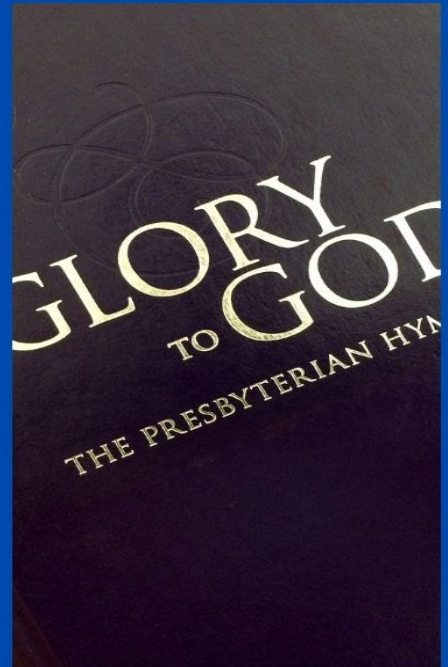


PAM Mid-Atlantic Region

Lectionary Resources



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What is the Revised Common Lectionary?

“All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness” (2 Tim. 3:16) The canonical scriptures of the Old and New Testament are considered as the word of God in written form by most Christians. This testimony, which was passed from generation to generation, tells the narrative of God’s mighty acts, relates the account of how God inspired prophets and psalmists, and tells the story of Jesus.

Then, how do we choose what to read (and sing) on a given Sunday? For centuries, the church employed a lectionary method—a system—to address this issue. Over most of that time, this pattern was a one-year lectionary that repeated the same lessons on a given Sunday. It wasn’t until the last third of the 20th century that an assembly of many Christian denominations widened this system into a three-year cycle. The goal was to have readings that would be largely the same across denominations on any given day. This became known as the Revised Common Lectionary (RCL).

The gospels remain at the core of the RCL: Year A is mostly from the gospel of Matthew; year B from the gospel of Mark; and in year C from the gospel of Luke. Readings from John appear in all three years, but mostly in year B. From Advent through Holy Trinity, the gospel readings relate to a season, a festival, and follow the life of Jesus. The psalm is a response to the first reading. The second readings often stay within a particular book from the New Testament for a number of Sundays and can enlighten the other readings in unexpected ways.

There are two tracks of readings within the RCL —complementary or semi-continuous. In the complementary series, the Old Testament, psalms and epistle readings relate to the gospels, especially during Advent through Holy Trinity. After Pentecost, an option for use is the semi-continuous series, not necessarily gospel-related, which explores the Old Testament books, readings, and psalms not covered in by the complementary series.

The Revised Common Lectionary is the framework upon which our music planning for worship rests. It both frees us and challenges us as church musicians to work within this cycle towards providing images and themes with music that serve to enlighten the message of the bible on any given day throughout the church year for worship.

¹The following brief description is paraphrased from *Lectionary for Worship: Year A. Revised Common Lectionary: Study Edition*. “Introduction” pp. iv-vii. Augsburg Fortress, Minneapolis. 2007.

Print Resources

Bone, David L. and Scifres, Mary, *Prepare! An Ecumenical Music and Worship Planner 2022-2023*, © 2022, NRSV Edition, Abingdon Press, Nashville.

For some folks on the committee, this is a primary “go-to”! “Ecumenical” is a key term that applies to the many musical resources included. This is a significant worship music resource. Very compact, thorough, and easy to use. A “Using Prepare!” article is found on page 3. A Resource Key is found on page 7.

The left-hand page for each Sunday or worship day, includes the entire biblical readings for the lectionary. The one drawback is that there is no reference made to semi-continuous or complementary series which can create a disparity with other resources, especially those used by your pastor, or visiting preachers, and perhaps with even your own memory!

On the right-hand page, there is a List of: Primary Hymns and Songs for the Day (5-9); Additional Hymn Suggestions (many); Additional Contemporary and Modern Suggestions (many); Vocal Solos (3-4); Anthems (2) and Other Suggestions: Visuals for the readings listed as O for Old Testament; P for Psalm; E for Epistle or A for Acts; G for Gospel. Then references for prayers, canticles, responses, benedictions. and general Themes for the Day. Each entry includes a reference to the section for the day. Also, a suggestion or Opening Hymn (O) or Closing Hymn (C).

This resource begins its planning cycle on the first Sunday of September and ends with the last Sunday in August. It also includes a few Indices in the back. Theme Index: Lists themes and the Sundays they pop-up. A very useful tool, if you have certain song in mind. Scripture Index: can look up the scripture and find the date of the worship in which it is included. Blank sheet for notes and Worship Planning Sheets (three styles). Complete two-year calendar on the last page.

Note: Even though some United Methodist Hymns are listed, if you are a worship planner in the United Methodist church you need to order a separate Planner , “The United Methodist Music and Worship Planner,” because their lectionary is different than the RCL.

Daw, Jr., Carl P., *Glory to God: A Companion* © 2016 Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, KY

This companion resource for the new *Glory to God* hymnal includes interesting histories of both the hymn tunes and the words, suggested liturgical uses, recommended instrumentation and performance enhancements.

Daw, Jr., Carl P. and Pavlechko, Thomas, *Liturgical Music for the Revised Common Lectionary, Year A, Year B, Year C*, © 2007, 2008, 2009, Church Publishing Inc., www.churchpublishing.com.

Even though this is written for use in the Episcopal church, this provides a comprehensive list of anthem music for choirs, hymns, handbells, all listed by lectionary biblical readings for Gospel-Related (complementary) or Semi-continuous series for every worship of each year. Concise, clear, and thorough.

The entire year begins with Advent and ends with special days. All days use the heading for the “Propers” of the day which coordinate with the lectionary descriptions in other resources. No current dates. So each year can be used for every Year A, Year B, and Year C. No need to reorder copies. A money-saver. It has a sturdy binding. There is a new edition in progress.

LEFT SIDE with anthem selections

RIGHT SIDE with hymn selections

Hymns are placed into context on the right-hand page with the strongest, well-known hymns placed in the Entrance, Offertory and Post-communion positions, which is helpful in creating dimensions in planning hymns for a service. They are clearly placed directly in line with the readings, as is the other music on the left-hand side. This is a different visual that makes looking for a hymn or an anthem for a certain text somewhat easier. A sort of “cross-checking.”

The Anthem music is a very diverse and large selection that clearly gives voicing options and a list of composers and publishers in a grid form that is very easy to peruse.

Eicher, David, et. al. eds. *Glory to God*, © 2013 Westminster John Knox Press, Louisville, KY

The most recent hymnal authorized by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), *Glory to God* has many features that assist in worship planning: The Lectionary Index found on pgs. 968 to 978; the Scriptural Index: pgs. 979 to 988; and the Psalm Index on pgs. 989-990 are good weekly launch points for primary hymn selection considerations.

There is also an online hymnal available for purchase. There are many tools included, such as date sung, recordings, copyright information and PDF downloads in large print.



McKinsey, Sally Ann, *Call to Worship: Liturgy, Music, Preaching and the Arts, Volume 56.1, Lectionary Aids 2022-2023, Year A* © 2022 Office of Theology and Worship Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

A rich resource that includes suggestions for liturgy, congregational song, psalms and canticles, organ music, anthems for adult choirs, handbell music, and visual art. It also includes seasonal suggestions for children's choirs, youth choirs, piano music, and vocal solos, as well as guidelines for choosing instrumental music in your context.

Contributors are from around the USA. The Key to Abbreviations is a rich resource of books and publications. There is a Listing of Hymnals, Psalters, Publishers. Introductory articles offer descriptions of the resources and are found throughout the publication at the beginning of each season. Seasonal entries also include liturgical texts and prayers that can be used within worship week to week.

Each Sunday and Festival of the church year includes the date, title of the day, and color; a simple list of the Bible readings; suggested words for parts of liturgy for the minister or leader in the worship. Then follows Congressional Song for GATHERING, WORD, EUCHARIST and SENDING. Each hymn/song/psalm entry includes the Hymn number; the hymnal/or resource; biblical connection in a the form of abbreviations key. Then there is a comprehensive list of Anthems for Adult Choirs, Psalms and Canticles and Organ and Handbell Music suggestions with all composer and publisher information. Art recommendations are also a nice plus! Some use the titles suggested and cross-reference them to other hymns and choral music that are in the current church music library, thereby making selections that are both familiar and new to our worship experience.

Almost every Sunday is about two pages in length with clear, bolded headings. The Musical suggestions lift up different images in connection with every reading for every Sunday.

This resource is also available online at the PAM website.



Online Resources

Choristers' Guild Music-In-Worship planner

<https://www.choristersguild.org/document/music-in-worship-planner/573/>

This site has resources for choral music and handbells.

Calvin Institute of Christian Worship

<https://worship.calvin.edu/>

This site has broad, inclusive music resources listed as part of their online worship and liturgy content. Much of their worship and music content will be useful to Presbyterian worship planning.

MorningStar Music Publishers

<http://www.morningstarmusic.com/>

Planning tab-

Revised Common Lectionary and provides a link for all the readings.

Lists anthems according to voice part. List of hymns. Hymn Tunes are highlighted with the option to click on them so that you can locate resources, anthems, instrumental music, organ music, piano music all related to a particular Sunday or season. Our Presbyterian Anthem series is published here, as well.

GIA Music Publishers

<https://www.giamusic.com/store/home>

A generally comprehensive site for exploration and planning.

Glory to God Hymnal Application for Tablets

This application is only for use on a tablet format.

It is not free, but very powerful. Options for melody only or with accompaniment. Can use to read music at the keyboard. Many search options and ways to save your lists.

Clicking on any bible passage will give you hymns associated with that passage.

The upper right-hand corner contains a drop-down menu, which holds other tools for searching.

The Search box appears on the right and you can search for topics, tune names, and biblical passages.

Hymnary.org

<https://hymnary.org/>

This is a free resource. You can create a profile and tag which hymnals you use and it will note those in your searches. Sometimes there are hymn suggestions of selections from Glory to God that are not suggested by the indices in the hymnal itself.

J.W. Pepper and Sons, Inc

<https://www.jwpepper.com/>

Under the “Services” tab, click Worship Planning.

Revised Common Lectionary as well as Roman Catholic Lectionary.

Lists anthems by scripture reference. Can be a fun tool, but limited by the catalogue selections. The site as a whole is pretty user friendly for ordering music and has several tools for paring down selections by voicing, instrumentation and complexity.

Reformed Worship

<https://www.reformedworship.org/>

Here, there is an very in-depth guide offered to all the current scriptures of each Sunday of the Revised Common Lectionary accompanied by preaching and liturgy resources. There also many sub-sections of each liturgical Sunday and services specific to the seasons of the Church Year; each of these sub-articles contain Worship service outlines that include excellent hymns and service music suggestions that will work in the Presbyterian Order of Worship. (ie. Maundy Thursday).

PAM Mid-Atlantic Leadership

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