

Introduction to the 2025–2026 Lectionary Year
(Year A: Gospel of Matthew)

As President of the Uniting Church in Australia, my theme for these three years is “Threads of Love – Weaving Christ’s Love Across Cultures and Boundaries.” This theme captures what I see and hear as I travel among our communities: Christ at work across difference, drawing us together in hope. Year A of the Revised Common Lectionary invites us into that same story as we walk alongside Jesus through the Gospel of Matthew.



Matthew’s account speaks directly to communities seeking to live faithfully in complex times. It is a gospel rooted in Scripture and tradition, yet radically open to the new work of God in Christ. Written for a diverse and often pressured community, Matthew weaves together a story of Jesus as Emmanuel – “God with us” – from his birth to the promise of his abiding presence at the close of the age.

This year we will hear the voice of Jesus the Teacher. Matthew frames Jesus’ ministry around five great discourses, echoing the five books of Moses. In these we encounter the Sermon on the Mount with its call to a deeper righteousness; parables of the kingdom that reveal God’s upside-down reign; instructions for life together as disciples; and visions of judgment and hope for the nations. Matthew continually invites us to see not only what Jesus does but what it means to follow him: to embody mercy, humility, justice and courage in our own context.

We also hear Matthew’s deep concern for the community of faith. This gospel was written for a church learning how to live as Christ’s body – struggling with persecution, diversity and change, yet called to bold witness. Matthew names the reality of conflict, but also offers practical teaching for forgiveness, reconciliation and leadership that serves. In a time when our own communities wrestle with similar challenges, these texts ground us again in the transforming presence of Christ.

This Lectionary year invites us to weave these same threads of love in our worship, witness and daily life. It draws our eyes to Jesus who fulfils the law and prophets, who heals and feeds, who calls us to pray “Your kingdom come.” May this journey through Matthew renew our discipleship, open our lives more fully to the Spirit, and draw us closer to Emmanuel who makes us one.

Rev Charissa Suli
President of the Uniting Church in Australia



UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA
ASSEMBLY RESOURCING UNIT

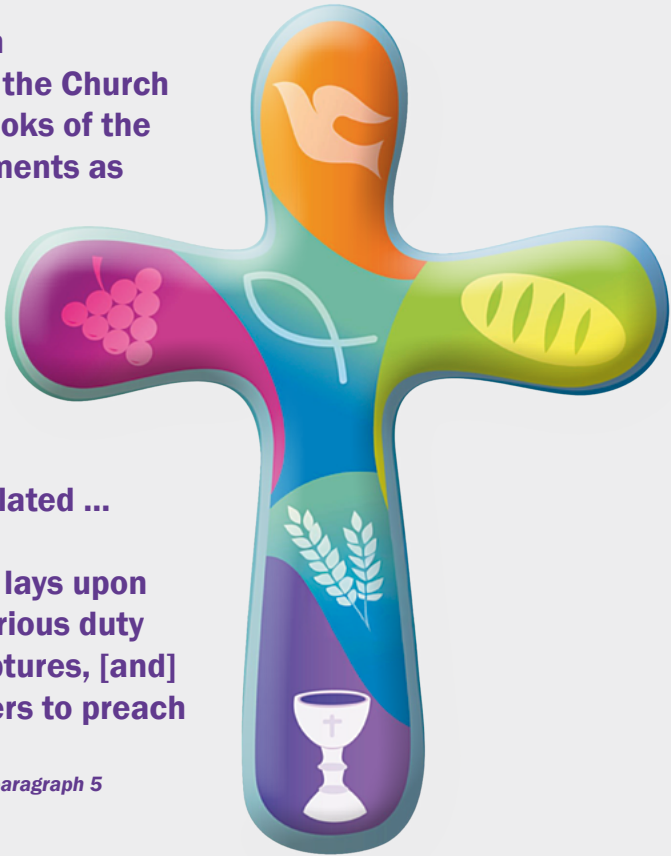
Calendar & Lectionary

Year A 2025 - 2026

‘The Uniting Church acknowledges that the Church has received the books of the Old and New Testaments as unique prophetic and apostolic testimony, in which it hears the Word of God and by which its faith and obedience are nourished and regulated ...

The Uniting Church lays upon its members the serious duty of reading the Scriptures, [and] commits its ministers to preach from these ...’

Basis of Union (1992 Edition), paragraph 5



A Short Guide to Using the Lectionary

The *Revised Common Lectionary (RCL)* offers for 4 readings for each week, in a three-year cycle:

First Reading from the Old Testament

Psalm

Second Reading from the apostles’ writings

Gospel following a cycle of the synoptic Gospels: Matthew (Year A), Mark (Year B), and Luke (Year C). (The Gospel of John is used as a complement, particularly around Christmas, Lent, and Easter.)

The lectionary encourages us to connect the stories of our lives to the story of God’s faithful throughout Scripture. These texts are not simply offered to focus our sermons, but also to shape our prayers and liturgy and song. It is worth keeping in mind these words from the *Basis of Union*:


“The Word of God on whom salvation depends is to be heard and known from Scripture appropriated in the worshipping and witnessing life of the Church.” (Paragraph 5)

The connection between Scripture and our worshipping and witnessing life should invite flexibility and pastoral sensitivity in how we use the lectionary. You might choose to follow the lectionary for key seasons: Advent / Christmas, Lent / Easter, and focus on locally chosen texts in other seasons. In places with preachers serving multiple communities, you might follow lectionary texts in different orders so that preachers can take their sermons “on the road” (a common practice of John Wesley).


Lectionaries offer us a sign of unity with other churches who share in the same readings week by week. At the same time, the *RCL* often omits stories about women, and more difficult texts within Scripture. Local leaders should consider making sure the full witness of Scripture is heard across the life of the community. You might consider how often the focus text is the Gospel, rather than the Old Testament reading, for example.

Before Trinity Sunday the Old Testament readings complement the Gospel reading. After Pentecost the Uniting Church follows a semi-continuous narrative within the Old Testament, connections between the Old Testament and Gospel readings are not intentional.

This Uniting Church version of the RCL includes commemorations officially adopted by the Assembly or the World Council of Churches. If these fall on fixed dates, congregations are encouraged to keep those connections. Otherwise, you can observe them at a time and in a way that best fits your local context. Find more information on the Lectionary resources page.



More RCL resources are available on the Assembly website, which is updated regularly. Please scan or click the QR code.





UNITING CHURCH IN AUSTRALIA

Year ‘A’
REVISED COMMON
LECTIONARY
2025 – 2026

(Below in the right hand column : C = Colour; P = Purple; W = White; G = Green; R = Red; B = Black)

ADVENT

A season of preparation, beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, in which the church recalls its hope and expectation in the coming of Christ, past, present and future.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
Nov 30 2025	Advent 1	Is 2:1-5	Ps 122	Rom 13:11-14	Mt 24:36-44	P
Dec 7 2025	Advent 2	Is 11:1-10	Ps 72:1-7, 18-19	Rom 15:4-13	Mt 3:1-12	P
Dec 14 2025	Advent 3	Is 35:1-10	Ps 146:5-10 or Lk 1:46b-55	Jas 5:7-10	Mt 11:2-11	P
Dec 21 2025	Advent 4	Is 7:10-16	Ps 80:1-7, 17-19	Rom 1:1-7	Mt 1:18-25	P

CHRISTMAS

The Christmas season includes Christmas Eve/Day and the twelve days of Christmas. It recalls the stories of the birth and infancy of Christ. The Church in this time celebrates the wonder of the incarnation. (Any of the Nativity selections may be used either for Christmas Day or Christmas Eve services.)

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
Dec 24/25 2025	Nativity 1	Is 9:2-7	Ps 96	Tit 2:11-14	Lk 2:1-14, (15-20)	W
	Nativity 2	Is 62:6-12	Ps 97	Tit 3:4-7	Lk 2:(1-7), 8-20	W
	Nativity 3	Is 52:7-10	Ps 98	Heb 1:1-4, (5-12)	Jn 1:1-14	W
Dec 28 2025	Christmas 1	Is 63:7-9	Ps 148	Heb 2:10-18	Mt 2:13-23	W
Jan 1 2026	New Year’s Day	Eccl 3: 1-13	Ps 8	Rev 21: 1-6a	Mt 25: 31-46	W
Jan 1 2026	Holy Name of Jesus	Num 6: 22-27	Ps 8	Gal 4: 4-7 or Phil 2: 5-11	Lk 2:15-21	W
Jan 4 2026	Christmas 2	Jer 31:7-14	Ps 147:12-20	Eph 1:3-14	Jn 1:(1-9), 10-18	W

EPIPHANY

An ‘Epiphany’ is a revealing, appearing or manifesting of something or someone, and in this season the Church reflects on the manifestation of Christ to all people. The length of this period varies depending on the date of Easter.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
Jan 6 2026	Epiphany of the Lord	Is 60:1-6	Ps 72:1-7, 10-14	Eph 3:1-12	Mt 2:1-12	W
Jan 11 2026	Baptism of Jesus	Is 42:1-9	Ps 29	Acts 10:34-43	Mt 3:13-17	W
Jan 18 2026	Epiphany 2	Is 49:1-7	Ps 40:1-11	1 Cor 1:1-9	Jn 1:29-42	G
Jan 25 2026	Epiphany 3	Is 9:1-4	Ps 27:1, 4-9	1 Cor 1:10-18	Mt 4:12-23	G
Feb 1 2026	Epiphany 4	Mic 6:1-8	Ps 15	1 Cor 1:18-31	Mt 5:1-12	G
Feb 2 2026	Presentation of the Lord	Mal 3: 1-4	Ps 84 or Ps 24: 7-10	Heb 2: 14-18	Lk 2: 22-40	G
Feb 8 2026	Epiphany 5	Is 58:1-9a (9b-12)	Ps 112:1-9 (10)	1 Cor 2:1-12 (13-16)	Mt 5:13-20	G
Feb 15 2026	Transfiguration of Jesus	Ex 24:12-18	Ps 2 or Ps 99	2 Pt 1:16-21	Mt 17:1-9	W

LENT

A season of preparation and discipline that begins on Ash Wednesday and concludes at sundown on Holy Saturday. During the forty weekdays and six Sundays in Lent, the church remembers the life and ministry of Jesus and renews its commitment to him in Christian discipleship. This season is the traditional time to prepare for baptisms and confirmations to be celebrated at the Easter Vigil or on Easter Sunday, or during the season of Easter.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
Feb 18 2026	Ash Wednesday	Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Is 58:1-12	Ps 51:1-17	2 Cor 5:20b – 6:10	Mt 6:1-6, 16-21	P
Feb 22 2026	Lent 1	Gn 2:15-17; 3:1-7	Ps 32	Rom 5:12-19	Mt 4:1-11	P
March 1 2026	Lent 2	Gn 12:1-4a	Ps 121	Rom 4:1-5, 13-17	Jn 3:1-17 or Mt 17: 1-9	P
March 8 2026	Lent 3	Ex 17:1-7	Ps 95	Rom 5:1-11	Jn 4:5-42	P
March 15 2026	Lent 4	1 Sm 16:1-13	Ps 23	Eph 5:8-14	Jn 9:1-41	P
March 22 2026	Lent 5	Ez 37:1-14	Ps 130	Rom 8:6-11	Jn 11:1-45	P
March 25 2026	Annunciation of the Lord	Is 7:10-14	Ps 45 or Ps 40:5-10	Heb 10:4-10	Lk 1:26-38	W
March 29 2026	Palm Sunday	Is 50:4-9a	Ps 118:1-2,19-29	Phil 2:5-11	Mt 21:1-11	P
March 29 2026	Passion Sunday	Is 50:4-9a	Ps 31:9-16	Phil 2:5-11	Mt 26:14-27:66 or Mt 27:11-54	P
March 30 2026	Monday in Holy Week	Is 42:1-9	Ps 36:5-11	Heb 9:11-15	Jn 12:1-11	P
March 31 2026	Tuesday in Holy Week	Is 49:1-7	Ps 71:1-14	1 Cor 1:18-31	Jn 12:20-36	P
April 1 2026	Wednesday in Holy Week	Is 50:4-9a	Ps 70	Heb 12:1-3	Jn 13:21-32	P
April 2 2026	Maundy Thursday	Ex 12:1-4, (5-10), 11-14	Ps 116:1-2, 12-19	1 Cor 11:23-26	Jn 13:1-17, 31b-35	P
April 3 2026	Good Friday	Is 52:13 – 53:12	Ps 22	Heb 10:16-25 or Heb 4:14-16; 5:7-9	Jn 18:1-19:42	B/R
April 4 2026	Holy Saturday	Job 14:1-14 or Lam 3:1-9, 19-24	Ps 31:1-4, 15-16	1 Pt 4:1-8	Mt 27:57-66 or Jn 19:38-42	B

EASTER

The great fifty days of Easter includes eight Sundays beginning with the Easter Vigil and concluding on the Day of Pentecost. The season celebrates the Resurrection and Ascension of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
April 4/5 2026	Easter Vigil	Gen 1:1–2:4a Gen 7:1-5,11-18; 8:6-18;9:8-13 Gen 22:1-18 Ex 14:10-31; 15:20-21 Is 55:1-11 Prv 8:1-8,19-21; 9:4b-6 Ez 36:24-28 Ez 37:1-14 Zep 3:14-20	Ps 136:1-9,23-26 Ps 46 Ps 16 Ex 15:1b-13,17-18 (resp) Is 12:2-6 (resp) Ps 19 Ps 42 and 43 Ps 143 Ps 98 Ps 114			W
April 5 2026	Easter Day	Acts 10:34-43 or Jer 31:1-6	Ps 118:1-2, 14-24	Col 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43	Jn 20:1-18 or Mt 28:1-10	W
April 5 2026	Easter Evening	Is 25:6-9	Ps 114	1 Cor 5:6b-8	Lk 24:13-49	W
April 12 2026	Easter 2	Acts 2:14a, 22-32	Ps 16	1 Pt 1:3-9	Jn 20:19-31	W
April 19 2026	Easter 3	Acts 2:14a, 36-41	Ps 116:1-4, 12-19	1 Pt 1:17-23	Lk 24:13-35	W
April 26 2026	Easter 4	Acts 2:42-47	Ps 23	1 Pt 2:19-25	Jn 10:1-10	W
May 3 2026	Easter 5	Acts 7:55-60	Ps 31:1-5, 15-16	1 Pt 2:2-10	Jn 14:1-14	W
May 10 2026	Easter 6	Acts 17:22-31	Ps 66:8-20	1 Pt 3:13-22	Jn 14:15-21	W
May 14 2026	Ascension Day	Acts 1:1-11	Ps 47 or Ps 93	Eph 1:15-23	Lk 24:44-53	W
May 17 2026	Easter 7	Acts 1:6-14	Ps 68:1-10, 32-35	1 Pt 4:12-14, 5:6-11	Jn 17:1-11	W
May 24 2026	Pentecost	Acts 2:1-21 or Num 11:24-30	Ps 104:24-34, 35b	1 Cor 12:3b-13 or Acts 2:1-21	Jn 20:19-23 or Jn 7:37-39	R

AFTER PENTECOST

A period of time that varies in length depending on whether Easter is early or late. In this period, the church recalls its faith in the Holy Trinity. It seeks to relate its faith as a people of God to Christ’s mission in the world. It commences with Trinity Sunday and concludes with the feast of Christ the King.

Date	Day	First Reading	Psalm	Second Reading	Gospel	C
May 31 2026	Trinity Sunday	Gn 1:1 – 2:4a	Ps 8	2 Cor 13:11-13	Mt 28:16-20	W
Jun 7 2026	Pent 2 [10]	Gn 12:1-9, Hos 5:15-6:6	Ps 33:1-12 Ps 50:7-15	Rom 4:13-25	Mt 9:9-13, 18-26	G
Jun 14 2026	Pent 3 [11]	Gn 18:1-15, (21:1-7) Ex 19:2-8a	Ps 116:1-2, 12-19 Ps 100	Rom 5:1-8	Mt 9:35-10:8, (9-23)	G
Jun 21 2026	Pent 4 [12]	Gn 21:8-21, Jer 20: 7-13	Ps 86: 1-10,16-17 Ps 69:7-10, (11-15), 16-18	Rom 6:1b-11	Mt 10:24-39	G
Jun 22 2026	UCA Anniversary	Ez 37:15-28	Ps 122	Heb 13:1-8	Jn 17:20-26	R
Jun 28 2026	Pent 5 [13] <i>UnitingWorld Sunday</i>	Gn 22:1-14 Jer 28:5-9	Ps 13 Ps 89:1-4,15-18	Rom 6:12-23	Mt 10:40-42	G
Jul 5 2026	Pent 6 [14]	Gn 24:34-38, 42-49, 58-67	Ps 45:10-17 or Song 2:8-13	Rom 7:15-25a	Mt 11:16-19, 25-30	G
Jul 12 2026	Pent 7 [15]	Gn 25:19-34 Is 55:10-13	Ps 119:105-112 Ps 65 (1-8), 9-13	Rom 8:1-11	Mt 13:1-9, 18-23	G
Jul 19 2026	Pent 8 [16] <i>Intercultural Neighbouring Day</i>	Gn 28:10-19a Is 44: 6-8	Ps 139:1-12, 23-24 Ps 86 :11-17	Rom 8:12-25	Mt 13:24-30, 36-43	G
Jul 26 2026	Pent 9 [17]	Gn 29:15-28 1Kg 3:5-12	Ps 105:1-11, 45b Ps 128 Ps 119: 129-136	Rom 8:26-39	Mt 13:31-33, 44-52	G
Aug 2 2026	Pent 10 [18]	Gn 32:22-31	Ps 17:1-7, 15	Rom 9:1-5	Mt 14:13-21	G
Aug 9 2026	Pent 11 [19]	Gn 37:1-4,12-28	Ps 105: 1-6, 16-22, 45b	Rom 10:5-15	Mt 14:22-33	G
Aug 16 2026	Pent 12 [20]	Gn 45:1-15 Is 56:1,6-8	Ps 133 Ps 67	Rom 11:1-2a, 29-32	Mt 15: (10-20), 21-28	G
Aug 23 2026	Pent 13 [21]	Ex 1:8-2:10	Ps 124	Rom 12:1-8	Mt 16:13-20	G
Aug 30 2026	Pent 14 [22] <i>Frontier Services Sunday</i>	Ex 3:1-15 Jer 15:15-21	Ps 105:1-6, 23-26 45b Ps 26:1-8	Rom 12:9-21	Mt 16:21-28	G

Sept 6 2026	<i>Season of Creation begins (World Council of Churches)</i>					
Sept 6 2026	Pent 15 [23]	Ex 12:1-14	Ps 149	Rom 13:8-14	Mt 18:15-20	G
Sept 13 2026	Pent 16 [24]	Ex 14:19-31	Ps 114 or Ex 15: 1b-11, 20-21	Rom 14:1-12	Mt 18:21-35	G
Sept 20 2026	Pent 17 [25]	Ex 16:2-15 Jon 3:10-4:11	Ps 105:1-6, 37-45 Ps 145:1-8	Phil 1:21-30	Mt 20:1-16	G
Sept 27 2026	Pent 18 [26]	Ex 17:1-7	Ps 78:1-4, 12-16	Phil 2:1-13	Mt 21:23-32	G
Oct 4 2026	Pent 19 [27] <i>Older Persons Sunday</i>	Ex 20:1-4, 7-9 12-20 Is 5:1-7	Ps 19 Ps 80:7-15	Phil 3:4b-14	Mt 21:33-46	G
Oct 11 2026	Pent 20 [28]	Ex 32:1-14	Ps 106:1-6, 19-23	Phil 4:1-9	Mt 22:1-14	G
Oct 18 2026	Pent 21 [29]	Ex 33:12-23	Ps 99	1 Thes 1:1-10	Mt 22:15-22	G
Oct 18 2026	<i>Anniversary: National Apology to Survivors of Institutional Child Sexual Abuse</i>					
Oct 25 2026	Pent 22 [30]	Dt 34:1-12	Ps 90:1-6, 13-17	1 Thes 2:1-8	Mt 22:34-46	G
Nov 1 2026	All Saints Day	Rv 7:9-17	Ps 34:1-10, 22	1 Jn 3:1-3	Mt 5:1-12	W
Nov 1 2026	Pent 23 [31]	Jos 3:7-17	Ps 107:1-7, 33-37	1 Thes 2:9-13	Mt 23:1-12	G
Nov 8 2026	Pent 24 [32]	Jos 24:1-3a, 14-25	Ps 78:1-7	1 Thes 4:13-18	Mt 25:1-13	G
Nov 15 2026	Pent 25 [33]	Jgs 4:1-7	Ps 123	1 Thes 5:1-11	Mt 25:14-30	G
Nov 22 2026	Christ the King or the Reign of Christ	Ez 34:11-16, 20-24	Ps 100	Eph 1:15-23	Mt 25:31-46	W

UCA Anniversary Readings may be substituted for the Sunday before or after the 22nd June.

The beginnings or endings of some Psalms vary from those in *Uniting in Worship 2*.

You may choose to use the verse selections in *Uniting in Worship 2*.

A Calendar of Other Commemorations is to be found in *Uniting in Worship 2* pages 566 to 571.

Keep up to date at

- uniting.church/worship-community/
- Discover publications produced by the Assembly Resourcing Unit
- Liturgical resources to help with preaching and worship;
- Some recently produced Orders of Service;
- Background Papers on a wide range of subjects;
- Other Websites worth investigating for worship and preaching;
- The Lectionary and Liturgical dates;
- Music and the Arts.

ORTHODOX DATES	
GREAT FRIDAY	10 April 2026
EASTER	12 April 2026
PENTECOST	31 May 2026