

Narrative Lectionary 2027–28

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.*

NL201: Garden of Eden

Date	Sept. 12, 2027
Reading	Genesis 2:4b-25 (Mark 1:16-20 or Mark 10:6-8)
Description	Human beings are to till the garden; man and woman in companionship.
Liturgical Date/Color	Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

NL202: Isaac Born to Sarah

Date	Sept. 19, 2027
Reading	Genesis 18:1-15; 21:1-7 (Mark 10:27)
Description	The promise of Isaac's birth to an aged Sarah and Abraham brings laughter
Liturgical Date/Color	Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

NL203: Jacob Wrestles God

Date	Sept. 26, 2027
Reading	Genesis 32:[9-13] 22-30 (Mark 14:32-36)
Description	Jacob wrestles with an angel. Receives the name Israel, for he strives with God
Liturgical Date/Color	Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

NL204: Moses and God's Name

Date	Oct. 3, 2027
Reading	Exodus 1:8-14 [1:15-2:10]; 3:1-15 (Mark 12:26-27a)
Description	Israel is in slavery and calls for help. God calls Moses to bring release
Liturgical Date/Color	Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

NL205: Hear O Israel

Date	Oct. 10, 2027
Reading	Deuteronomy 5:1-21; 6:4-9 (Mark 12:28-31)
Description	Ten Commandments. Love the LORD your God with all your heart and soul and might
Liturgical Date/Color	Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

NL206: Ruth

Date	Oct. 17, 2027
Reading	Ruth 1:1-17 [4:13-17] (Mark 3:33-35)
Description	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."
Liturgical Date/Color	Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

NL207: David Anointed King

Date	Oct. 24, 2027
Reading	2 Samuel 5:1-5; 6:1-5; Psalm 150 (Mark 11:8-10)
Description	David becomes king over all Israel. Brings the Ark of the covenant to Jerusalem with song making Jerusalem a place of worship.
Liturgical Date/Color	Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

NL208: Kingdom Divided

Date	Oct. 31, 2027
Reading	1 Kings 12:1-17, 25-29 (Mark 10:42-45)
Description	Rehoboam and the need for servant leadership; the kingdom is divided
Liturgical Date/Color	Twenty-fourth Sunday after Pentecost (Green) or Reformation Sunday (Red)

NL209: Elijah at Mount Carmel

Date	Nov. 7, 2027
Reading	1 Kings 18:[17-19] 20-39 (Mark 9:2-4)
Description	Elijah calls fire from heaven on Mount Carmel to reveal God's presence
Liturgical Date/Color	Twenty-fifth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

NL210: Hosea

Date	Nov. 14, 2027
Reading	Hosea 11:1-9 (Mark 10:13-14)
Description	God's passionate love for his children; despite their disobedience he cannot give them up.
Liturgical Date/Color	Twenty-sixth Sunday after Pentecost (Green)

NL211: Isaiah's Vineyard Song

Date	Nov. 21, 2027
Reading	Isaiah 5:1-7; 11:1-5 (Mark 12:1-3)
Description	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.
Liturgical Date/Color	Christ the King / Reign of Christ Sunday (White)

NL213: Promise of the Messiah

Date	Nov. 28, 2027
Reading	Jeremiah 33:[10-11], 14-18 (Mark 8:27-29)
Description	Promise of the Messiah
Liturgical Date/Color	First Sunday of Advent (Blue)

NL214: Isaiah of the Exile

Date	Dec. 5, 2027
Reading	Isaiah 40:1-11 (Mark 1:1-4)
Description	Comfort, comfort my people, a voice cries out in the wilderness, make straight the way of the Lord.
Liturgical Date/Color	Second Sunday of Advent (Blue)

NL215: Rebuilding the Temple

Date	Dec. 12, 2027
Reading	Ezra 1:1-4; 3:1-4, 10-13 (Luke 2:25-32)
Description	Return from exile and rebuilding the temple.
Lectionary Date/Color	Third Sunday of Advent (Blue)

NL216: Zechariah's Song

Date	Dec. 19, 2027
Reading	Luke 1:5-13 [14-25] 57-80 (Psalm 113)
Description	John the Baptist's birth; Blessed be the God of Israel who has looked favorably on his people.
Liturgical Date/Color	Fourth Sunday of Advent (Blue)

NL217: Birth of Jesus

Date	Dec. 24, 2027
Reading	Luke 2:1-14 [15-20] (Psalm 146:5-10 or Luke 1:46-55)
Description	Birth of Jesus
Liturgical Date/Color	Christmas Eve (White)

NL218: Shepherds Visit

Date	Dec. 25, 2027
Reading	Luke 2:8-20 or Matthew 2:1-12 (Psalm 108:1-4)
Description	Shepherds visit the infant Jesus <i>or</i> The Magi
Liturgical Date/Color	Christmas Day (White)

NL219: Beginning of Good News

Date	Dec. 26, 2027
Reading	Mark 1:1-20 (Psalm 91:9-12)
Description	John the Baptist, Jesus announces the kingdom, calls the disciples.
Liturgical Date/Color	First Sunday of Christmas (White)

NL220: Jesus's Ministry Begins

Date	Jan. 2, 2028
Reading	Mark 1:21-45 (Psalm 103:1-5)
Description	Jesus reveals the character of his power by healing a man with an unclean spirit, Peter's mother-in-law, and a leper.
Liturgical Date/Color	Second Sunday of Christmas (White)

NL221: Jesus Heals and Teaches

Date	Jan. 9, 2028
Reading	Mark 2:1-22 (Psalm 103:6-14)
Description	Jesus heals a paralytic and eats with tax collectors.
Liturgical Date/Color	Baptism of Our Lord (White)

NL222: Parables in Mark

Date	Jan. 16, 2028
Reading	Mark 4:1-34 (Psalm 126)
Description	Jesus shares the parables of the sower and the mustard seed.
Liturgical Date/Color	Second Sunday after Epiphany (Green)

NL223: Jesus and the Gerasene Demoniac

Date	Jan. 23, 2028
Reading	Mark 5:1-20 (Psalm 89:1-4)
Description	Jesus heals the Gerasene demoniac.
Liturgical Date/	Third Sunday after Epiphany (Green)

NL224: Jairus's Daughter Healed

Date	Jan. 30, 2028
Reading	Mark 5:21-43 (Psalm 131)
Description	Jesus heals Jairus's daughter and the woman with the flow of blood.
Liturgical Date/Color	Fourth Sunday after Epiphany (Green)

NL225: Death of John the Baptist

Date	Feb. 6, 2028
Reading	Mark 6:1-29 (Psalm 122)
Description	Jesus is rejected at Nazareth, Sending of the Twelve, Death of John the Baptist.
Liturgical Date/Color	Fifth Sunday after Epiphany (Green)

NL226: What defiles?

Date	Feb. 13, 2028
Reading	Mark 7:1-23 (Psalm 51:1-3, 6-7)
Description	What defiles one comes from within.
Liturgical Date/Color	Sixth Sunday after Epiphany (Green)

NL227: Jesus Heals a Syrophoenician Girl

Date	Feb. 20, 2028
Reading	Mark 7:24-37 (Psalm 31:14-16)
Description	Healing the daughter of a Syrophoenician woman and a deaf man.
Liturgical Date/Color	Seventh Sunday after Epiphany (Green)

NL229: Transfiguration

Date	Feb. 27, 2028
Reading	Mark 8:27-9:8 (Psalm 27:1-4)
Description	Peter's confession, passion prediction, bearing the cross, Transfiguration.
Liturgical Date/Color	Transfiguration Sunday (White)

NL230: Passion Prediction

Date	Mar. 1, 2028
Reading	Mark 9:30-37 (Psalm 32:1-5)
Description	Passion prediction, debate about who is the greatest, call to become a servant.
Liturgical Date/Color	Ash Wednesday (Purple/Black)

NL231: First Last and Last First

Date	Mar. 5, 2028
Reading	Mark 10:17-31 (Psalm 19:7-10)
Description	Rich man is called to sell all he has and follow Jesus.
Liturgical Date/Color	First Sunday in Lent (Purple)

NL232: Bartimaeus Healed

Date	Mar. 12, 2028
Reading	Mark 10:32-52 (Psalm 34:11-14)
Description	Passion prediction, Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, heals blind Bartimaeus.
Liturgical Date/Color	Second Sunday in Lent (Purple)

NL233: Parable of the Tenants [Taxes to Caesar]

Date	Mar. 19, 2028
Reading	Mark 12:1-12 [13-17] (Psalm 86:8-13)
Description	Parable of the wicked tenants; paying taxes to Caesar.
Liturgical Date/Color	Third Sunday in Lent (Purple)

NL234: Great Commandment

Date	Mar. 26, 2028
Reading	Mark 12:28-44 (Psalm 89:1-4)
Description	Great commandment, scribes seek honor, a poor widow gives all she has.
Liturgical Date/Color	Fourth Sunday in Lent (Purple)

NL235: End of the Age

Date	Apr. 2, 2028
Reading	Mark 13:1-8, 24-37 (Psalm 102:12-17)
Description	The end of the age; call to be watchful.
Liturgical Date/Color	Fifth Sunday in Lent (Purple)

NL236: Triumphal Entry (or Anointing at Bethany)

Date	Apr. 9, 2028
Reading	Mark 11:1-11; Mark 14:3-9 (Psalm 118:25-29)
Description	Triumphal entry; woman anoints Jesus at Bethany
Liturgical Date/Color	Palm/Passion Sunday (Red/Purple)

NL237: Lord's Supper, Prayer in Gethsemane

Date	Apr. 13, 2028
Reading	Mark 14:22-42 (Psalm 116:12-19)
Description	Words of Institution; Peter's denial foretold; prayer in Gethsemane.
Liturgical Date/Color	Maundy Thursday (Red/White)

NL238: Crucifixion

Date	Apr. 14, 2028
Reading	Mark 15:16-39 (Psalm 22:1-2, 14-21)
Description	Mocking; crucifixion; "My God, my God why have you forsaken me?"
Liturgical Date/Color	Good Friday (Black)

NL239: Resurrection

Date	Apr. 16, 2028
Reading	Mark 16:1-8 (Psalm 118:21-27)
Description	Resurrection, empty tomb, and fleeing in fear.
Liturgical Date/Color	Easter Sunday (White/Gold)

NL240: You Shall Be My Witnesses

Date	Apr. 23, 2028
Reading	Acts 1:1-14 (Mark 6:7-13)
Description	"You shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, Judea, Samaria, and to the ends of the earth."
Liturgical Date/Color	Second Sunday of Easter (White)

NL241: Peter Heals in Jerusalem

Date	Apr. 30, 2028
Reading	Acts 3:1-10 (Mark 6:53-56)
Description	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."
Liturgical Date/Color	Third Sunday of Easter (White)

NL242: Church at Thessalonica

Date	May 7, 2028
Reading	Acts 17:1-9, Founding church at Thessalonica (Mark 13:9-11)
Description	1 Thessalonians 1:1-10, Paul's message of thanks to the church at Thessalonica.
Liturgical Date/Color	Fourth Sunday of Easter (White)

NL243: Church at Corinth

Date	May 14, 2028
Reading	Acts 18:1-4; 1 Corinthians 1:10-18 (Mark 9:34-35)
Description	Founding the church at Corinth; factions in the church and the word of the cross.
Liturgical Date/Color	Fifth Sunday of Easter (White)

NL244: Faith, Hope, and Love

Date	May 21, 2028
Reading	1 Corinthians 13:1-13 (Mark 12:28-31)
Description	"Faith, hope, and love abide, but the greatest of these is love."
Liturgical Date/Color	Sixth Sunday of Easter (White)

NL245: Death Swallowed in Life

Date	May 28, 2028
Reading	1 Corinthians 15:1-26, 51-57 (Mark 12:26-27a)
Description	Jesus's resurrection and the future resurrection; death as the last enemy.
Liturgical Date/Color	Seventh Sunday of Easter (White)

NL246: Gifts of the Spirit; Day of Pentecost

Date	June 4, 2028
Reading	Acts 2:1-4; 1 Corinthians 12:1-13 (Mark 1:4-8)
Description	Pentecost; faith as principal work of the Spirit; other gifts of the Spirit for the common good.
Liturgical Date/Color	Day of Pentecost (Red)