

Narrative Lectionary 2025-26

Readings for Year 4 (John)

The **preaching texts** are always listed first. During the fall, Old Testament texts are the primary vehicle for proclaiming the biblical story. The gospel readings become primary texts on the Fourth Sunday of Advent. A brief accompanying reading (selected from one of the gospels before Christmas and after Easter; selected from Psalms from Christmas through Easter) is noted in parentheses. *These accompanying readings are optional.*

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| August 31 st | NL401 Creation by the Word Labor day weekend Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost | Genesis 1:1—2:4a Creation by word; light, life; it was good. <i>(John 1:1-5)</i> |
| September 7 | Rally Sunday Kick off Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost | Genesis 28:10-22 – Jacob’s Dream at Bethel |
| September 14 | God’s Work Our Hands Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost | Genesis 29:15-28 -Jacob, Rachel, Leah |
| September 21 | 1st day of Sunday School Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost | Genesis 31-32 (Preacher narrows down the story) |

Narrative Lectionary 2025-26 (Year 4 – John)

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| September 28 | NL404 God's Name Is Revealed Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost | Exodus 2:23-25; 3:1-15; 4:10-17 God's name is revealed: "I Am." Moses is a reluctant messenger, but God uses him to deliver Israel. <i>(John 8:58)</i> |
| October 5 | Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost | Exodus 12:1-14 the Passover of the Lord |
| October 12 | Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost | Exodus 14:19-31 Israel's deliverance at the Red Sea |
| October 19 | MEA Sunday Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost | Exodus 17:1-7 Water from the rock in the wilderness |
| October 26 | Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost (or Reformation Sunday) | Exodus 20:1-20 The Ten Commandments given at Sinai |

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| November 2 | All Saints Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost (or All Saints Sunday) | Deuteronomy 34:1-12 the death of Moses |
| November 9 | NL410 Amos: Justice Rolls Down Twenty-second Sunday after Pentecost | Amos 1:1-2; 5:14-15, 21-24 Let justice roll down like waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream. <i>(John 7:37-38)</i> |
| November 16 | Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost | Ezekiel 37:1-14 Ezekiel prophesies to the dry bones and they are raised to new life. <i>(John 11:25-26)</i> |
| November 23 | NL412 Jeremiah's Letter to Exiles Commitment Sunday Christ the King / Reign of Christ Sunday | Jeremiah 29:1, 4-14 Seek the welfare of the city; I know the plans I have for you. <i>(John 14:27)</i> |
| November 30 | NL413 Daniel First Sunday of Advent | Daniel 3:1, [2-7] 8-30 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego; God present in the fiery furnace <i>(John 18:36-37)</i> |
| December 7 | NL416 Word Made Flesh Second Sunday of Advent | John 1:1-18 The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth. <i>(Psalm 130:5-8)</i> |

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| December 14 | Advent Cantata Bible Study may differ from this text to Christmas or Christmas Day preachers text. NL415 Word Accomplishes God's Purpose Third Sunday of Advent | Isaiah 55:1-13 Anyone who is thirsty, come drink; the word accomplishes God's purpose. <i>(John 4:13-14)</i> |
| December 21 | Children's Christmas Program Bible Study may cover Christmas or Christmas day preacher's text Fourth Sunday of Advent | |
| December 24 | NL417 Birth of Jesus Christmas Eve | Luke 2:1-14 [15-20] Birth of Jesus. <i>(Psalm 96:7-10)</i> |
| December 25 | NL418 Shepherds Visit Christmas Day | Luke 2:8-20 Shepherds visit the infant Jesus. <i>(Psalm 123:1-2 or 123:2)</i> |
| December 28 | NL419 A Voice in the Wilderness First Sunday of Christmas | John 1:19-34 John the Baptist questioned; says he is not the Christ or Elijah. <i>(Psalm 32:1-2)</i> |

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| January | 4 | NL420 Jesus Says Come and See Second Sunday of Christmas | John 1:35-51 Behold the Lamb of God, Call of disciples, “Come and see.” <i>(Psalm 66:1-5)</i> |
| January | 11 | NL421 Wedding at Cana Baptism of Our Lord | John 2:1-11 Wedding at Cana, water into wine. <i>(Psalm 104:14-16)</i> |
| January | 18 | NL422 Jesus Cleanses the Temple Second Sunday after Epiphany | John 2:13-25 Jesus cleanses the temple, signifying the destruction and raising of his body. <i>(Psalm 127:1-2)</i> |
| January | 25 | NL423 Nicodemus Third Sunday after Epiphany | John 3:1-21 Jesus and Nicodemus, being born anew, God’s love for the world. <i>(Psalm 139:13-18)</i> |
| February | 1 | NL424 The Woman at the Well Fourth Sunday after Epiphany | John 4:1-42 Jesus meets a Samaritan woman at well, speaks of living water and true worship. <i>(Psalm 42:1-3)</i> |
| February | 8 | NL425 Healing Stories Fifth Sunday after Epiphany | John 4:46-54 [5:1-18] Healing official’s son, faith in the word of promise; Jesus heals one who shows no faith <i>(Psalm 40:1-5)</i> |

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| February | 15 | NL429 The Man Born Blind Transfiguration of Our Lord | John 9:1-41 Jesus is the light of the world – brings light to the eyes of a man born blind. <i>(Psalm 27:1-4)</i> |
| February | 18 | NL430 The Good Shepherd Ash Wednesday | John 10:1-18 Jesus as gate and good shepherd, who lays down his life. <i>(Psalm 23)</i> |
| February | 22 | NL431 Jesus Raises Lazarus First Sunday in Lent | John 11:1-44 Raising Lazarus, Jesus as the resurrection and life. <i>(Psalm 104:27-30)</i> |
| March | 1 | NL432 Jesus Washes Feet Second Sunday in Lent | John 13:1-17 Footwashing as a sign of Jesus' love and example. <i>(Psalm 51:7-12)</i> |
| March | 8 | NL433 Peter's Denial Third Sunday in Lent | John 18:12-27 Jesus' trial before Annas, Peter's denial. <i>(Psalm 17:1-7)</i> |
| March | 15 | NL434 Jesus and Pilate Fourth Sunday in Lent | John 18:28-40 My kingdom is not from this world. <i>(Psalm 145:10-13)</i> |

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| March | 22 | NL435 Jesus Condemned Fifth Sunday in Lent | John 19:1-16a Jesus is condemned, they have no king but Caesar. <i>(Psalm 146)</i> |
| March | 29 | NL436 The Crucified Messiah Palm/Passion Sunday | John 19:16b-22 <i>Opt.: John 12:12-27, Triumphal Entry</i> Sign above the cross proclaims the crucified king. <i>(Psalm 24)</i> |
| April | 2 | NL437 Jesus' Last Words Maundy Thursday | John 19:23-30 Woman, behold your son; I thirst; It is finished. <i>(Psalm 26:3)</i> |
| April | 3 | NL438 Jesus the Passover Lamb Good Friday | John 19:31-42 Jesus' bones are not broken, water from his side, a royal burial. <i>(Psalm 31:9-18)</i> |
| April | 5 | NL439 Resurrection Resurrection of Our Lord | John 20:1-18 Empty tomb, Jesus calls Mary by name. <i>(Psalm 118:21-29)</i> |
| April | 12 | NL440 Thomas Second Sunday of Easter | John 20:19-31 Jesus gives Spirit, appears to Thomas. <i>(Psalm 145:13-21)</i> |

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| April | 19 | NL441 Paul's Conversion Third Sunday of Easter | Acts 9:1-19a Paul and Ananias, each called into Christ's service (locally and globally). <i>(Matthew 6:24)</i> |
| April | 26 | NL442 Paul and Silas Fourth Sunday of Easter | Acts 16:16-34 Paul and Silas in prison at Philippi, jailor and his family are baptized <i>(Luke 6:18-19, 22-23)</i> |
| May | 3 | NL443 Paul's Sermon at Athens Fifth Sunday of Easter | Acts 17:16-31 Sermon at Athens: What you worship as unknown, I proclaim to you. <i>(John 1:16-18)</i> |
| May | 10 | NL444 Partnership in the Gospel Sixth Sunday of Easter | Philippians 1:1-18a Paul in prison, thankful for the Philippians' partnership in the gospel. <i>(Luke 9:46-48)</i> |
| May | 17 | NL445 The Christ Hymn Seventh Sunday of Easter | Philippians 2:1-13 Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who became obedient to death. <i>(Luke 6:43-45)</i> |
| May | 24 | NL446 Pentecost; Rejoice in the Lord Day of Pentecost | Acts 2:1-21; Philippians 4:4-7 Gift of the Spirit as miracle of communication (Acts). Rejoice in the Lord always. The peace of God (Phil). <i>(John 14:16-17)</i> |

