

Compatibility – variations and additional options

As more and more denominations have adopted what is essentially the same lectionary, each has enriched the range of available material by adding its own variations and additional options. As a result, the various editions of the lectionary, and various lectionary resources, can end up being not quite 100% compatible.

As noted on page 7, when selecting from the options and variations on offer, SSRA consistently prioritises the systematic reading of the gospels and epistles for the year, reducing interruptions and omissions to a minimum.

Gospel readings in Ordinary Time

This is the programme followed by SSRA for the Gospel readings in Ordinary Time

	Year A	Year B	Year C
1	<u>Matthew 3</u> ¹³⁻¹⁷	<u>John 1</u> ²⁹⁻³⁴	<u>Luke 2</u> ²²⁻⁴⁰
2	<u>Matthew 4</u> ¹²⁻¹⁷	<u>John 1</u> ³⁵⁻⁴²	<u>Luke 2</u> ⁴¹⁻⁵²
3	<u>Matthew 4</u> ¹⁸⁻²⁵	<u>John 2</u> ¹⁻¹¹	<u>Luke 4</u> ¹⁴⁻²¹
4	<u>Matthew 5</u> ¹⁻¹²	<u>Mark 1</u> ¹⁴⁻²⁸	<u>Luke 4</u> ²¹⁻³⁰
5	Matthew 5 ¹³⁻²⁰	Mark 1 ²⁹⁻³⁹	Luke 5 ¹⁻¹¹
6	Matthew 5 ²⁰⁻³⁷	Mark 1 ⁴⁰⁻⁴⁵	Luke 6 ¹⁷⁻²⁶
7	Matthew 5 ³⁸⁻⁴⁸	Mark 2 ¹⁻¹²	Luke 6 ²⁷⁻³⁸
8	Matthew 6 ²⁴⁻³³	<u>Mark 2</u> ¹⁸⁻²²	Luke 6 ³⁹⁻⁴⁹
9	Matthew 7 ²¹⁻²⁹	Mark 2 ²³⁻³⁶	Luke 7 ²⁻¹⁰
10	Matthew 9 ⁹⁻¹³	Mark 3 ²⁰⁻³⁵	Luke 7 ¹¹⁻¹⁷
11	Matthew 9 ³⁵⁻¹⁰ ⁸	Mark 4 ²⁶⁻³⁴	Luke 7 ³⁶⁻⁵⁰
12	Matthew 10 ²⁸⁻³¹	Mark 4 ³⁵⁻⁴¹	<u>Luke 8</u> ^{1-3,26-39}
13	Matthew 10 ³⁴⁻⁴²	Mark 5 ²¹⁻⁴³	Luke 9 ⁵¹⁻⁶²
14	Matthew 11 ^{18-19,25-30}	Mark 6 ¹⁻⁶	Luke 10 ^{1-11,17-20,23-24}
15	Matthew 13 ^{1-8,18-23}	<u>Mark 6</u> ⁷⁻¹³	Luke 10 ²⁵⁻³⁷
16	Matthew 13 ²⁴⁻³⁰	Mark 6 ³⁰⁻³⁴	Luke 10 ³⁸⁻⁴²
17	Matthew 13 ^{31-33,44-46}	John 6 ¹⁻²¹	Luke 11 ¹⁻¹³
18	Matthew 14 ¹³⁻²¹	John 6 ²²⁻³⁵	Luke 12 ¹³⁻²¹
19	Matthew 14 ²²⁻³³	John 6 ⁴¹⁻⁵¹	<u>Luke 12</u> ²²⁻³⁶
20	Matthew 15 ²¹⁻²⁸	John 6 ⁵¹⁻⁵⁸	Luke 12 ⁴⁹⁻⁵⁶
21	Matthew 16 ¹³⁻²⁰	John 6 ⁶⁰⁻⁶⁹	<u>Luke 13</u> ¹⁰⁻¹⁷
22	Matthew 16 ²¹⁻²⁶	Mark 7 ^{1-8, 14-15, 21-23}	Luke 14 ^{1,7-14}
23	Matthew 18 ¹⁵⁻²⁰	Mark 7 ²⁴⁻³⁷	Luke 14 ²⁵⁻³³
24	Matthew 18 ²¹⁻³⁵	Mark 8 ²⁷⁻³⁶	Luke 15 ¹⁻¹⁰
25	Matthew 20 ¹⁻¹⁶	Mark 9 ³⁰⁻³⁷	Luke 16 ¹⁻¹³
26	Matthew 21 ²³⁻³²	Mark 9 ³⁸⁻⁵⁰	Luke 16 ^{13b-15,19-31}
27	Matthew 21 ^{33-41,43}	Mark 10 ¹³⁻¹⁶	Luke 17 ⁵⁻¹⁰
28	Matthew 22 ¹⁻¹⁴	Mark 10 ¹⁷⁻³¹	Luke 17 ¹¹⁻¹⁹
29	Matthew 22 ¹⁵⁻²²	Mark 10 ³⁵⁻⁴⁵	Luke 18 ^{1-8a}
30	Matthew 22 ³⁵⁻⁴⁰	Mark 10 ^{46b-52}	Luke 18 ⁹⁻¹⁴
31	Matthew 23 ²⁻¹²	Mark 12 ^{28-34a}	Luke 19 ¹⁻¹⁰
32	Matthew 25 ¹⁻¹³	<u>Mark 12</u> ³⁸⁻⁴⁴	<u>Luke 19</u> ⁴¹⁻⁴⁸
33	Matthew 25 ¹⁴⁻²⁹	<u>Mark 13</u> ¹⁻¹³	Luke 21 ⁵⁻¹⁹
34	Matthew 25 ³¹⁻⁴⁶	John 18 ^{33b-37}	Luke 23 ³³⁻⁴³

The underlinings indicate those few occasions where the gospel reading for the day may be found to vary between different lectionaries and lectionary resources.

Where there is no underlining, *Revised Common Lectionary (RCL)*, *Common Worship Principal Service Lectionary (CW)*, *Lectionary for Mass (LFM)*, and SSRA, all have the same gospel reading.

SSRA consistently prioritises the systematic reading of the gospel for the year.

This includes keeping the Second Sunday before Lent and the Last Sunday before Lent as Sundays in Ordinary Time, each complete with the gospel for the day, rather than displacing them to make way for a Creation or Transfiguration theme. SSRA observes the Transfiguration on the Second Sunday of Lent, as in LFM and RCL.

Gospel readings in the Easter series

The Gospel readings for the fifteen Sundays of the Easter series are consistent across all lectionaries, except for the question of the Transfiguration reading on the Second Sunday of Lent, and different options for Pentecost and Trinity Sunday.

Gospel readings in the Christmas series

The Gospel readings in the Christmas series are consistent across all lectionaries through Advent, and on Christmas Day, with variations limited to the two weeks between 26 December and 8 January. SSRA handles the practical lull experienced in most churches between Christmas and the Epiphany by celebrating Saint John the Evangelist on the first Sunday after Christmas (providing a different set of readings for each year), and moving the Holy Family readings from Saint Luke (including The Presentation) into January of Year C (see the table opposite). The Epiphany is then kept on any Sunday falling between 2 and 6 January - with different Old Testament and Epistle readings provided for each year. The main programme for the year then begins resolutely on 7 January.

Old Testament readings and Epistles

Old Testament readings and Epistles have less impact on the compatibility of lectionary-based resources, as the gospel is usually taken as the lead reading for the day; but Old Testament readings do occasionally vary, and epistle readings are occasionally out of sync – although the same epistles are always being read at the same time (with the one exception of a CW excursion into Revelation for three Sundays early in Year B). The diagram on page 6 gives the shape of each year.

The Acts of the Apostles

The Acts of the Apostles is read in all lectionaries during Eastertide, but there is wide variation in the selection and arrangement of the readings. SSRA arranges readings from Acts across three annual themes: Year A highlights the early days in Jerusalem, Year B the emerging inclusion of the Gentiles, and Year C the ministry of Saint Paul. It is worth referring regularly to the diagram on page 7 for the themes of all the readings throughout the Lent and Easter seasons.

January readings from Saint John

January readings from Saint John, which other lectionaries spread across all three years on the Second Sunday in Ordinary Time, are here gathered together instead on the first three Sundays in Ordinary Time in Year B (see table opposite). This allows Matthew 4.12-25 to expand across two Sundays in Year A, and also allows the two Holy Family readings from Luke chapter 2 to be given appropriate prominence, in the correct sequence, at the beginning of Year C. It places the wedding at Cana, John 2.1-11, on the Third Sunday in Ordinary Time in Year B, which is one of the three options in CW.

All Saints Sunday

All Saints Sunday is an option in CW for the Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time (the Fourth Sunday before Advent / the Sunday between 30 October and 5 November). SSRA has readings on that date, in all three years, suitable for an observation of All Saints / All Souls Sunday, without interrupting the sequential reading of the gospels and epistles for the year.

Remembrance Sunday

Remembrance Sunday is kept in the UK on the second Sunday in November, which is either the Thirty-second or the Thirty-third Sunday in Ordinary Time (the Third or Second Sunday before Advent) each year. SSRA has readings on both these Sundays, in all three years, suitable for an observation of Remembrance Sunday, without interrupting the sequential reading of the gospels and epistles for the year.

Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Ascension Day

For Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Ascension Day (and also for The Epiphany), SSRA provides different readings for each year of the three year cycle. The Maundy Thursday readings are themed: in Year A, the Lamb of God; in Year B, service to others (the washing of the disciples' feet); and in Year C, the Bread of Life.

Additional themed Sundays

Finally, some lectionaries offer readings for a Mothering Sunday theme on the Fourth Sunday of Lent, a Bible Sunday theme on the Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Time (CW 'Last after Trinity'), plus Saints Days and other Festivals. In these cases, as elsewhere, SSRA prioritises the systematic reading of the gospels and epistles for the year, reducing interruptions and omissions to a minimum. Special themes, prayers and readings can always be added to a service whenever appropriate, without interrupting or omitting the ongoing lectionary programme.

Overview – RCL, LFM and CW compared

The three-year cycle of Sunday readings was first published as LFM in 1969. LFM churches universally use all three readings. RCL (1992) lengthened many of the Old Testament and Epistle readings. CW (1997) was based on RCL. Because of the longer readings, almost all RCL and CW churches omit one of the first two readings, and most find the remaining reading discouragingly lengthy and complex. To encourage the use of all three readings, SSRA returns to the original concept of one *pericope* (or single clear point) per reading, then selects verses, and arranges continuous passages across consecutive weeks, to ensure consistency in the total combined length of the three readings each Sunday.