

# Narrative Lectionary 2026-27

## 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 13	<b>NL101</b> <b>Flood and Promise</b>  Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost	<b>Genesis 6:5-22; 8:6-12; 9:8-17</b> Noah, the flood, and the promise of the rainbow  <i>(Matt 8:24-27, Jesus calms the storm)</i>
September 20	<b>NL102</b> <b>Call of Abraham</b>  Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost	<b>Genesis 12:1-9</b> 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 27	<b>NL103</b> <b>Joseph in Prison</b>  Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost	<b>Genesis 39:1-23</b> 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>
October 4	<b>NL104</b> <b>Rescue at the Sea</b>  Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost	<b>Exodus 14:5-7, 10-14, 21-29</b> 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>

## Narrative Lectionary 2026–27 (Year 1 – Matthew)

October 11	<b>NL105</b> <b>Covenant and Commandments</b>  Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost	<b>Exodus 19:3–7; 20:1–17</b> 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 18	<b>NL106</b> <b>Joshua Renews the Covenant</b>  Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost	<b>Joshua 24:1–15 [16–26]</b> 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>
October 25	<b>NL107</b> <b>David and Bathsheba</b>  Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost	<b>2 Samuel 11:1–5, 26–27; 12:1–9; Psalm 51:1–9</b> 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>
November 1	<b>NL108</b> <b>Solomon's Wisdom</b>  Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost	<b>1 Kings 3:4–9, [10–15], 16–28</b> 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>

## Narrative Lectionary 2026–27 (Year 1 – Matthew)

November 8	<b>NL109</b> <b>Elisha Heals Naaman</b>  Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost	<b>2 Kings 5:1–15a</b> Elisha heals Naaman, a foreigner and leper  <i>(Matt 8:2–3, Jesus heals a leper, “I will, be clean”)</i>
November 15	<b>NL110</b> <b>Micah</b>  Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost	<b>Micah [1:3–5]; 5:2–5a; 6:6–8</b> God promises a ruler from Bethlehem; desires justice, kindness, and walking humbly with God  <i>(Matt 9:13, God wants mercy, not sacrifice)</i>
November 22	<b>NL111</b> <b>Swords into Plowshares</b>  Christ the King / Reign of Christ Sunday	<b>Isaiah 36:1–3, 13–20; 37:1–7; 2:1–4</b> 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 29	<b>NL113</b> <b>Faith as a Way of Life</b>  First Sunday of Advent	<b>Habakkuk 1:1–7; 2:1–4; 3:[3b–6], 17–19</b> 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 his disciples to watch with him)</i>

## Narrative Lectionary 2026-27 (Year 1 – Matthew)

December 6	<b>NL114</b> <b>Esther</b>  Second Sunday of Advent	<b>Esther 4:1-17</b> For such a time as this, Esther was made queen.  <i>(Matt 5:13-16, Salt and light)</i>
December 13	<b>NL115</b> <b>Light to the Nations</b>  Third Sunday of Advent	<b>Isaiah 42:1-9</b> 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 20	<b>NL116</b> <b>Jesus as Immanuel</b>  Fourth Sunday of Advent	<b>Matthew 1:18-25</b> Announcement of Jesus' birth to Joseph; Jesus will be Immanuel  <i>(Psalm 23:1-4, or 23:4)</i>
December 24	<b>NL117</b> <b>Birth of Jesus</b>  Christmas Eve	<b>Luke 2:1-14 [15-20]</b> Birth of Jesus  <i>(Psalm 96:10-13)</i>
December 25	<b>NL118</b> <b>Shepherds Visit</b>  Christmas Day	<b>Luke 2:8-20</b> Shepherds visit the infant Jesus.  <i>(Psalm 95:6-7)</i>
December 27	<b>NL119</b> <b>Genealogy of Jesus</b>  First Sunday of Christmas	<b>Matthew 1:1-17</b> The genealogy of Jesus the Messiah, the son of David, the son of Abraham  <i>(Psalm 132:11-12)</i>

## Narrative Lectionary 2026–27 (Year 1 – Matthew)

January 3	<b>NL120</b> <b>Flight to Egypt</b>  Second Sunday of Christmas	<b>Matthew 2:1–23</b> The Magi visit the infant Jesus; the flight into Egypt, the massacre of the innocents, and the return to Nazareth  <i>(Psalm 96:10–13) [opt. Psalm 11:1–3]</i>
January 10	<b>NL121</b> <b>Jesus' Baptism: Matthew</b>  Baptism of Our Lord	<b>Matthew 3:1–17</b> John the Baptist, Jesus is baptized to fulfill all righteousness  <i>(Psalm 2:7–8)</i>
January 17	<b>NL122</b> <b>Tempted in the Wilderness</b>  Second Sunday after Epiphany	<b>Matthew 4:1–17</b> Jesus tempted in the wilderness  <i>(Psalm 91:9–12)</i>
January 24	<b>NL123</b> <b>Beatitudes</b>  Third Sunday after Epiphany	<b>Matthew 5:1–20</b> Beatitudes, salt of the earth, let your light shine  <i>(Psalm 1:1–3)</i>
January 31	<b>NL124</b> <b>Treasure in Heaven</b>  Fourth Sunday after Epiphany	<b>Matthew 6:7–21 [25–34]</b> Lord's Prayer, treasure in heaven, and lilies of the field  <i>(Psalm 20:7)</i>

## Narrative Lectionary 2026–27 (Year 1 – Matthew)

February 7	<b>NL129</b> <b>Transfiguration</b>  Transfiguration	<b>Matthew 16:24–17:8</b> Passion prediction, bearing the cross, Transfiguration ( <i>Psalm 41:7-10</i> )
February 10	<b>NL130</b> <b>Who Is the Greatest?</b>  Ash Wednesday	<b>Matthew 18:1–9</b> 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> )
February 14	<b>NL131</b> <b>Forgiveness</b>  First Sunday in Lent	<b>Matthew 18:15–35</b> Church discipline, forgiving 70 times 7, parable of the unforgiving servant ( <i>Psalm 32:1-2</i> )
February 21	<b>NL132</b> <b>Laborers in the Vineyard</b>  Second Sunday in Lent	<b>Matthew 20:1–16</b> Parable of laborers in the vineyard  ( <i>Psalm 16:5-8</i> )
February 28	<b>NL133</b> <b>Wedding Banquet</b>  Third Sunday in Lent	<b>Matthew 22:1–14</b> Parable of the wedding banquet  ( <i>Psalm 45:6-7</i> )
March 7	<b>NL134</b> <b>Bridesmaids (and Talents)</b>  Fourth Sunday in Lent	<b>Matthew 25:1–13 [14–30]</b> Parable of the bridesmaids and parable of the talents  ( <i>Psalm 43:3-4</i> )

## Narrative Lectionary 2026–27 (Year 1 – Matthew)

March	14	<b>NL135</b> <b>Last Judgment</b>  Fifth Sunday in Lent	<b>Matthew 25:31–46</b> Parable of the last judgment  ( <i>Psalm 98:7–9</i> )
March	21	<b>NL136</b> <b>Triumphal Entry</b>  Palm Sunday	<b>Matthew 21:1–17</b> Triumphal entry, cleansing the temple  ( <i>Psalm 118:25–29</i> )
March	25	<b>NL137</b> <b>Words of Institution</b>  Maundy Thursday	<b>Matthew 26:17–30</b> Preparing for the Last Supper, mention of betrayal, Words of Institution  ( <i>Psalm 116:12–15</i> )
March	26	<b>NL138</b> <b>Crucifixion: Matthew</b>  Good Friday	<b>Matthew 27:27–61</b> Crucifixion: "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"  ( <i>Psalm 22:1–2, [14–18]</i> )
March	28	<b>NL139</b> <b>Easter: Matthew</b>  Easter	<b>Matthew 28:1–10</b> Resurrection, empty tomb, women encounter the risen Jesus  ( <i>Psalm 118:19–24</i> )
April	4	<b>NL140</b> <b>Great Commission</b>  Second Sunday of Easter	<b>Matthew 28:16–20</b> Great Commission, Go therefore and make disciples of all nations  ( <i>Psalm 40:9–10</i> )

## Narrative Lectionary 2026–27 (Year 1 – Matthew)

April	11	<b>NL141</b> <b>Peter's Vision</b>  Third Sunday of Easter	<b>Acts 10:1–17, 34–48</b> Peter's vision shows how God cleanses people of every nation  <i>(Matt 9:36–37)</i>
April	18	<b>NL142</b> <b>Paul's Mission</b>  Fourth Sunday of Easter	<b>Acts 13:1–3; 14:8–18</b> Beginning of Paul's mission. Healing at Lystra, gospel to the Gentile world  <i>(Matt 10:40–42)</i>
April	25	<b>NL143</b> <b>Gospel as Salvation</b>  Fifth Sunday of Easter	<b>Romans 1:1–17</b> Gospel as the power of God for salvation to all, both Jews and Greeks  <i>(Matt 9:10–13)</i>
May	2	<b>NL144</b> <b>God's Love Poured Out</b>  Sixth Sunday of Easter	<b>Romans [3:28–30] 5:1–11</b> God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Spirit; Christ died for the ungodly.  <i>(Matt 11:28–30)</i>
May	9	<b>NL145</b> <b>Hope of Resurrection</b>  Seventh Sunday of Easter	<b>Romans 6:1–14</b> 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>
May	16	<b>NL146</b> <b>Nothing Can Separate Us</b>  Pentecost	<b>Acts 2:1–4; Romans 8:14–39</b> Pentecost and 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>