

**GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
LECTIONARY GUIDE
FALL 2017-SUMMER 2021**



WHY A LECTIONARY FOR GBC?

Why tie ourselves down to a system when it comes to how we work through the Scriptures in worship? Why not be free to choose whatever, whenever we want? Those are great questions. We have adopted a GBC lectionary for several reasons.

First, setting Scripture within a yearly calendar, and a four year cycle, is something that is a part of our heritage.

The church has marked off a Christian Year for centuries. Even prior to the church, in the Old Testament, God set up a yearly calendar of feasts and festivals as a way of teaching the Jewish people both who He was and who they were in relation to Him. In our world the word “new” is often equated with “better” and “improved”. But in reality we know that things that stand the test of time do so because they have been found to be valuable and helpful, year after year.

Second, it disciplines us to look at the “whole counsel of God.” (Acts 20:27)

Our tendency is to return over and over again to the texts that we like or that have been meaningful to us while avoiding the more challenging or problematic texts. The lectionary is an agreement that we will listen to all of Scripture, even the parts that are hard to hear.

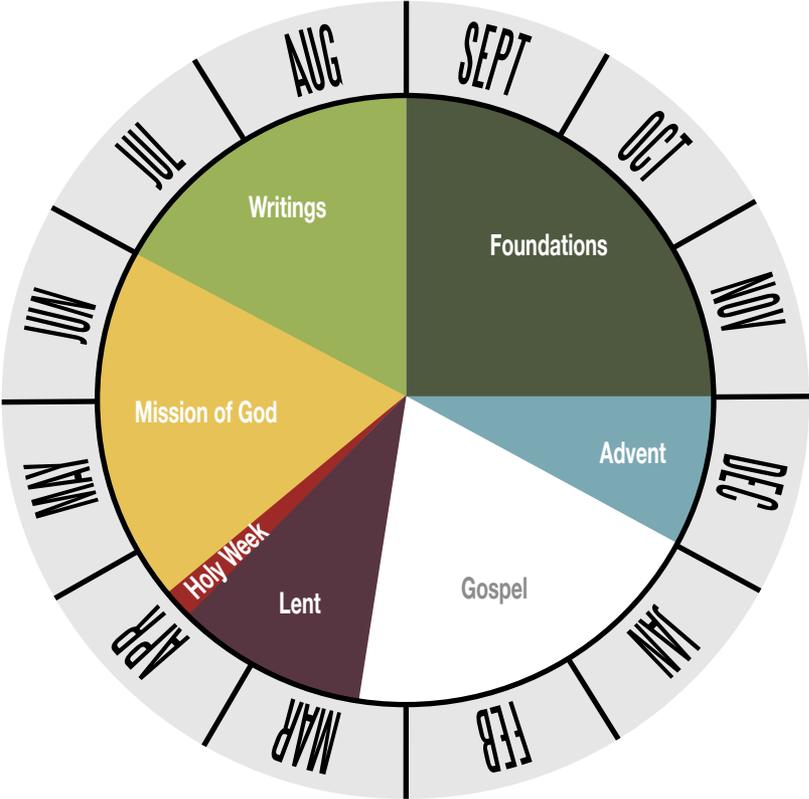
Third, it constantly brings us back to the central events of our story.

We reconnect with the core truths of our identity every year: Advent, the coming of Christ, His death and resurrection, the coming of the Holy Spirit, and Mission of God in the world. Year by year we remember these core aspects of who we are as the people of God. For more on this idea check out this short video - Why Mark the Seasons? by Malcom Guite (<https://vimeo.com/80589631>)

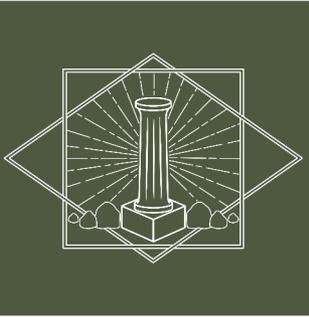
Finally, a lectionary and a church calendar cycle accomplish these things in a way that connects with all aspects of who we are.

We read the text as a church community and in our own personal study to engage what we think. We tie symbols and worship practices to these texts in order to engage the way we feel. In Advent we talk and think about waiting for Jesus to come, and we set up our worship services to help us actually feel that longing. During Holy Week we seek to think about and feel the darkness and desolation that came through the death of Jesus so that we can fully engage the amazing truth of the resurrection. Far too often we limit our faith to intellectual belief or to emotional experience. Our lectionary and calendar help us to engage both these sides of human nature in a balanced way.

This booklet is an overview of how we follow the GBC lectionary and calendar over a four year cycle. We hope that this helps you to understand why we do what we are doing and engage more fully in worship. You will also find a reading guide that will help you read along with us as a community, covering the text of the whole Bible over the course of the four years.

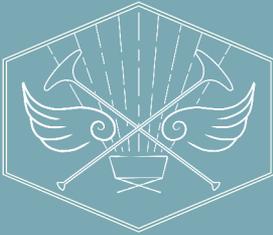


WHAT DOES OUR YEARLY CALENDAR LOOK LIKE?



FOUNDATIONS

We start each fall with a season of **Foundations**, where we look at the fundamental stories of God and His people as found in the Old Testament.



ADVENT

This carries us to **Advent**, focused on a combination of the minor prophets and the gospels, preparing our hearts to celebrate the birth of Jesus at Christmas.



GOSPEL

After that we move into a focus on the **Gospel** texts up through Lent.



LENT

Lent is a time of reflection and repentance utilizing the prophets to guide our worship.



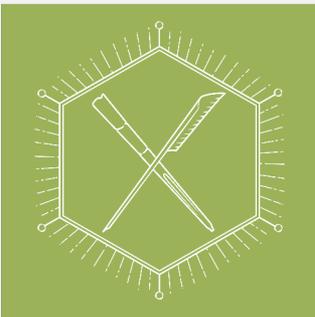
HOLY WEEK

Holy Week then celebrates the death and resurrection of Jesus and ushers us into a season looking at the Mission of God in the world.



MISSION OF GOD

The **Mission of God** reminds us that God is at work in the world and invites us to participate with Him in what He is doing.



WRITINGS

Finally, in the summer we look at the **Writings**, both the wisdom writings of the Old Testament and the letters found in the New Testament.



**BLESS
ING**

YEAR ONE

BLESSING

The year of *Blessing* grounds us in the mercy of God as we see His goodness come to the world all throughout the Scriptures. We begin, in the beginning, with Genesis, in which we see God's good creation, marred by the fall, but given the hope of a promise. The seasons of Advent and Gospel take us into Luke, the gospel with the most detail about the birth of Jesus. Lent takes us into the prophets who came before the exile. Here we focus on the *Blessings* God has given His people and what life should look like when lived in response to that. We see the Mission of God in the book of Acts as the *Blessing* of the coming Spirit empowers the birth of the church. *Blessing* is echoed in the season of Writings as well in books like Ruth, Esther, Proverbs, and James.



**SALVA
TION**

YEAR TWO

SALVATION

The year of *Salvation* begins in the fall with God's people in captivity in Egypt. Exodus chronicles their *Salvation* from oppression and their journey into their own land. During Advent, Isaiah reminds us of the hope of salvation that would come in Jesus. Our Gospel focus for this year is in Matthew, who tells how Jesus our King brings *Salvation* to His people. Lent takes us back into Isaiah, and reminds us that despite our sin there is still hope...God is not finished yet. During the Mission of God season we focus on the epistles written to the early churches, as they continue to work out their *Salvation* that has been given by God. The Writings take us into Song of Songs and Ecclesiastes as well as the pastoral epistles to Timothy and Titus. All of these are founded upon the hope of God's *Salvation* for us.

VICTORY



YEAR THREE

VICTORY

Our theme of *Victory* begins as we see the wandering in the desert end with the entrance to the promised land in the book of Joshua. Granted, it is short-lived as the people struggle to live faithfully to the One who gave them the *Victory*. During Advent (and in Lent) we look at the prophets who wrote after Israel's period of Exile, when they are heading back to the promised land. We also move into the Gospel of John and see where *Victory* "became flesh, and lived among us." The Mission of God brings a season focused on the Revelation, as seen by John; the picture of the ultimate *Victory* that is coming, and that shapes the way we live here and now. Finally, in the season of Writings we look at Job, Thessalonians, the letters of John, and Jude, all focused on how *Victory* comes in places that don't often look so victorious.

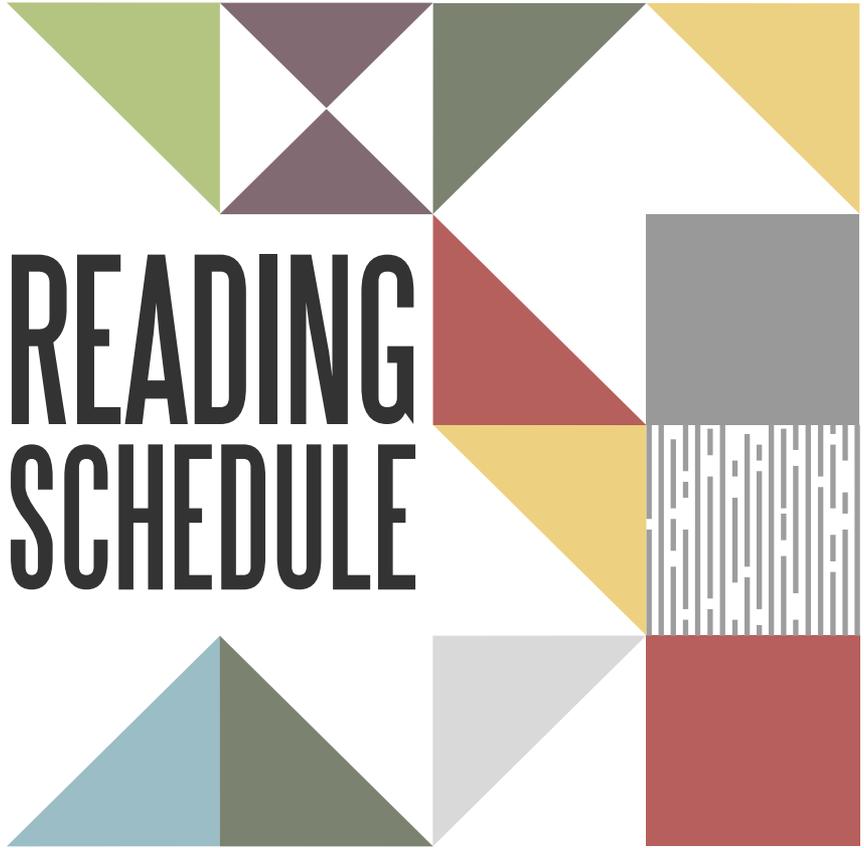
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YEAR FOUR

KINGDOM

The final year of the four year cycle focuses on *Kingdom*. We start in the Old Testament where the *Kingdom* of Israel is established in an attempt to help the world see God as king. However, this *Kingdom* soon divides and falls. As we enter Advent and the Gospel season, Mark and the prophets of the exile help us to understand in greater detail the true nature of the *Kingdom* of God and how it plays out in our lives. Lent takes us back into the prophets to remind us to lay aside anything that is not part of the *Kingdom*. We see how the *Kingdom* plays out through the Mission of God in the letters to the Corinthians, the Galatians, and the Colossians. Finally, the Writings show us a side of the *Kingdom* we sometimes miss in Jonah, Hosea, and the letters of Peter.



AN INVITATION TO READ SCRIPTURE

At GBC we believe that God's Word should be foundational in our lives. Therefore, we invite everyone to read Scripture along with us as we work through the entire Bible in four years. The reading schedule on the next several pages roughly follows our focus on Sunday mornings. Each date listed marks the beginning of the week, followed by any holidays occurring during that week. Each week includes one Psalm (or a few Proverbs in one season) and about 2-8 chapters of the Bible. We encourage you to pray through the Psalm daily and to read through the suggested sections of Scripture over the course of the week.

Here are a few steps you can take to better engage with what you are reading:

1. **Prepare** - Place yourself in God's presence and ask for God's assistance as you read: "Give me understanding, and I will keep your law and obey it with all my heart" (Ps 119:34)
2. **Read** - Read slowly, thoughtfully, several times, and perhaps out loud.
3. **Process** - Think about what you have read. Talk to God about what you have read.
4. **Live** - Live out the text. Try to put what you received into practice for the rest of the day.

A note about brackets: There are a few seasons in our four year schedule where we need to cover a lot of chapters. Therefore, we have edited these sections down to manageable weekly chunks and put the additional material in brackets. We do encourage you to read all of the texts including the bracketed passages if you have the time. In year two we included the main narrative passages of Numbers and Leviticus in the main reading but put the long genealogical lists and detailed ceremonial laws into bracketed sections. In year four the bracketed sections are from the books of Chronicles which parallel the passages we will be reading in Samuel-Kings. If you read all the chapters on this schedule including the bracketed sections, you will be able to read through the entire Bible in four years.

YEAR ONE : BLESSING

FOUNDATIONS	
9/10/2017	Genesis 1-4, Psalm 1
9/17	Genesis 5-9, Psalm 2
9/24	Genesis 10-13, Psalm 3
10/1	Genesis 14-17, Psalm 4
10/8 Thanksgiving	Genesis 18-21, Psalm 5
10/15	Genesis 22-25, Psalm 6
10/22	Genesis 26-29, Psalm 7
10/29 All Saints	Genesis 30-33, Psalm 8
11/5	Genesis 34-37, Psalm 9
11/12	Genesis 38-41, Psalm 10
11/19	Genesis 42-45, Psalm 11
11/26	Genesis 46-50, Psalm 12
ADVENT	
12/3 1st Advent	Luke 1:1-25, Psalm 13
12/10 2nd Advent	Luke 1:26-56, Psalm 14
12/17 3rd Advent	Luke 1:57-80, Psalm 15
12/24 4th Advent, Christmas	Luke 2, Psalm 16
GOSPEL	
12/31	Luke 3-5, Psalm 17
1/7/2018 Epiphany	Luke 6-8, Psalm 18:1-24
1/14	Luke 9-11, Psalm 18:25-50
1/21	Luke 12-14, Psalm 19
1/28	Luke 15-17, Psalm 20
2/4	Luke 18-19, Psalm 21
2/11 Ash Wednesday	Luke 20-21, Psalm 22

LENT	
2/18	Joel 1-3, Psalm 23
2/25	Amos 1-9, Psalm 24
3/4	Obadiah 1; Habakkuk 1-3, Psalm 25
3/11	Micah 1-7, Psalm 26
3/18	Nahum 1-3; Zephaniah 1-3, Psalm 27
HOLY WEEK	
3/25 Palm Sunday	Luke 19:28-44; Luke 22-23, Psalm 28
4/1 Resurrection Sunday	Luke 24, Psalm 29
MISSION OF GOD	
4/8	Acts 1-3, Psalm 30
4/15	Acts 4-6, Psalm 31
4/22	Acts 7-9, Psalm 32
4/29	Acts 10-12, Psalm 33
5/6	Acts 13-14, Psalm 34
5/13	Acts 15-16, Psalm 35
5/20 Pentecost	Acts 17-18, Psalm 36
5/27	Acts 19-20, Psalm 37
6/3	Acts 21-22, Psalm 38
6/10	Acts 23-24, Psalm 39
6/17	Acts 25-26, Psalm 40
6/24	Acts 27-28, Psalm 41
WRITINGS	
7/1	Ecclesiastes 1-6, Proverbs 1-3
7/8	Ecclesiastes 7-12, Proverbs 4-6
7/15	Song of Songs 1-4, Proverbs 7-9
7/22	Song of Songs 5-8, Proverbs 10-12
7/29	James 1-2, Proverbs 13-15
8/5	James 3-5, Proverbs 16-18
8/12	I Timothy 1-3, Proverbs 19-21
8/19	I Timothy 4-6, Proverbs 22-24
8/26	II Timothy 1-4, Proverbs 25-27
9/2	Titus 1-3, Philemon 1, Proverbs 28-31

YEAR TWO : SALVATION

FOUNDATIONS	
9/9/2018	Exodus 1-8, Psalm 42
9/16	Exodus 9-16, Psalm 43
9/23	Exodus 17-24, Psalm 44
9/30	Exodus 25-32, Psalm 45
10/7 Thanksgiving	Exodus 33-40, Psalm 46
10/14	Leviticus 1-7, 16 (Lev. 1-27), Psalm 47
10/21	Numbers 10-14, 16-17, 20-21 (Num. 1-21), Psalm 48
10/28 All Saints	Numbers 22-25, 27, 31-32, 36 (Num. 22-36), Psalm 49
11/4	Deuteronomy 1-9, Psalm 50
11/11	Deuteronomy 10-18, Psalm 51
11/18	Deuteronomy 19-26, Psalm 52
11/25	Deuteronomy 27-34, Psalm 53
ADVENT	
12/2/2018 1st Advent	Isaiah 1-8, Psalm 54
12/9 2nd Advent	Isaiah 9-16, Psalm 55
12/16 3rd Advent	Isaiah 17-24, Psalm 56
12/23 4th Advent, Christmas	Matthew 1-3, Psalm 57
GOSPEL	
12/30	Matthew 4-5, Psalm 58
1/6/2019 Epiphany	Matthew 6-7, Psalm 59
1/13	Matthew 8-9, Psalm 60
1/20	Matthew 10-11, Psalm 61
1/27	Matthew 12-13, Psalm 62
2/3	Matthew 14-15, Psalm 63
2/10	Matthew 16-17, Psalm 64
2/17	Matthew 18-19, Psalm 65
2/24	Matthew 20-22, Psalm 66
3/3 Ash Wednesday	Matthew 23-25, Psalm 67

LENT	
3/10	Isaiah 25-33, Psalm 68
3/17	Isaiah 34-42, Psalm 69
3/24	Isaiah 43-51, Psalm 70
3/31	Isaiah 52-59, Psalm 71
4/7	Isaiah 60-66, Psalm 72
HOLY WEEK	
4/14 Palm Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11; Matthew 26-27, Psalm 42
4/21 Resurrection Sunday	Matthew 28, Psalm 43
MISSION OF GOD	
4/28	Romans 1-3, Psalm 44
5/5	Romans 4-6, Psalm 45
5/12	Romans 7-9, Psalm 46
5/19	Romans 10-12, Psalm 47
5/26	Romans 13-14, Psalm 48
6/2	Romans 15-16, Psalm 49
6/9 Pentecost	Hebrews 1-3, Psalm 50
6/16	Hebrews 4-6, Psalm 51
6/23	Hebrews 7-9, Psalm 52
6/30	Hebrews 10-13, Psalm 53
WRITINGS	
7/7	Ruth 1-4, Psalm 54
7/14	Esther 1-5, Psalm 55
7/21	Esther 6-10, Psalm 56
7/28	Ephesians 1-3, Psalm 57
8/4	Ephesians 4-6, Psalm 58
8/11	Philippians 1-2, Psalm 59
8/18	Philippians 3-4, Psalm 60
8/25	Colossians 1-2, Psalm 61
9/1	Colossians 3-4, Psalm 62

YEAR THREE : VICTORY

FOUNDATIONS	
9/8/2019	Joshua 1-5, Psalm 73
9/15	Joshua 6-10, Psalm 74
9/22	Joshua 11-15, Psalm 75
9/29	Joshua 16-20, Psalm 76
10/6	Joshua 21-24, Psalm 77
10/13 Thanksgiving	Judges 1-5, Psalm 78:1-39
10/20	Judges 6-10, Psalm 78:40-72
10/27 All Saints	Judges 11-15, Psalm 79
11/3	Judges 16-20, Psalm 80
11/10	Judges 21; I Samuel 1-3, Psalm 81
11/17	I Samuel 4-7, Psalm 82
11/24	I Samuel 8-12, Psalm 83
ADVENT	
12/1 1st Advent	Zechariah 1-7, Psalm 84
12/8 2nd Advent	Zechariah 8-14, Psalm 85
12/15 3rd Advent	Malachi 1-4, Psalm 86
12/22 4th Advent, Christmas	John 1, Psalm 87
GOSPEL	
12/29	John 2-3, Psalm 88
1/5/2020 Epiphany	John 4-5, Psalm 89:1-29
1/12	John 6-7, Psalm 89:30-52
1/19	John 8-9, Psalm 90
1/26	John 10-11, Psalm 91
2/2	John 14; Daniel 1-3, Psalm 92
2/9	John 15; Daniel 4-6, Psalm 93
2/16	John 16; Daniel 7-9, Psalm 94
2/23 Ash Wednesday	John 17; Daniel 10-12, Psalm 95

LENT

3/1	Ezra 1-5, Psalm 96
3/8	Ezra 6-10, Psalm 97
3/15	Nehemiah 1-6, Psalm 98
3/22	Nehemiah 7-13, Psalm 99
3/29	Haggai 1-2, Psalm 100

HOLY WEEK

4/5 Palm Sunday	John 12:12-16; John 18-19, Psalm 101
4/12 Resurrection Sunday	John 20-21, Psalm 102

MISSION OF GOD

4/19	Revelation 1-2, Psalm 103
4/26	Revelation 3-4, Psalm 104
5/3	Revelation 6-7, Psalm 105
5/10	Revelation 7-8, Psalm 106
5/17	Revelation 9-10, Psalm 73
5/24	Revelation 11-12, Psalm 74
5/31 Pentecost	Revelation 13-14, Psalm 75
6/7	Revelation 15-16, Psalm 76
6/14	Revelation 17-18, Psalm 77
6/21	Revelation 19-20, Psalm 78:1-39
6/28	Revelation 21-22, Psalm 78:40-72

WRITINGS

7/5	Job 1-9, Psalm 79
7/12	Job 10-18, Psalm 80
7/19	Job 19-26, Psalm 81
7/26	Job 27-34, Psalm 82
8/2	Job 35-42, Psalm 83
8/9	I John 1-3, Psalm 84
8/16	I John 4-5; II John 1; III John 1; Psalm 85
8/23	Jude 1; I Thessalonians 1-2, Psalm 86
8/30	I Thessalonians 3-5, Psalm 87
9/6	II Thessalonians 1-3, Psalm 88

YEAR FOUR : KINGDOM

FOUNDATIONS

9/13/2020	I Samuel 13-20 (I Chronicles 1-10), Psalm 107
9/20	I Samuel 21-28, Psalm 108
9/27	I Samuel 29-31; II Samuel 1-5 (I Chr. 11-12), Psalm 109
10/4	II Samuel 6-13 (I Chr. 13-20), Psalm 110
10/11 Thanksgiving	II Samuel 14-21, Psalm 111
10/18	II Samuel 22-24; I Kings 1-5 (I Chr. 21-29; II Chr. 1-2), Psalm 112
10/25	I Kings 6-13 (II Chronicles 12-20), Psalm 113
11/1 All Saints	I Kings 14-22 (II Chronicles 12-20), Psalm 114
11/8	II Kings 1-8 (II Chronicles 21), Psalm 115
11/15	II Kings 9-16 (II Chronicles 22-28), Psalm 116
11/22	II Kings 17-25 (II Chronicles 29-36), Psalm 117

ADVENT

11/29 1st Advent	Jeremiah 1-8, Psalm 118
12/6 2nd Advent	Jeremiah 9-16, Psalm 119:1-16
12/13 3rd Advent	Jeremiah 17-24, Psalm 119:17-32
12/20 4th Advent, Christmas	Mark 1, Psalm 119:33-56

GOSPEL

12/27	Mark 2-4, Psalm 119:57-72
1/3/2021 Epiphany	Mark 5-7, Psalm 119:73-88
1/10	Mark 8; Ezekiel 1-8, Psalm 119:89-104
1/17	Mark 9; Ezekiel 9-16, Psalm 119:105-128
1/24	Mark 10; Ezekiel 17-24, Psalm 119:129-152
1/31	Mark 11; Ezekiel 25-32, Psalm 119:153-176
2/7	Mark 12; Ezekiel 33-40, Psalm 120
2/14 Ash Wednesday	Mark 13; Ezekiel 41-48, Psalm 121

LENT

2/21	Lamentations 1-5, Psalm 122
2/28	Jeremiah 24-31, Psalm 123
3/7	Jeremiah 32-37, Psalm 124
3/14	Jeremiah 38-44, Psalm 125
3/21	Jeremiah 45-52, Psalms 126

HOLY WEEK

3/28 Palm Sunday	Mark 11:1-11; Mark 14-15, Psalm 127
4/4 Resurrection Sunday	Mark 16, Psalm 128

MISSION OF GOD

4/11	I Corinthians 1-2, Psalm 129
4/18	I Corinthians 3-4, Psalm 130
4/25	I Corinthians 5-6, Psalm 131
5/2	I Corinthians 7-8, Psalm 132
5/9	I Corinthians 9-11, Psalm 133
5/16	I Corinthians 12-13, Psalm 134
5/23 Pentecost	I Corinthians 14-16, Psalm 135
5/30	II Corinthians 1-3, Psalm 136
6/6	II Corinthians 4-6, Psalm 137
6/13	II Corinthians 7-9, Psalm 138
6/20	II Corinthians 10-11, Psalm 139
6/27	II Corinthians 12-13, Psalm 140

WRITINGS

7/4	Jonah 1-4, Psalm 141
7/11	Hosea 1-5, Psalm 142
7/18	Hosea 6-10, Psalm 143
7/25	Hosea 11-14, Psalm 144
8/1	I Peter 1-3, Psalm 145
8/8	I Peter 4-5, Psalm 146
8/15	II Peter 1-3, Psalm 147
8/22	Galatians 1-2, Psalm 148
8/29	Galatians 3-4, Psalm 149
9/5	Galatians 4-6, Psalm 150