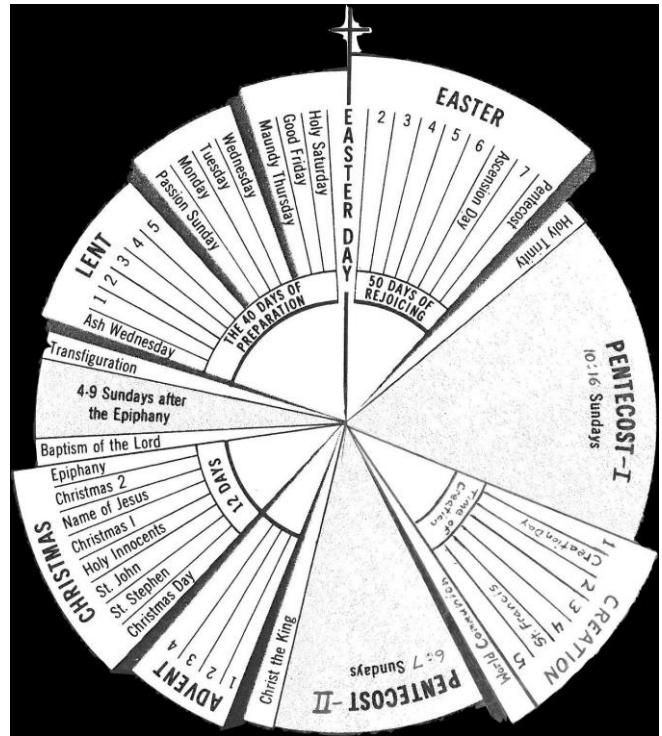


Readings (Revision 9)

A Three-year Cycle of Readings for the Season of Creation

The Season of Creation is celebrated over a six-week period beginning on or about September 1 (the first day of the Orthodox church year) and leading up to the feast of Francis of Assisi (4 October), patron saint of animals and the environment in the Roman Catholic/Lutheran tradition. The sequence of readings for this season creates a liturgical pattern similar to that in the season of Advent. The readings are designed to provide a three-year cycle corresponding broadly to the years of Matthew, Mark and Luke in the Revised Common Lectionary.

The sequence of readings in each series follows a broad pattern of creation, alienation, passion, and new creation. The readings also give special attention to the story of Earth, which complements the story of God and the story of humanity in the Scriptures. The fifth Sunday in each cycle can be considered an "Advocacy" or "Stewardship" Sunday that calls the church to action for the sake of the whole creation. Each thematic series culminates in a "World Communion" Sunday that accentuates Christ's mission reconciling all things to the Creator.



Year 1. Series A: The Spirit Series (year of Matthew)

This series concentrates on those texts where the Spirit is breathing life into creation, suffering with creation and renewing all creation. (Domains/Themes: Forest, Land, Wilderness, River, Fire (Energy), and World Communion)

Year 2. Series B: The Word Series (year of Mark)

The second series focuses on those texts where the Word is the impulse that summons forth creation, evokes praise from creation and stirs life in creation. (Domains/Themes: Planet Earth, Humanity, Sky, Mountain, Food/Water (Health), and World Communion)

Year 3. Series C: The Wisdom Series (year of Luke)

The third series includes those texts where Wisdom is the designing force behind creation and the impulse that enables the parts of creation to fulfill their roles. (Domains/Themes: Oceans/Lakes, Fauna, Storm, Cosmos/Universe, Sustainability, and World Communion)

A

**First Sunday
Forest Sunday**

Genesis 2:4b-9, 15-17
Baruch 5:5-9 or Psalm
96:1, 6-13
Acts 17:22-31
Matthew 13:31-32 or
23:37-39; 24:32-35

**Second Sunday
Wilderness Sunday**

Joel 1:10, 19-2:3
Psalm 18:6-19
Romans 8:18-28
Matthew 3:16-4:11 or
Mark 1:9-13

**Third Sunday
Land Sunday**

Gen. 3:14-19; 4:8-16
or Deut. 8:1-10
Psalm 139:7-12 or
145:1-10
Romans 5:12-17
Matthew 12:38-40 or
4:12-17

**Fourth Sunday
River Sunday**

Ezekiel 47:1-12
Psalm 104:27-33 or
Psalm 65:9-13
Revelation 22:1-5
Matt. 28:1-10, 16-20

**Fifth Sunday
Fire/Energy Sunday**

1Chronicles 29:10-13
Psalm 67
Colossians 1:24-29
John 21:4-14

**Sixth Sunday
World Communion**

Isaiah 55:10-13
Psalm 50:1-15
2Corinthians 5:14-20;
13:11-13
Matthew 24:29-35

B

**First Sunday
Planet Earth Sunday**

Genesis 1:1-27, 31-
2:4a
Psalm 33:1-9
Romans 1:14-25
John 1:1-14

**Second Sunday
Sky Sunday**

Jeremiah 4:23-28 or
Genesis 15:1-6
Psalm 19:1-6
Philippians 2:5-15
Mark 13:24-27; 15:33-
39 or 16:15-20

**Third Sunday
Humanity Sunday**

Genesis 1:26-30; 2:4b-
8, 15-25
Psalm 8
Philippians 2:1-8
Mark 10:41-45

**Fourth Sunday
Mountain Sunday**

Isaiah 11:1-9
Psalm 48:1-3, 9-11 or
Psalm 65:4-8
Romans 8:28-39
Mark 9:2-9

**Fifth Sunday
Food/Water/Health**

Isaiah 25:6-8
Psalm 145:9-19
2Cor. 9:6-15
Mark 8:1-9 or Mark
5:21-43

**Sixth Sunday
World Communion**

Gen. 8:20-22; 9:12-17
Psalm 96:1, 6-13
Ephesians 4:1-6
Mark 16:14-15, 19-20

C

**First Sunday
Ocean/Lakes Sunday**

Job 38:1-18
Psalm 104:1-9, 24-26,
31
Ephesians 1:3-10
Luke 5:1-11

**Second Sunday
Cosmos/Universe**

Proverbs 8:1-4, 22-31
Psalm 148
Colossians 1:15-23
Luke 21:25-36 or
24:46-53

**Third Sunday
Fauna Sunday**

Job 39:1-8, 26-30
Psalm 104:1a, 14-23,
27-31
1Corinthians 1:10-23
Luke 12:22-34

**Fourth Sunday
Storm Sunday**

Job 28:20-28; 29:1-2;
30:16-31
Psalm 29 or Psalm
107:1-3, 23-32
1Corinthians 1:21-31
Luke 8:22-25

**Fifth Sunday
Sustainability**

Isaiah 41:8-10, 17-20
or Isaiah 58:9b-14
Psalm 107:1-9, 33-43
Hebrews 1:1-4
Luke 12:22-34 or
12:49-56

**Sixth Sunday
World Communion**

Jeremiah 51:15-19
Psalm 98
Colossians 1:3-10
John 3:11-17

Original readings used with permission by Norman Habel and the Justice and International Mission unit within the Commission for Mission of the Uniting Church in Australia, Synod of Victoria and Tasmania., ©2004, and Dr. David Rhoads (USA); revised and expanded lections by Krehl D. Stringer, ©2009, ©2010, ©2011, ©2012, ©2013, ©2014 and ©2016.