a three-year cycle:

First Reading from the Old Testament

Psalm

Second Reading from the apostles' writings

Gospel following a cycle of the synoptic Gospels: Matthew (Year A), Mark (Year B), and Luke (Year C). (The Gospel of John is used as a supplement, particularly around Christmas, Lent, and Easter.)

The lectionary encourages us to connect the stories of our lives to the story of God's faithful throughout Scripture. These texts are not simply offered to focus our sermons, but also to shape our prayers and liturgy and song. It is worth keeping in mind these words from the *Basis of Union*:

"The Word of God on whom salvation depends is to be heard and known from Scripture appropriated in the worshipping and witnessing life of the Church." (Paragraph 5)

The connection between Scripture and our worshipping and witnessing life should invite flexibility and pastoral sensitivity in how we use the lectionary. You might choose to follow the lectionary for key seasons: Advent / Christmas, Lent / Easter, and focus on locally chosen texts in other seasons. In places with preachers serving multiple communities, you might follow lectionary texts in different orders so that preachers can take their sermons "on the road" (a common practice of John Wesley).

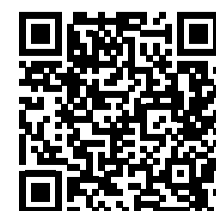
Lectionaries offer us a sign of unity with other churches who share in the same readings week by week. At the same time, the *RCL* often omits stories about women, and more difficult texts within Scripture. Local leaders should consider making sure the full witness of Scripture is heard across the life of the community. You might consider how often the focus text is the Gospel, rather than the Old Testament reading, for example.

Before Trinity Sunday the Old Testament readings complement the Gospel reading. After Pentecost the Uniting Church follows a semi-continuous narrative within the Old Testament, connections between the Old Testament and Gospel readings are not intentional.



More RCL resources are available on the Assembly website, which is updated regularly.

Please scan or click the QR code.





UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Year 'C'
REVISED COMMON
LECTIONARY
2024-2025

(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.

Table with columns: Date, Day, First Reading, Psalm, Second Reading, Gospel, C. Rows include Advent 1-4 with readings from Jer, Mal, Zep, Mic and Gospels from 1Thes, Phil, Lk.

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.)

Table with columns: Date, Day, First Reading, Psalm, Second Reading, Gospel, C. Rows include Nativity 1-3, Christmas 1, New Year's Day, Holy Name of Jesus, Christmas 2.

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.

Table with columns: Date, Day, First Reading, Psalm, Second Reading, Gospel, C. Rows include Epiphany, Baptism of Jesus, Epiphany 2-7, Transfiguration of Jesus.

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.

Table with columns: Date, Day, First Reading, Psalm, Second Reading, Gospel, C. Rows include Ash Wednesday, Lent 1-5, Passion Sunday, Palm Sunday, Holy Week (Monday-Friday), Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday.

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.

Table with columns: Date, Day, First Reading, Psalm, Second Reading, Gospel, C. Rows include Easter Vigil, Easter Day, Easter Evening, Easter 2, Easter 3-6, Ascension Day, Easter 7, Pentecost.

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.

Table with columns: Date, Day, First Reading, Psalm, Second Reading, Gospel, C. Rows include Trinity Sunday, Pent 2-17, UCA Anniversary, Pent 3-17, Jul 6-13, Jul 20-27, Aug 3-17, Aug 24-31, Sep 7-14, Sep 21-28, Oct 5-12, Oct 19-26, Nov 1-2, Nov 9-16, Nov 23.

* Assembly resources including suggested readings for these occasions will be available on the Lectionary Resources webpage when released.

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

Table with columns: Date, Event. Rows: GOOD FRIDAY 18 April 2025, EASTER 20 April 2025, PENTECOST 8 June 2025