



Lectionary & Calendar

2025 – 2026

Year A – Matthew

Lectionary & Calendar

Introduction

Calendar

This Calendar shows the dates of the church's festivals in the current year. It also shows dates of other important national, international and ecumenical celebrations and days of remembrance.

Lectionary

The Lectionary is a method by which, over a period of three years, much of the Bible is read aloud in Church.

Full coverage requires Bible readings every day of the year. This Lectionary, being oriented towards worship, includes readings for every Sunday and major festivals when they fall during the week. The one exception to this is Holy Week, which is given in full.

This Lectionary and Calendar follows the Common Lectionary Revised (1992) produced by the ecumenical liturgical body the Consultation on Common Texts (CCT), and is produced by permission of the CCT as a service to parishes and preachers. Neither the MCNZ nor the PCANZ is responsible for the inclusion or exclusion of any particular reading. No reading is mandatory and inclusion of any particular passage does not necessarily imply its suitability as a theme for worship. Some readings need to be used with particular sensitivity especially in light of, for example, new understandings of gender roles, and the church's relationship with other faiths.

Broadly speaking, each year is ordered according to the liturgical year, observing the church seasons such as Christmas, Easter and Pentecost.

Advent

The season of preparation which begins on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and in which the church recalls its hope and expectancy in the comings of Christ, past, present and future.

Christmas

The Christmas-Epiphany season includes Christmas Day and the twelve following days of Christmas. Recalling the stories of the birth and infancy of Christ, the church celebrates the mystery of the incarnation.

Epiphany

The period of several weeks in which the church reflects on the manifestation of Christ to all peoples.

Lent

The season of preparation and discipline, which begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes at sun-down on Holy Saturday. During the forty weekdays and six Sundays in Lent, the church remembers the sacrificial life and ministry of Jesus leading to the cross and renews its commitment to Christian discipleship.

Easter

The Great Fifty Days of the Easter-Pentecost season include eight Sundays. Beginning on Easter Day and concluding on the Day of Pentecost, this season celebrates the resurrection and ascension of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Pentecost

The period during which the church recalls its faith in God the Holy Trinity and seeks to relate its faith as the people of God to Christ's mission to the world.

Ordinary Readings

Year A in the three-year cycle is referred to as "The Year of Matthew", Year B "Mark", and Year C "Luke". Readings from John's Gospel are included mainly in Lent and Easter. NB During Ordinary Time, apart from the Psalm which is chosen as a response to the First Testament (or first) reading, the readings from First Testament, Epistle, and Gospel are not chosen to relate to one another. Instead, these readings follow three different "streams" of texts semi-continuously over a period of weeks. (Unless you are following the alternate complementary RCL readings, the only exceptions are Trinity Sunday, All Saints Day and Reign of Christ when a single theme is followed.) Those planning

worship through this season should pick just one of these passages to set the service theme. The others can be included as readings.

Additional Readings

Dates shown with an asterisk (*) alongside denote special occasions, which are listed at the back of the Lectionary. Preachers are encouraged to read and make use of parallel passages alongside the given Gospel reading, where they occur.

Terminology

In keeping with modern understandings of Scripture and sensitivity to other traditions, readers of the Bible in worship are encouraged to indicate that they are about to give “a reading...” (from, eg, Ps 119, the book of Genesis, John’s Gospel) rather than unnecessarily referring to the Old Testament or New Testament.

Liturgical Colours

These apply to church decorations and the vestments of worship leaders during the church year.

The Lectionary shows the basic pattern, although practices vary slightly from place to place.

Abbreviations are:

V = violet or purple (preparation; Advent and Lent)

W = white (light, joy; Christmas, Easter, infant baptism, weddings)

R = red (fire, Spirit; Pentecost, ordination, induction, sometimes adult baptism, and for the funeral of a ‘saint’ of the Church)

G = green (growth; ‘ordinary’ days from Pentecost to Advent)

Index Numbers

Next to each date there is a number (eg 42C). This is the COCU (Consultation on Church Union) indexing system. Due to the moveable feasts in the calendar, the cycle of readings does not exactly repeat every three years. For example, Pentecost 2 in Year B may have different readings from one cycle to the next. The COCU number allows cross referencing to the same readings in a previous cycle. This means that you will be able to access archived copies of previous years’ Lectionary resources for a given week.

Lectionary & Calendar 2025-2026

Abbreviations and versification are according to the NRSV.

Verse references in brackets indicate optional, extended readings.

Date	Clr	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
2025					
ADVENT					
November 30 Advent 1 01A	V	Is 2: 1-5	Ps 122	Rom 13: 11-14	Mt 24: 36-44
December 7 Advent 2 02A	V	Is 11: 1-10	Ps 72: 1-7, 18-19	Rom 15: 4-13	Mt 3: 1-12
December 14 Advent 3 03A	V	Is 35: 1-10	Ps 146: 5-10 <i>or</i> Lk 1: 46b-55	James 5: 7-10	Mt 11: 2-11
December 21 Advent 4 04A	V	Is 7: 10-16	Ps 80: 1-7, 17-19	Rom 1: 1-7	Mt 1: 18-25
CHRISTMAS		Christmas Eve and Christmas Day 05A			
December 24 Christmas Eve	W	Is 9: 2-7	Ps 96	Titus 2: 11-14	Lk 2: 1-14, (15-20)
December 25 Christmas Dawn	W	Is 62: 6-12	Ps 97	Titus 3: 4-7	Lk 2: (1-7), 8-20
December 25 Christmas Day	W	Is 52: 7-10	Ps 98	Heb 1: 1-4, (5-12)	Jn 1: 1-14
December 28 Christmas 1 06A	W	Is 63: 7-9	Ps 148	Heb 2: 10-18	Mt 2: 13-23
2026					
January 4 Christmas 2 07A	W	Jer 31: 7-14 <i>or</i> Sirach 24: 1-12	Ps 147: 12-20 <i>or</i> Wis Sol 10: 15-21	Eph 1: 3-14	Jn 1: (1-9), 10-18

Date	Clr	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
EPIPHANY					
January 6 Epiphany 08A <small>1 [see footnote]</small>	W	Is 60: 1-6	Ps 72: 1-7, 10-14	Eph 3: 1-12	Mt 2: 1-12
January 11 Epiphany 1 09A (Baptism of Jesus)	W	Is 42: 1-9	Ps 29	Acts 10: 34-43	Mt 3: 13-17
January 18 Epiphany 2 10A	G	Is 49: 1-7	Ps 40: 1-11	1 Cor 1: 1-9	Jn 1: 29-42
January 25 * Epiphany 3 11A	G	Is 9: 1-4	Ps 27: 1, 4-9	1 Cor 1: 10-18	Mt 4: 12-23
February 1 Epiphany 4 12A	G	Micah 6: 1-8	Ps 15	1 Cor 1: 18-31	Mt 5: 1-12
February 8 * Epiphany 5 13A	G	Is 58: 1-9a (9b-12)	Ps 112: 1-9 (10)	1 Cor 2: 1-12 (13-16)	Mt 5: 13-20
February 15 Transfiguration 17A	W	Ex 24: 12-18	Ps 2 or Ps 99	2 Peter 1: 16-21	Mt 17: 1-9
LENT					
February 18 Ash Wednesday 18A	V	Joel 2: 1-2, 12-17 or Is 58: 1-12	Ps 51: 1-17	2 Cor 5: 20b- 6: 10	Mt 6: 1-6, 16-21
February 22 Lent 1 19A	V	Gen 2: 15-17 3: 1-7	Ps 32	Rom 5: 12-19	Mt 4: 1-11
March 1 Lent 2 20A	V	Gen 12: 1-4a	Ps 121	Rom 4: 1-5, 13-17	Jn 3: 1-17 or Mt 17: 1-9

¹ According to the *Common Revised Lectionary* Epiphany may be celebrated on the date shown or on the first Sunday in January

Date	Clr	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
March 8 Lent 3 21A	V	Ex 17: 1-7	Ps 95	Rom 5: 1-11	Jn 4: 5-42
March 15 Lent 4 22A	V	1 Sam 16: 1-13	Ps 23	Eph 5: 8-14	Jn 9: 1-41
March 22 Lent 5 23A	V	Ezek 37: 1-14	Ps 130	Rom 8: 6-11	Jn 11: 1-45
March 29 Lent 6 24A Palm Sunday or Passion Sunday	V	None or Is 50: 4-9	Ps118: 1-2, 19-29 or Ps 31: 9-16	None or Phil 2: 5-11	Palm Mt 21: 1-11 Passion Mt 26: 14-27: 66 or Mt 27: 11-54
HOLY WEEK					
March 30 Monday 25A	V	Is 42: 1-9	Ps 36: 5-11	Heb 9: 11-15	Jn 12: 1-11
March 31 Tuesday 26A	V	Is 49: 1-7	Ps 71: 1-14	1 Cor 1: 18-31	Jn 12: 20-36
April 1 Wednesday 27A	V	Is 50: 4-9a	Ps 70	Heb 12: 1-3	Jn 13: 21-32
April 2 Maundy Thursday 28A	V	Ex 12: 1-4, (5-10), 11-14	Ps 116: 1-2, 12-19	1 Cor 11: 23-26	Jn 13: 1-17, 31b-35
April 3 Good Friday 29A	V	Is 52: 13-53: 12	Ps 22	Heb 10: 16-25 or Heb 4: 14-16, 5: 7-9	Jn 18: 1-19: 42
April 4 Holy Saturday 30A	V	Job 14: 1-14 or Lam 3: 1-9, 19-24	Ps 31: 1-4, 15-16	1 Peter 4: 1-8	Mt 27: 57-66 or Jn 19: 38-42
EASTER					
April 5 Easter Dawn 31A	W	Ex 14: 10-31, 15: 20-21	Ps 114	Rom 6: 3-11	Mt 28: 1-10
April 5 Easter Day 31A	W	Acts 10: 34-43 or Jer 31: 1-6	Ps 118: 1-2, 14-24	Col 3: 1-4 or Acts 10: 34-43	Jn 20: 1-18 or Mt 28: 1-10

Date	Clr	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
April 12 Easter 2 32A	W	Acts 2: 14a, 22-32	Ps 16	1 Peter 1: 3-9	Jn 20: 19-31
April 19 Easter 3 33A	W	Acts 2: 14a, 36-41	Ps 116: 1-4, 12-19	1 Peter 1: 17-23	Lk 24: 13-35
April 26 * Easter 4 34A	W	Acts 2: 42-47	Ps 23	1 Peter 2: 19-25	Jn 10: 1-10
May 3 * Easter 5 35A	W	Acts 7: 55-60	Ps 31: 1-5, 15-16	1 Peter 2: 2-10	Jn 14: 1-14
May 10 * Easter 6 36A	W	Acts 17: 22-31	Ps 66: 8-20	1 Peter 3: 13-22	Jn 14: 15-21
May 14 Ascension 37A 2 [see footnote]	W	Acts 1: 1-11	Ps 47 or Ps 93	Eph 1: 15-23	Lk 24: 44-53
May 17 * Easter 7 38A	W	Acts 1: 6-14	Ps 68: 1-10, 32-35	1 Peter 4:12- 14; 5: 6-11	Jn 17: 1-11
PENTECOST					
May 24 * Pentecost 39A	R	Acts 2: 1-21 or Num 11: 24-30	Ps 104: 24-34, 35b	1 Cor 12: 3b-13 or Acts 2: 1-21	Jn 20: 19-23 or Jn 7: 37-39
May 31 Trinity 40A	W	Gen 1: 1-2: 4a	Ps 8	2 Cor 13: 11-13	Mt 28: 16-20
June 7 Pentecost 2 42A	G	Gen 12: 1-9	Ps 33: 1-12	Rom 4: 13-25	Mt 9: 9-13, 18-26
June 14 Pentecost 3 43A	G	Gen 18: 1- 15 (21: 1-7)	Ps 116: 1-2, 12-19	Rom 5: 1-8	Mt 9: 35- 10: 8 (9-23)
June 21 * Pentecost 4 44A	G	Gen 21: 8-21	Ps 86: 1-10, 16-17	Rom 6: 1b-11	Mt 10: 24-39
June 28 Pentecost 5 45A	G	Gen 22: 1-14	Ps 13	Rom 6: 12-23	Mt 10: 40-42
July 5 Pentecost 6 46A	G	Gen 24: 34-38, 42-49, 58-67	Ps 45: 10-17 or Song Sol 2: 8-13	Rom 7: 15-25a	Mt 11: 16-19, 25-30

² According to the *Common Lectionary Revised* Ascension may be celebrated on the date shown or on Easter 7.

Date	Clr	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
July 12 * Pentecost 7 47A	G	Gen 25: 19-34	Ps 119: 105-112	Rom 8: 1-11	Mt 13: 1-9, 18-23
July 19 Pentecost 8 48A	G	Gen 28: 10-19a	Ps 139: 1-12, 23-24	Rom 8: 12-25	Mt 13: 24-30, 36-43
July 26 Pentecost 9 49A	G	Gen 29: 15-28	Ps 105: 1-11, 45b or Ps 128	Rom 8: 26-39	Mt 13: 31-33, 44-52
August 2 Pentecost 10 50A	G	Gen 32: 22-31	Ps 17: 1-7, 15	Rom 9: 1-5	Mt 14: 13-21
August 9 * Pentecost 11 51A	G	Gen 37: 1-4, 12-28	Ps 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b	Rom 10: 5-15	Mt 14: 22-33
August 16 * Pentecost 12 52A	G	Gen 45: 1-15	Ps 133	Rom 11: 1-2a, 29-32	Mt 15: (10-20), 21-28
August 23 * Pentecost 13 53A	G	Ex 1: 8- 2: 10	Ps 124	Rom 12: 1-8	Mt 16: 13-20
August 30 * Pentecost 14 54A	G	Ex 3: 1-15	Ps 105: 1-6, 23-26, 45b	Rom 12: 9-21	Mt 16: 21-28
CREATION September 1-27					
September 6 * Pentecost 15 55A	G	Ex 12: 1-14	Ps 149	Rom 13: 8-14	Mt 18: 15-20
September 13 Pentecost 16 56A	G	Ex 14: 19-31	Ps 114 <i>or</i> Ex 15: 1b-11, 20-21	Rom 14: 1-12	Mt 18: 21-35
September 20 Pentecost 17 57A	G	Ex 16: 2-15	Ps 105: 1-6, 37-45	Phil 1: 21-30	Mt 20: 1-16
September 27* Pentecost 18 58A	G	Ex 17: 1-7	Ps 78: 1-4, 12-16	Phil 2: 1-13	Mt 21: 23-32

Date	Clr	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
October 4 * Pentecost 19 59A	G	Ex 20: 1-4, 7-9, 12-20	Ps 19	Phil 3: 4b-14	Mt 21: 33-46
October 11 * Pentecost 20 60A	G	Ex 32: 1-14	Ps 106: 1-6, 19-23	Phil 4: 1-9	Mt 22: 1-14
October 18 * Pentecost 21 61A	G	Ex 33: 12-23	Ps 99	1 Thes 1: 1-10	Mt 22: 15-22
October 25 * Pentecost 22 62A	G	Deut 34: 1-12	Ps 90: 1-6, 13-17	1 Thes 2: 1-8	Mt 22: 34-46
November 1 All Saints 63A 3 [see footnote]	W	Rev 7: 9-17	Ps 34: 1-10, 22	1 Jn 3: 1-3	Mt 5: 1-12
November 1 Pentecost 23 64A	G	Josh 3: 7-17	Ps 107: 1-7, 33-37	1 Thes 2: 9-13	Mt 23: 1-12
November 8 Pentecost 24 65A	G	Josh 24: 1-3a, 14-25	Ps 78: 1-7	1 Thes 4: 13-18	Mt 25: 1-13
November 15 Pentecost 25 66A	G	Judg 4: 1-7	Ps 123	1 Thes 5: 1-11	Mt 25: 14-30
November 22 Reign of Christ 67A	W	Ez 34: 11-16, 20-24	Ps 100	Eph 1: 15-23	Mt 25: 31-46

³ According to the *Common Lectionary Revised* All Saints may be celebrated on the date shown or on the first Sunday in November

Additional Readings

Date	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Watchnight or End of Year Service	Eccl 3: 1-15	Ps 90	1 Thes 5: 1-11	Mt 24: 32-51
New Year's Service	Eccl 3: 1-13	Ps 8	Rev 21: 1-6a	Mt 25: 31-46
First full week of the year (Monday to Saturday) – Tongan and Samoan Methodists hold meetings for prayer, morning and evening in preparation for the coming year.				
Covenant Sunday	Jer 31: 31-33 or Deut 7: 7-11	Ps 25: 4-15	Rom 12: 1-2	Jn 15: 1-8
Methodist Martyrs Jan 22 or Sunday nearest	Gen 45: 4-8 50: 19-21	Ps 7: 1-11	Rev 2: 8-11	Jn 15: 7-17
Waitangi Day – or Sunday nearest Feb 6	Deut 10: 12-21	Ps 144: 9-15	1 Cor 1: 26-31	Mt 6: 19-24
World Day of Prayer – 1st Friday in March				
Anzac Day – or Sunday nearest April 25	Is 52: 7-12	Ps 76	Eph 6: 10-20	Lk 6: 27-36
Faka-Me – 1st Sunday in May: Special Sunday for Tongan children and youth.				
Home and Family Sunday – 2nd Sunday in May (Mother's Day)	Is 66: 10-13	Ps 84: 1-4	1 Jn 4: 7-12, 20-21	Lk 2: 40-52
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity – Ascension Day to Pentecost Sunday				
Wesley Day – Sunday preceding/on May 24	Is 12: 1-6	Ps 130	2 Peter 1: 1-11	Mt 9: 35-10: 16
Asia Sunday – Sunday before Pentecost				
World Refugee Day – June 20 (or the Sunday immediately after)				
Disability Sunday – 3rd Sunday in June				
Matariki – Public Holiday July 10 2026				
Bible Month – July. Use a Sunday in this month to promote the Scriptures (Worship and Christian Education resources available annually from the Bible Society)				

Date	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Hiroshima Day (August 6) or Peace Sunday (Sunday nearest August 6)	Micah 4: 1-4	Ps 85	2 Cor 5: 16-20	Jn 20: 19-21 or Mt 5: 1-12
Lay Preachers' Sunday – 2nd Sunday in August				
Youth Sunday – 3rd or 4th Sunday in August				
Season of Creation 2026 theme: The Spirit in Creation				
September 1	Creation Day			
September 6	1st Sunday in Creation		Forest Sunday	
September 13	2nd Sunday in Creation		Land Sunday	
September 20	3rd Sunday in Creation		Wilderness/outback Sunday	
September 27	4th Sunday in Creation		River Sunday	
October 4	St Francis of Assisi Day		Blessing of the Animals	
<i>Online resources from www.seasonofcreation.com</i>				
Father's Day – 1st Sunday in September	Gen 37: 19-24, 29-35	Ps 103: 6-13	Eph 6: 1-4	Mt 1: 18-25
Maori Language Week – Dates vary from year to year. For the 2026 dates go to the Maori Language Commission website www.tetaurawhiri.govt.nz				
Citizenship Sunday – 4th Sunday in September.				
World Communion Sunday – 1st Sunday in October				
	Jer 1: 4-10	Ps 96	1 Peter 2: 4-10	Mt 28: 16-20
White Sunday – 2nd Sunday in October: Special Sunday for Samoan children and youth.				
Week of Prayer for World Peace – 2nd to 3rd Sunday in October.				
Industrial Sunday – Sunday preceding Labour Day (4th Monday in October). In Methodist Churches the "Social Principles" may be read.				
Reformers of the Church – October 31 (or Sunday nearest)	Amos 5: 14-24	Ps 106: 1-12	1 Peter 2: 1-10	Lk 6: 46-49

Date	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel
Spring or Flower Services	Gen 1: 1-5, 11-13	Ps 104	1 Cor 3: 1-9	Mt 13: 24-30
Harvest Thanksgiving	Deut 26: 1-11	Ps 126	Gal 6: 6-10	Mt 13: 1-13, 18-23
Dedication of Buildings	Is 56: 1-7	Ps 150	Heb 10: 19-25	Mt 21: 12-16
Church Anniversary	Ex 13: 3-10	Ps 84	1 Peter 2: 1-5	Mt 21: 12-16
Members' Sunday	Joshua 24: 1-24	Ps 105: 1-11	1 Cor 12: 12-27	Mt 22: 1-14
Induction Service	Is 40: 1-9	Ps 96	2 Tim 1: 8-14	Mt 9: 35-38
Vocations Sunday	Jer 1: 1-10	Ps 139: 1-18, 23-24	1 Cor 12: 4-13	Mk 10: 35-45

Suggested readings for other occasional services of the church, such as Infant and Adult Baptism, Thanksgiving for the Birth of a Child and Confirmation, are included in the published liturgies of the MCNZ, available from the Connexional Office and on the website.

Copies of this *Lectionary & Calendar* are available from:

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