

The three-year programme of readings

SSRA is based on the same three-year programme of readings as *Revised Common Lectionary* (RCL), *Common Worship Principal Service Lectionary* (CW), and *Lectionary for Mass* (LFM), giving access to a vast range of lectionary-based resources, both in print and online, for sermons, prayers, children's work, and more

The main programme of readings runs from 7 January to 26 November

reading through one gospel and a series of epistles each year on a three-year cycle

Gospel			Epistle		
Year A	Year B	Year C	Year A	Year B	Year C
1	John	Luke	1	Titus	Hebrews
	Mark		1 Corinthians	1 Corinthians	1 Corinthians
				2 Corinthians	Galatians
					Ephesians
	John		Hebrews		
34	Mark	Luke	Romans	James	Philemon
				Philippians	1 Timothy
					1 Thessalonians
	Ephesians		2 Thessalonians		
	John		34	Ephesians	Colossians
				Revelation	

Events or parables appearing in more than one gospel may appear only once in the three year cycle

An Old Testament reading each Sunday helps illustrate the gospel reading for the day

Names and numbers for the 34 Sundays of the main programme

SSRA gives the Sundays of the main programme the numbers 1 to 34, with the name 'Ordinary Time', as in LFM

This serves to highlight the systematic reading of the gospel and epistles for the year across these 34 Sundays. Some lectionaries have different naming and numbering systems for the same 34 Sundays, variously calling them 'Proper', 'after Epiphany', 'before Lent', 'after Trinity', 'before Advent', and 'of the Kingdom' – sometimes with different definitions of Ordinary Time – but despite the different names, with very few exceptions, they are the same Sundays, with the same readings

The main programme pauses for an Easter series, kept each year in real time

from the entry into Jerusalem on Palm Sunday (one week before Easter Day)
to the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost (seven weeks after Easter Day)
plus five weeks of readings in preparation (called Sundays of Lent)
and Trinity Sunday to reflect on it all - a total of fifteen Sundays

*The primary theme of Lent is the joyful anticipation of the triumph of Easter
and this is reflected in the readings for the season; any penitential theme is secondary*

	First Reading	Second Reading	Gospel
Lent 1	Year A fall, Year B flood, Year C salvation		Temptations of Jesus in the wilderness
Lent 2	The faith of Abraham		The Transfiguration
Lent 3	Readings from the history of Israel and the prophets	Salvation in Christ - readings from Saint Paul and Hebrews	Readings from John (and Luke in Year C)
Lent 4			
Lent 5			
Palm Sunday	The Passion of the Lord		
Easter Day	The Resurrection		
Easter 2	The Acts of the Apostles Year A: the early days in Jerusalem Year B: the emerging inclusion of the gentiles Year C: the ministry of Saint Paul	Year A: 1 Peter Year B: 1 John Year C: Revelation	Resurrection appearances including Year A road to Emmaus, Year B Jerusalem, Year C lakeside
Easter 3			Good Shepherd Sunday – readings from John 10
Easter 4			
Easter 5			Preparing for Pentecost with Jesus' teachings and prayers for the future church – different sections each year from John 13-17
Easter 6			
Easter 7			
Pentecost	The day of Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit		
Trinity Sunday	God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit		

Finally a Christmas series runs from 27 November through to 6 January

to include the four Sundays of Advent, the twelve days of Christmas,
and the visit of the Magi on 6 January, the Epiphany

The year letter changes on the First Sunday of Advent

the traditional start of the new church year

Weekday readings

Readings are also provided for Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday,
Good Friday, Ascension Day, Christmas Eve, and Christmas Day

Working with other lectionary resources

As more and more denominations have adopted what is essentially the same lectionary, each has enriched the range of available material by adding its own variations and additional options. As a result, the various editions of what is essentially the same lectionary are not always 100% compatible.

In selecting from the options and variations on offer, SSRA consistently prioritises the systematic reading of the gospels and epistles for the year, reducing interruptions and omissions to a minimum.

There is more about compatibility, options and variations on pages 8 and 9.