

Narrative Lectionary 2018-19

Readings for Year 1 (Matthew)

The **preaching texts** are always listed first. During the fall, Old Testament texts are the primary vehicle for proclaiming the biblical story. The gospel readings become primary texts on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. A brief accompanying reading (selected from one of the gospels before Christmas and after Easter; selected from Psalms from Christmas through Easter) is noted in parentheses. *These accompanying readings are optional.*

September 9	Flood and Promise Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17 Noah, the flood, and the promise of the rainbow <i>(Matt 8:24-27, Jesus calms the storm)</i>
September 16	Call of Abraham Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 12:1-9 Call of Abraham, promise of land, descendants, blessing to the nations <i>(Matt 28:19-20, Go therefore and make disciples of all nations)</i>
September 23	Joseph in Prison Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 39:1-23 Joseph is unjustly put in prison; yet God is present with him there <i>(Matt 5:11-12, Blessed are you when people revile you)</i>
September 30	Rescue at the Sea Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-29 The sea parts at the exodus; God's deliverance <i>(Matt 2:13-15, Mary, Joseph, and Jesus in Egypt, out of Egypt have I called my son)</i>
October 7	Covenant and Commandments Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost	Exodus 19:3-7; 20:1-17 God brings Israel as on eagle's wings; Decalogue <i>(Matt 5:17, Jesus came not to abolish the law and prophets but to fulfill them)</i>
October 14	Joshua Renews the Covenant Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost	Joshua 24:1-15 [16-26] Story of God's deliverance. Joshua says, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" <i>(Matt 4:8-10, Satan offers Jesus all kingdoms, but Jesus says "Worship God and serve only him")</i>

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October	21	David and Bathsheba Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost	2 Samuel 11:1-5, 26-27; 12:1-9; Psalm 51:1-9 Nathan's parable indicts David after his sin with Bathsheba. David is moved to repent. <i>(Matt 21:33-41, Parable about the wicked tenants)</i>
October	28	Solomon's Wisdom Twentieth-third Sunday after Pentecost	1 Kings 3:4-9, (10-15), 16-28 Solomon prays for wisdom; two women and a child <i>(Matt 6:9-10, Pray in this way, "Our Father, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come...")</i>
November	4	Elisha Heals Naaman Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost	2 Kings 5:1-15a Elisha heals Naaman, a foreigner and leper <i>(Matt 8:2-3, Jesus heals a leper, "I will, be clean")</i>
November	11	Micah Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost	Micah [1:3-5]; 5:2-5a; 6:6-8 God promises a ruler from Bethlehem; desires justice, kindness, walking humbly with God <i>(Matt 9:13, God wants mercy, not sacrifice)</i>
November	18	Swords into Plowshares Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost	Isaiah 36:1-3, 13-20; 37:1-7; then 2:1-4 Assyria threatens Jerusalem and King Hezekiah despairs. Isaiah says the city will be saved and nations will beat swords into plowshares. <i>(Matt 5:14, light of the world, city on a hill)</i>
November	25	Jeremiah's Temple Sermon Christ the King Sunday	Jeremiah 1:4-10; 7:1-11 Prophetic call as warning; temple as den of robbers <i>(Matt 21:12-13, Jesus cleanses the temple, which has become a den of robbers)</i>
December	2	Faith as a Way of Life First Sunday of Advent	Habakkuk 1:1-7; 2:1-4; 3:[3b-6], 17-19 The prophet, grieved by injustice/suffering, watches for God's reply. Faith is a way of life, not an answer. <i>(Matt 26:36-38; In Gethsemane Jesus is grieved and asks disciples to watch with him)</i>

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December 9	Esther Second Sunday of Advent	Esther 4:1-17 For such a time as this, Esther was made queen. <i>(Matt 5:13-16, Salt and light)</i>
December 16	Light to the Nations Third Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 42:1-9 Through the Spirit, God's servant will be a light to the nations, bringing release to prisoners. <i>(Matt 12:15-21, The ministry of Jesus)</i>
December 23	Jesus as Immanuel Fourth Sunday of Advent	Matthew 1:18-25 Announcement of Jesus' birth to Joseph; Jesus will be Immanuel <i>(Psalm 23:1-4, or 23:4)</i>
December 24	Birth of Jesus Christmas Eve	Luke 2:1-14, [15-20] Birth of Jesus <i>(Psalm 96:10-13)</i>
December 25	Shepherds Visit Christmas Day	Luke 2:8-20 Shepherds visit the infant Jesus. <i>(Psalm 95:6-7)</i>
December 30	Genealogy of Jesus First Sunday of Christmas	Matthew 1:1-17 The genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham <i>(Psalm 132:11-12)</i>
January 6	Day of Epiphany: Magi Visit Day of Epiphany	Matthew 2:1-23 The Magi visit the infant Jesus; flight into Egypt, massacre of the innocents, the return to Nazareth <i>(Psalm 96:10-13) [opt. Psalm 11:1-3]</i>
January 13	Jesus' Baptism: Matthew First Sunday after Epiphany	Matthew 3:1-17 John the Baptist , Jesus is baptized to fulfill all righteousness <i>(Psalm 2:7-8)</i>

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January	20	Tempted in the Wilderness Second Sunday after Epiphany	Matthew 4:1-17 Jesus tempted in the wilderness <i>(Psalm 91:9-12)</i>
January	27	Beatitudes Third Sunday after Epiphany	Matthew 5:1-20 Beatitudes, salt of the earth, let your light shine <i>(Psalm 1:1-3)</i>
February	3	Treasure in Heaven Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	Matthew 6:7-21 [25-34] Lord's prayer, treasure in heaven <i>and/or Matt 6:25-34, Lilies of the field</i> <i>(Psalm 20:7)</i>
February	10	The Golden Rule Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	Matthew 7:1-14, 24-29 Speck in the eye, narrow gate, wise man builds house on rock <i>(Psalm 37:16-18)</i>
February	17	Parables of the Kingdom Sixth Sunday after Epiphany	Matt 13:24-43 Parable of wheat and weeds <i>(Psalm 84:1-7)</i>
February	24	Feeding 5,000 Seventh Sunday after Epiphany	Matthew 14:13-33 Feeding the 5,000, walking on the sea <i>(Psalm 95:1-5)</i>
March	3	Transfiguration Transfiguration	Matthew 16:24--17:8 Passion prediction, bearing the cross, Transfiguration <i>(Psalm 41:7-10)</i>
March	6	Who Is the Greatest? Ash Wednesday	Matthew 18:1-9 Debate about who is the greatest, become like a child; if your right hand causes sin cut it off <i>(Psalm 146:7c-10 or 51:1-3)</i>

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March	10	Forgiveness First Sunday in Lent	Matthew 18:15-35 Church discipline, forgiving 70 times 7, parable of unforgiving servant <i>(Psalm 32:1-2)</i>
March	17	Laborers in the Vineyard Second Sunday in Lent	Matthew 20:1-16 Parable of laborers in vineyard <i>(Psalm 16:5-8)</i>
March	24	Wedding Banquet Third Sunday in Lent	Matthew 22:1-14 Parable of wedding banquet <i>(Psalm 45:6-7)</i>
March	31	Bridesmaids (or Talents) Fourth Sunday in Lent	Matthew 25:1-13 Parable of the bridesmaids <i>and/or Matt 25:14-30, Parable of the talents</i> <i>(Psalm 43:3-4)</i>
April	7	Last Judgment Fifth Sunday in Lent	Matthew 25:31-46 Parable of the last judgment <i>(Psalm 98:7-9)</i>
April	14	Triumphal Entry Palm Sunday	Matthew 21:1-17 Triumphal entry, cleansing the temple <i>(Psalm 118:25-29)</i>
April	18	Words of Institution Maundy Thursday	Matthew 26:17-30 Preparing for the Last Supper, mention of betrayal, Words of Institution <i>(Psalm 116:12-15)</i>
April	19	Crucifixion: Matthew Good Friday	Matthew 27:27-61 Crucifixion; "My God, my God why have you forsaken me?" <i>(Psalm 22:1-2, [14-18])</i>

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April	21	Easter: Matthew Easter	Matthew 28:1-10 Resurrection, empty tomb, women encounter the risen Jesus <i>(Psalm 118:19-24)</i>
April	28	Great Commission Second Sunday of Easter	Matthew 28:16-20 Great commission, Go therefore and make disciples of all nations <i>(Psalm 40:9-10)</i>
May	5	Peter's Vision Third Sunday of Easter	Acts 10:1-17, 34-48 Peter's vision show how God cleanses people of every nation <i>(Matt 9:36-37)</i>
May	12	Paul's Mission Fourth Sunday of Easter	Acts 13:1-3; 14:8-18 Beginning of Paul's mission. Healing at Lystra, gospel to the Gentile world <i>(Matt 10:40-42)</i>
May	19	Gospel as Salvation Fifth Sunday of Easter	Romans 1:1-17 Gospel as power of God for salvation to all, both Jews and Greeks <i>(Matt 9:10-13)</i>
May	26	God's Love Poured Out Sixth Sunday of Easter	Romans [3:28-30] 5:1-11 God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit; Christ died for the ungodly <i>(Matt 11:28-30)</i>
June	2	Hope of Resurrection Seventh Sunday of Easter	Romans 6:1-14 We were buried with him by baptism into death, so that we might walk in newness of life. Hope of resurrection. <i>(Matt 6:24)</i>
June	9	Nothing Can Separate Us Pentecost	Acts 2:1-4 Pentecost Romans 8:14-39 The groaning of creation, Spirit helps us in our weakness, nothing can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus <i>(Matt 28:16-20)</i>