

Narrative Lectionary 2023-24

Readings for Year 2 (Mark)

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	10	NL201 Garden of Eden Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 2:4b-25 Human beings are to till the garden; man and woman in companionship <i>(Mark 1:16-20 or Mark 10:6-8)</i>
September	17	NL202 Isaac Born to Sarah Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7 The promise of Isaac's birth to an aged Sarah and Abraham brings laughter <i>(Mark 10:27)</i>
September	24	NL203 Jacob Wrestles God Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	Genesis 32:[9-13] 22-30 Jacob wrestles with an angel. Receives the name Israel, for he strives with God <i>(Mark 14:32-36)</i>
October	1	NL204 Moses and God's Name Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Exodus 1:8-14 [1:15—2:10]; 3:1-15 Israel is in slavery and calls for help. God calls Moses to bring release <i>(Mark 12:26-27a)</i>
October	8	NL205 Hear O Israel Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost	Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-9 Ten Commandments Love the LORD your God with all your heart and soul and might <i>(Mark 12:28-31)</i>
October	15	NL206 Ruth Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost	Ruth 1:1-17 [4:13-17] Ruth is a foreigner who finds belonging among God's people. "Where you go I will go, your people will be my people, your God will be my God." <i>(Mark 3:33-35)</i>

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October	22	<p>NL207 David Anointed King</p> <p>Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost</p>	<p>2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5; Psalm 150 David becomes king over all Israel. Brings the Ark of the covenant to Jerusalem with song making Jerusalem a place of worship.</p> <p><i>(Mark 11:8-10)</i></p>
October	29	<p>NL208 Kingdom Divided</p> <p>Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost</p>	<p>1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29 Rehoboam and the need for servant leadership; the kingdom is divided</p> <p><i>(Mark 10:42-45)</i></p>
November	5	<p>NL209 Elijah at Mount Carmel</p> <p>Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost</p>	<p>1 Kings 18:[17-19] 20-39 Elijah calls fire from heaven on Mount Carmel to reveal God's presence</p> <p><i>(Mark 9:2-4)</i></p>
November	12	<p>NL210 Hosea</p> <p>Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost</p>	<p>Hosea 11:1-9 God's passionate love for his children; despite their disobedience he cannot give them up.</p> <p><i>(Mark 10:13-14)</i></p>
November	19	<p>NL211 Isaiah's Vineyard Song</p> <p>Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost</p>	<p>Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5 Israel is pictured as a vineyard. God looks for the fruit of righteousness but finds only injustice. God promises a faithful king who will judge with righteousness.</p> <p><i>(Mark 12:1-3)</i></p>
November	26	<p>NL212 Josiah's Reform</p> <p>Christ the King Sunday</p>	<p>2 Kings 22:1-10 [11-20]; 23:1-3 Josiah's recovery of Scripture, reform and renewal.</p> <p><i>(Luke 24:30-32)</i></p>
December	3	<p>NL213 Promise of the Messiah</p> <p>First Sunday of Advent</p>	<p>Jeremiah 33:[10-11], 14-18 Promise of the Messiah</p> <p><i>(Mark 8:27-29)</i></p>

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December	10	NL214 Isaiah of the Exile Second Sunday of Advent	Isaiah 40:1-11 Comfort, comfort my people, a voice cries out in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord. <i>(Mark 1:1-4)</i>
December	17	NL215 Rebuilding the Temple Third Sunday of Advent	Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13 Return from exile and rebuilding the temple. <i>(Luke 2:25-32)</i>
December	24	NL216 Zechariah's Song Fourth Sunday of Advent	Luke 1:5-13 [14-25] 57-80 John the Baptist's birth; Blessed be the God of Israel who has looked favorably on his people. <i>(Psalm 113)</i>
December	24	NL217 Birth of Jesus Christmas Eve	Luke 2:1-14 [15-20] Birth of Jesus <i>(Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46-55)</i>
December	25	NL218 Shepherds Visit Christmas Day	Luke 2:8-20 Shepherds visit the infant Jesus or <i>Matthew 2:1-12, The Magi</i> <i>(Psalm 108:1-4)</i>
December	31	NL219 Beginning of Good News First Sunday of Christmas	Mark 1:1-20 John the Baptist, Jesus announces the kingdom, calls the disciples. <i>(Psalm 91:9-12)</i>
January	7	NL220 Jesus' Ministry Begun Baptism of the Lord	Mark 1:21-45 Jesus heals a man with an unclean spirit, Peter's mother-in-law, and a leper. <i>(Psalm 103:1-5)</i>
January	14	NL221 Jesus Heals and Teaches Second Sunday after Epiphany	Mark 2:1-22 Jesus heals a paralytic and eats with tax collectors. <i>(Psalm 103:6-14)</i>

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January	21	NL222 Parables in Mark Third Sunday after Epiphany	Mark 4:1-34 Parables of sower and mustard seed <i>(Psalm 126)</i>
January	28	NL223 Jesus and the Gerasene Demoniac Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	Mark 5:1-20 Jesus heals the Gerasene demoniac <i>(Psalm 89:1-4)</i>
February	4	NL224 Jairus' Daughter Healed Fifth Sunday after Epiphany	Mark 5:21-43 Jesus heals Jairus' daughter and the woman with the flow of blood. <i>(Psalm 131)</i>
February	11	NL229 Transfiguration Transfiguration Sunday	Mark 8:27—9:8 Peter's confession, passion prediction, bearing the cross, Transfiguration. <i>(Psalm 27:1-4)</i>
February	14	NL230 Passion Prediction Ash Wednesday	Mark 9:30-37 Passion prediction, debate about who is the greatest, call to become a servant. <i>(Psalm 32:1-5)</i>
February	18	NL231 First Last and Last First First Sunday in Lent	Mark 10:17-31 Rich man is called to sell all he has and follow Jesus. <i>(Psalm 19:7-10)</i>
February	25	NL232 Bartimaeus Healed Second Sunday in Lent	Mark 10:32-52 Passion prediction, Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, heals blind Bartimaeus. <i>(Psalm 34:11-14)</i>
March	3	NL233 Parable of the Tenants [Taxes to Caesar] Third Sunday in Lent	Mark 12:1-12 [13-17] Parable of the wicked tenants; paying taxes to Caesar <i>(Psalm 86:8-13)</i>

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March	10	NL234 Great Commandment Fourth Sunday in Lent	Mark 12:28-44 Great commandment, scribes seek honor, a poor widow gives all she has. <i>(Psalm 89:1-4)</i>
March	17	NL235 End of the Age Fifth Sunday in Lent	Mark 13:1-8, 24-37 The end of the age; call to be watchful. <i>(Psalm 102:12-17)</i>
March	24	NL236 Triumphal Entry (or Anointing at Bethany) Palm/Passion Sunday	Mark 11:1-11 Triumphal entry Mark 14:3-9 Woman anoints Jesus at Bethany <i>(Psalm 118:25-29)</i>
March	28	NL237 Lord's Supper, Prayer in Gethsemane Maundy Thursday	Mark 14:22-42 Words of Institution; Peter's denial foretold; prayer in Gethsemane. <i>(Psalm 116:12-19)</i>
March	29	NL238 Crucifixion Good Friday	Mark 15:16-39 Mocking; crucifixion; "My God, my God why have you forsaken me?" <i>(Psalm 22:1-2, 14-21)</i>
March	31	NL239 Resurrection Easter Sunday	Mark 16:1-8 Resurrection, empty tomb, and fleeing in fear. <i>(Psalm 118:21-27)</i>
April	7	NL240 You Shall Be My Witnesses Second Sunday of Easter	Acts 1:1-14 "You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." <i>(Mark 6:7-13)</i>

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April	14	<p>NL241 Peter Heals in Jerusalem</p> <p>Third Sunday of Easter</p>	<p>Acts 3:1-10 Healing at the Beautiful Gate; “I have no silver or gold, but what I have I give you, in the name of Jesus rise and walk.”</p> <p><i>(Mark 6:53-56)</i></p>
April	21	<p>NL242 Church at Thessalonica</p> <p>Fourth Sunday of Easter</p>	<p>Acts 17:1-9 Founding church at Thessalonica</p> <p>1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Paul’s message of thanks to the church at Thessalonica.</p> <p><i>(Mark 13:9-11)</i></p>
April	28	<p>NL243 Church at Corinth</p> <p>Fifth Sunday of Easter</p>	<p>Acts 18:1-4 Founding the church at Corinth.</p> <p>1 Corinthians 1:10-18 Factions in the church and the word of the cross.</p> <p><i>(Mark 9:34-35)</i></p>
May	5	<p>NL244 Faith, Hope, and Love</p> <p>Sixth Sunday of Easter</p>	<p>1 Corinthians 13:1-13 “Faith, hope, and love abide, but the greatest of these is love.”</p> <p><i>(Mark 12:28-31)</i></p>
May	12	<p>NL245 Death Swallowed in Life</p> <p>Seventh Sunday of Easter</p>	<p>1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-57 Jesus’ resurrection and the future resurrection; death as the last enemy.</p> <p><i>(Mark 12:26-27a)</i></p>
May	19	<p>NL246 Gifts of the Spirit</p> <p>Day of Pentecost</p>	<p>Acts 2:1-4 Pentecost</p> <p>1 Corinthians 12:1-13 Faith as principal work of the Spirit; other gifts of the Spirit for the common good.</p> <p><i>(Mark 1:4-8)</i></p>