

Compatibility

SSRA is compatible with Common Worship Principal Service Lectionary (CW), Revised Common Lectionary (RCL), and Lectionary for Mass (LFM), giving access to a vast library of lectionary-based resources both in print and online, for sermons, prayers, children's work and more.

As a practical, ready-to-use resource, SSRA selects from amongst the lectionary options and variations on offer, prioritising the systematic reading of the gospels and epistles for the year, reducing interruptions and omissions to a minimum.

Variations between the lectionaries include epistle readings occasionally being out of sync - although the same epistles are read at the same time; Old Testament readings occasionally differ; and there can be variations in the precise selection of verses for readings.

The greatest variation between lectionaries is in the selection and arrangement of readings from Acts, in Eastertide. SSRA arranges readings from Acts across three annual themes, beginning in Year A with the early days in Jerusalem. Year B highlights the emerging inclusion of the gentiles, and Year C the ministry of Saint Paul.

In particular in 2023, SSRA

- stays with Matthew through January (readings from John are transferred to Year B)
- stays with the Sermon on the Mount all the way up to Lent (rather than replacing these readings with Candlemas, Creation, Transfiguration, or readings from Saint John)
- keeps the Transfiguration on Lent 2 (as in RCL and LFM)
- follows RCL and CW for the gospel readings for Pentecost and Trinity Sunday.

Finally SSRA handles the practical lull experienced in most churches between Christmas and Epiphany by celebrating Saint John on the first Sunday after Christmas (providing a different set of readings for each year), and moving the Holy Family readings from Saint Luke (including The Presentation) into January of Year C. The Epiphany is then kept on any Sunday falling between 2 and 6 January, which happens about five years out of seven; the main programme for the year then begins resolutely on 7 January.

Numbering

The 34 Sundays of the main programme are here numbered 1 to 34 (as in LFM), highlighting the systematic reading of the gospel and epistles for the year. RCL and CW have different names for the same Sundays, though the programme of readings is fundamentally the same. After Trinity, you can subtract five from the 'Ordinary Time' number to give the 'Proper' number, for accessing CW and RCL resources. In 2023, the 'after Trinity' number is the Ordinary Time number minus nine.

Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday

SSRA includes readings for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Ascension Day, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day. Ash Wednesday and Maundy Thursday are each provided with three sets of readings, one for each year of the three year cycle. The Maundy Thursday readings are themed: Year A Lamb of God; Year B service to others (the washing of the disciples' feet); Year C Bread of Life.

All Saints Sunday

In all three years, SSRA has readings on the 30th Sunday in Ordinary Time (CW's Fourth Sunday before Advent, falling between 30 October and 5 November) suitable for a commemoration of All Saints and All Souls if appropriate (CW's All Saints Sunday), whilst maintaining compatibility with CW, RCL, and LFM, and holding to the principle of reading the gospel and the epistles for the year, in order, without interruption. SSRA also follows CW's anomalous but unambiguous suggestion of a reading from Revelation as the first reading on this date in Year A.

Remembrance Sunday

Again, in all three years, SSRA has readings on the 31st and 32nd Sundays in Ordinary Time (CW's Third and Second Sundays before Advent) suitable for services for Remembrance Sunday, which falls on one of these two Sundays each year, again whilst maintaining high compatibility with CW, RCL, and LFM, and holding as always to the principle of reading the gospel and the epistles for the year, in order, without interruption.