

**GRACE BAPTIST CHURCH
LECTIONARY GUIDE
FALL 2021-SUMMER 2025**

OUR COMMITMENTS



WORSHIP

We commit to WORSHIP, because we believe that we are what we love and we want to have our hearts and desires shaped by the Gospel.



RELATIONSHIPS

We commit to RELATIONSHIPS, because we believe that God has committed to draw near to us in and through relationships. It is here we proclaim the Gospel to each other.

FOCUSED ON JESUS · CENTERED ON PRAYER · PURSUING GROWTH · SEEKING TO SERVE · LIVING AS FAMILY

We envision lives renewed
Our community transformed
By the power of the Gospel

MISSION

We commit to LEARNING, because
we believe that we are to be
transformed by the renewing of our
minds. We desire to know more
about God and life in His kingdom.
We want to be directed by God.



LEARNING

We commit to MISSION, because
we believe that we have been
by God to represent his work of
reconciliation through all creation.
This is the Gospel!



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.

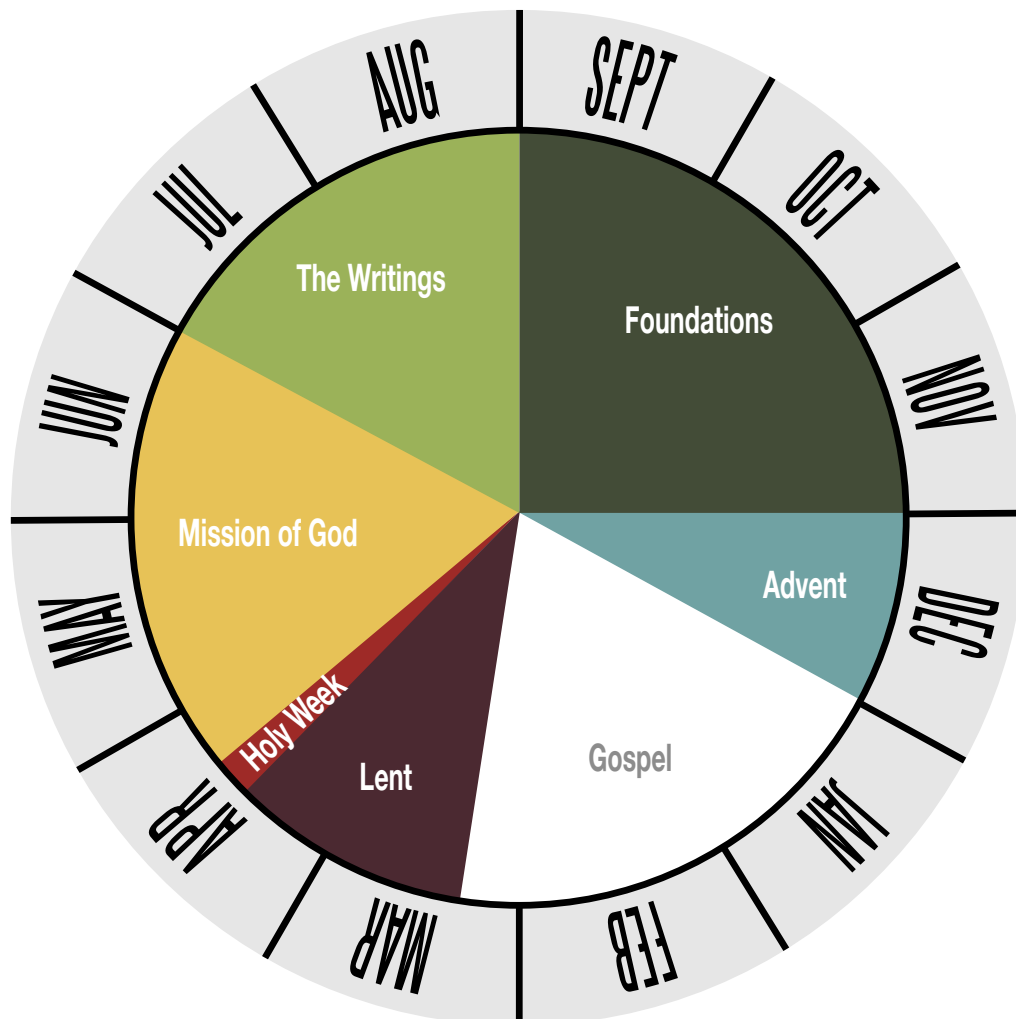
Third, it constantly brings us back to the central events of our story.

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 God’s mission 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 accomplishes these things in a way that connects with all aspects of who we are.

We read the text as a body 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 understand why we do what we are doing, and to 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?



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.



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.



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



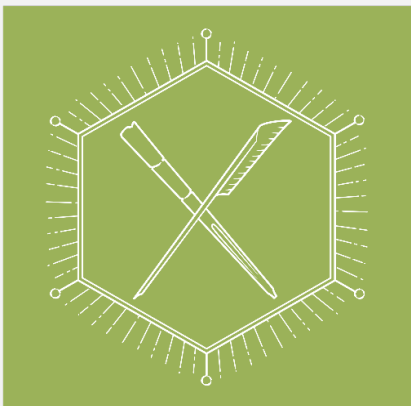
Lent is a time of reflection and repentance utilizing the prophets to guide our worship.



Holy Week then celebrates the Death and Resurrection of Jesus and ushers us into a season looking at



God's Mission in the world and His invitation to us to participate with Him in what He is doing.



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

Year 1 grounds us in the goodness of God as we see His blessing come to the world throughout the Scriptures. In ***Foundations*** we begin, in the beginning, with Genesis, where we see God's good creation, marred by the fall, but given the hope of a promise. ***Advent*** and ***Gospel*** season takes us into Luke, the gospel with the most detail about the birth of Jesus. ***Lent*** listens to the prophets who came before the exile, once again, focused on the blessings God has given His people and what life should look like when lived in response to that. The season of ***God's Mission*** opens the book of Acts as the blessing of the coming Spirit empowers the birth of the church. Blessing is echoed in the ***Writings*** as well in books like Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, James and the Pastoral Epistles.



**SALVA
TION**

YEAR TWO

SALVATION

The year of Salvation's **Foundation** begins with God's people in captivity to Egypt. Starting in Exodus to Deuteronomy we see 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 **God's Mission** we focus in 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 Ruth and Esther, Ephesians, Philippians, and Colossians. All of these are founded upon the hope of God's salvation for us.

**VICT
ORY**



YEAR THREE

VICTORY

Our theme of victory finds its *Foundation* 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 the victory "became flesh, and lived among us." Our season of *God's Mission* focuses in 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 *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.



KING DOM

YEAR FOUR

KINGDOM

The final year of the 4 year cycle focuses in on Kingdom. ***Foundations*** starts with the Kingdom of Israel in the Old Testament. It's an attempt to help the world see God as King, but one that fails as the Kingdom divides and then falls. As we enter ***Advent*** and the ***Gospel*** season, Mark and the prophets during 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 in ***God's Mission*** 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.



READING SCHEDULE

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 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	
Sep. 12, 2021	Genesis 1-4, Psalm 1
Sep. 19, 2021	Genesis 5-9, Psalm 2
Sep. 26, 2021	Genesis 10-13, Psalm 3
Oct. 3, 2021	Genesis 14-17, Psalm 4
Oct. 10, 2021 - Thanksgiving	Genesis 18-21, Psalm 5
Oct. 17, 2021	Genesis 22-26, Psalm 6
Oct. 24, 2021	Genesis 27-31, Psalm 7
Oct. 31, 2021 - All Saints Day	Genesis 32-35, Psalm 8
Nov. 7, 2021	Genesis 36-40, Psalm 9
Nov. 14, 2021	Genesis 41-45, Psalm 10
Nov. 21, 2021	Genesis 46-50, Psalm 11
ADVENT	
Nov. 28, 2021	Luke 1:1-25, Psalm 12
Dec. 5, 2021	Luke 1:26-56, Psalm 13
Dec. 12, 2021	Luke 1:57-80, Psalm 14
Dec. 19, 2021	Luke 2, Psalm 15
GOSPEL	
Dec. 26, 2021	Luke 3-4, Psalm 16
Jan. 2, 2022	Luke 5-6, Psalm 17
Jan. 9, 2022	Luke 7-8, Psalm 18:1-24
Jan. 16, 2022	Luke 9-10, Psalm 18:25-50
Jan. 23, 2022	Luke 11-12, Psalm 19
Jan. 30, 2022	Luke 13-14, Psalm 20
Feb. 6, 2022	Luke 15-16, Psalm 21
Feb. 13, 2022	Luke 17-18, Psalm 22
Feb. 20, 2022	Luke 19, Psalm 23
Feb. 27, 2022 (Ash Wed. - March 2)	Luke 20-21, Psalm 24

LENT	
March 6, 2022	Joel 1-3, Psalm 25
March 13, 2022	Amos 1-9, Psalm 26
March 20, 2022	Obadiah 1; Habakkuk 1-3, Psalm 27
March 27, 2022	Micah 1-7, Psalm 28
April 3, 2022	Nahum 1-3; Zephaniah 1-3, Psalm 29
HOLY WEEK	
April 10, 2022 - Palm Sunday	Luke 19:28-44; Luke 22-23, Psalm 30
April 17, 2022 - Resurrection Sunday	Luke 24, Psalm 31
MISSION OF GOD	
April 24, 2022	Acts 1-3, Psalm 32
May 1, 2022	Acts 4-6, Psalm 33
May 8, 2022	Acts 7-9, Psalm 34
May 15, 2022	Acts 10-12, Psalm 35
May 22, 2022	Acts 13-15, Psalm 36
May 29, 2022	Acts 16-18, Psalm 37
June 5, 2022	Acts 19-20, Psalm 38
June 12, 2022	Acts 21-23, Psalm 39
June 19, 2022	Acts 24-26, Psalm 40
June 26, 2022	Acts 27-28, Psalm 41
THE WRITINGS	
July 3, 2022	Ecclesiastes 1-6, Proverbs 1-3
July 10, 2022	Ecclesiastes 7-12, Proverbs 4-6
July 17, 2022	Song of Songs 1-4, Proverbs 7-9
July 24, 2022	Song of Songs 5-8, Proverbs 10-12
July 31, 2022	James 1-2, Proverbs 13-15
August 7, 2022	James 3-5, Proverbs 16-18
August 14, 2022	I Timothy 1-3, Proverbs 19-21
August 21, 2022	I Timothy 4-6, Proverbs 22-24
August 28, 2022	II Timothy 1-4, Proverbs 25-27
Sept. 4, 2022	Titus 1-3, Philemon 1, Proverbs 28-31

YEAR TWO : SALVATION

FOUNDATIONS	
Sept. 11, 2022	Exodus 1-10, Psalm 42
Sept. 18, 2022	Exodus 11-20, Psalm 43
Sept. 25, 2022	Exodus 21-30, Psalm 44
Oct. 2, 2022	Exodus 31-40, Psalm 45
Oct. 9, 2022 - Thanksgiving	Leviticus 1-7, 16 (Lev. 1-27), Psalm 46
Oct. 16, 2022	Numbers 10-14, 16-17, 20-21 (Num. 1-21), Psalm 47
Oct. 23, 2022	Numbers 22-25, 27, 31-32, 36 (Num. 22-36), Psalm 48
Oct. 30, 2022 - All Saints Day	Deuteronomy 1-9, Psalm 49
Nov. 6, 2022	Deuteronomy 10-18, Psalm 50
Nov. 13, 2022	Deuteronomy 19-26, Psalm 51
Nov. 27, 2022	Deuteronomy 27-34, Psalm 52
ADVENT	
Dec. 4, 2022	Isaiah 1-8, Psalm 53
Dec. 11, 2022	Isaiah 9-16, Psalm 54
Dec. 18, 2022	Isaiah 17-24, Psalm 55
Dec. 25, 2022	Matthew 1-3, Psalm 56
GOSPEL	
Jan. 1, 2023	Matthew 4-7, Psalm 57
Jan 8, 2023- Epiphany (Jan. 6)	Matthew 8-10, Psalm 58
Jan. 15, 2023	Matthew 11-13, Psalm 59
Jan. 22, 2023	Matthew 14-16, Psalm 60
Jan. 29, 2022	Matthew 17-19, Psalm 61
Feb. 5, 2022	Matthew 20-21, Psalm 62
Feb. 12, 2023	Matthew 22-23, Psalm 63
Feb. 19, 2023 - (Ash Wed. - Feb. 22)	Matthew 24-25, Psalm 64

LENT

Feb. 26, 2023	Isaiah 25-33, Psalm 65
March 5, 2023	Isaiah 34-42, Psalm 66
March 12, 2023	Isaiah 43-51, Psalm 67
March 19, 2023	Isaiah 52-59, Psalm 68
March 26, 2023	Isaiah 60-66, Psalm 69-70

HOLY WEEK

April 2, 2023 - Palm Sunday	Matthew 21:1-11, Matthew 26-27, Psalm 71
April 9, 2023 - Resurrection Sunday	Matthew 28, Psalm 72

MISSION OF GOD

April 16, 2023	Romans 1-3, Psalm 44
April 23, 2023	Romans 4-6, Psalm 45
April 30, 2023	Romans 7-9, Psalm 46
May 7, 2023	Romans 10-12, Psalm 47
May 14, 2023	Romans 13-14, Psalm 48
May 21, 2023	Romans 15-16, Psalm 49
May 28, 2023 - Pentecost	Hebrews 1-3, Psalm 50
June 4, 2023	Hebrews 4-6, Psalm 51
June 11, 2023	Hebrews 7-8, Psalm 52
June 18, 2023	Hebrews 9-10, Psalm 53
June 25, 2023	Hebrews 11-13, Psalm 54

THE WRITINGS

July 2, 2023	Ruth 1-4, Psalm 55
July 9, 2023	Esther 1-5, Psalm 56
July 16, 2023	Esther 6-10, Psalm 57
July 23, 2023	Ephesians 1-2, Psalm 58
July 30, 2023	Ephesians 3-4, Psalm 59
August 6, 2023	Ephesians 5-6, Psalm 60
August 13, 2023	Philippians 1-2, Psalm 61
August 20, 2023	Philippians 3-4, Psalm 62
August 27, 2023	Colossians 1-2, Psalm 63
Sept. 3, 2023	Colossians 3-4, Psalm 64

YEAR THREE : VICTORY

FOUNDATIONS	
Sept. 10, 2023	Joshua 1-5, Psalm 73
Sept. 17, 2023	Joshua 6-10, Psalm 74
Sept. 24, 2023	Joshua 11-15, Psalm 75
Oct. 1, 2023	Joshua 16-20, Psalm 76
Oct. 8, 2023 - Thanksgiving	Joshua 21-24, Psalm 77
Oct. 15, 2023	Judges 1-5, Psalm 78:1-39
Oct. 22, 2023	Judges 6-10, Psalm 78:40-72
Oct. 29, 2023 - All Saints Day	Judges 11-15, Psalm 79
Nov. 5, 2023	Judges 16-20, Psalm 80
Nov. 12, 2023	Judges 21, I Samuel 1-3, Psalm 81
Nov. 19, 2023	I Samuel 4-7, Psalm 82
Nov. 26, 2023	I Samuel 8-12, Psalm 83
ADVENT	
Dec. 3, 2023	Zechariah 1-7, Psalm 84
Dec. 10, 2023	Zechariah 8-14, Psalm 85
Dec. 17, 2023	Malachi 1-4, Psalm 86
Dec. 24, 2023	John 1, Psalm 87
GOSPEL	
Dec. 31, 2023	John 2-3, Psalm 88
Jan. 7, 2024 - Epiphany (Jan. 6)	John 4-5; Daniel 1-2, Psalm 89:1-29
Jan. 14, 2024	John 6-7; Daniel 3-4, Psalm 89:30-52
Jan. 21, 2024	John 8-9; Daniel 5-6, Psalm 90
Jan. 28, 2024	John 10-11; Daniel 7-8 Psalm 91
Feb. 4, 2024	John 14-15; Daniel 9-10, Psalm 92
Feb. 11, 2024 (Ash Wed. - Feb. 14)	John 16-17; Daniel 11-12, Psalm 93

LENT	
Feb. 18, 2024	Ezra 1-5, Psalm 94
Feb. 25, 2024	Ezra 6-10, Psalm 95
March 3, 2024	Nehemiah 1-6, Psalm 96
March 10, 2024	Nehemiah 7-13, Psalm 97
March 17, 2024	Haggai 1-2, Psalm 98
HOLY WEEK	
March 24, 2024 - Palm Sunday	John 12-13; John 18-19, Psalm 99
March 31, 2024 - Resurrection Sunday	John 20-21, Psalm 100
MISSION OF GOD	
April 7, 2024	Revelation 1-2, Psalm 101
April 14, 2024	Revelation 3-4, Psalm 102
April 21, 2024	Revelation 5-6, Psalm 103
April 28, 2024	Revelation 7-8, Psalm 104
May 5, 2024	Revelation 9-10, Psalm 105
May 12, 2024	Revelation 11-12, Psalm 106
May 19, 2024 - Pentecost	Revelation 13-14, Psalm 73
May 26, 2024	Revelation 15-16, Psalm 74
June 2, 2024	Revelation 17-18, Psalm 75
June 9, 2024	Revelation 19-20, Psalm 76
June 16, 2024	Revelation 21, Psalm 77
June 23, 2024	Revelation 22, Psalm 78
THE WRITINGS	
June 30, 2024	Job 1-9, Psalm 79
July 7, 2024	Job 10-18, Psalm 80
July 14, 2024	Job 19-26, Psalm 81
July 21, 2024	Job 27-34, Psalm 82
July 28, 2024	Job 35-42, Psalm 83
August 4, 2028	I John 1-3, Psalm 84
August 11, 2024	I John 4-5; II John 1; III John 1, Psalm 85
August 18, 2024	Jude 1; I Thessalonians 3-5, Psalm 86
August 25, 2024	I Thessalonians 3-5, Psalm 87
Sept. 1, 2024	II Thessalonians 1-3, Psalm 88

[YEAR FOUR : KINGDOM]

FOUNDATIONS	
Sept. 8, 2024	I Samuel 13-20 (I Chronicles 1-10), Psalm 107
Sept. 15, 2024	I Samuel 21-28, Psalm 108
Sept. 22, 2024	I Samuel 29-31; II Samuel 1-5 (I Chr. 11-12), Psalm 109
Sept. 29, 2024	II Samuel 6-13 (I Chr. 13-20), Psalm 110
Oct. 6, 2024	II Samuel 14-21, Psalm 111
Oct. 13, 2024 - Thanksgiving	II Sam 22-24; I Kings 1-5 (I Chr 21-29; II Chr 1-2), Psalm 112
Oct. 20, 2024	I Kings 6-13 (II Chronicles 12-20), Psalm 113
Oct. 27, 2024 - All Saints Day (Nov 1)	I Kings 14-22 (II Chronicles 12-20), Psalm 114
Nov. 3, 2024	II Kings 1-8 (II Chronicles 21), Psalm 115
Nov. 10, 2024	II Kings 9-16 (II Chronicles 22-28), Psalm 116
Nov. 17, 2024	II Kings 17-21 (II Chronicles 29-33), Psalm 117
Nov. 24, 2024	II Kings 21-25 (II Chronicles 33-36), Psalm 118
ADVENT	
Dec. 1, 2024	Jeremiah 1-8, Psalm 119:1-16
Dec. 8, 2024	Jeremiah 9-16, Psalm 119:17-32
Dec. 15, 2024	Jeremiah 17-24, Psalm 119:33-56
Dec. 22, 2024	Mark 1, Psalm 119:57-72
GOSPEL	
Dec. 29, 2024	Mark 2-3, Psalm 119:73-88
Jan. 5, 2025 - Epiphany (Jan. 6)	Mark 4-5, Psalm 119:89-104
Jan. 12, 2025	Mark 6; Ezekiel 1-8, Psalm 119:105-128
Jan. 19, 2025	Mark 7; Ezekiel 9-16, Psalm 119:129-152
Jan. 26, 2025	Mark 8; Ezekiel 17-24, Psalm 119:153-176
Feb. 2, 2025	Mark 9; Ezekiel 25-32, Psalm 120
Feb. 9, 2025	Mark 10; Ezekiel 33-40, Psalm 121
Feb. 16, 2025	Mark 11; Ezekiel 41-48, Psalm 122
Feb. 23, 2025	Mark 12, Psalm 123
March 1, 2025 (Ash Wed. - March 5)	Mark 13, Psalm 124

LENT	
March 9, 2025	Lamentations 1-5, Psalm 125
March 16, 2025	Jeremiah 24-31, Psalm 126
March 23, 2025	Jeremiah 32-37, Psalm 127
March 30, 2025	Jeremiah 38-44, Psalm 128
April 6, 2025	Jeremiah 45-52, Psalm 129
HOLY WEEK	
April 13, 2025 - Palm Sunday	Mark 11:1-11; Mark 14-15, Psalm 130
April 20, 2025 - Resurrection Sunday	Mark 16, Psalm 131
MISSION OF GOD	
April 27, 2025	I Corinthians 1-3, Psalm 132
May 4, 2025	I Corinthians 4-6, Psalm 133
May 11, 2025	I Corinthians 7-9, Psalm 134
May 18, 2025	I Corinthians 10-12, Psalm 135
May 25, 2025	I Corinthians 13-16, Psalm 136
June 1, 2025	II Corinthians 1-3, Psalm 137
June 8, 2025	II Corinthians 4-6, Psalm 138
June 15, 2025	II Corinthians 7-10, Psalm 139
June 22, 2025	II Corinthians 11-13, Psalm 140
THE WRITINGS	
June 19, 2025	Jonah 1-4, Psalm 141
July 6, 2025	Hosea 1-5, Psalm 142
July 13, 2025	Hosea 6-10, Psalm 143
July 20, 2025	Hosea 11-14, Psalm 144
July 27, 2025	I Peter 1-3, Psalm 145
August 3, 2025	I Peter 4-5, Psalm 146
August 10, 2025	II Peter 1-3, Psalm 147
August 17, 2025	Galatians 1-2, Psalm 148
August 24, 2025	Galatians 3-4, Psalm 149
August 31, 2025	Galatians 4-6, Psalm 150