

The Lectionary and the Psalms

Index & Analysis

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Psalm	Lectionary year	Selected verses	Every year	Selected verses
1	B, Easter 7 B, Pent 18 C, Epiph 6			
2	A, Transfiguratr			
3				
4	B, Easter 3			
5				
6				
7				
8	A, Trinity		New Year	
9	B, Pent 5 C, Pent 1	9-20		
10				
11				
12				
13	A, Pent 4			
14	B, Pent 10 C, Pent 14			
15	A, Epiph 4			
16	A, Easter 2 B, Pent 26			
17	A, Pent 9	1-7, 15		
18				
19	A, Pent 18 B, Lent 3 B, Pent 17 C, Epiphany 3			
20	B, Pent 4			
21				
22	B, Lent 2 B, Easter 5 B, Pent 21	23-31 25-31 1-15	Good Friday	
23	A, Lent 4 A, Easter 5 B, Easter 4 C, Easter 4			
24	B, Pent 8 B, All Saints			
25	B, Lent 1 C, Advent 1	1-10		
26	B, Pent 20			

27	A, Epiph 3 C, Lent 2	1, 4-9		
28				
29	B, Trinity		Epiphany	
30	C, Easter 3 C, Pent 4			
31	A, Easter 5 B, Holy Week	1-5, 15-16 1-4, 15-16	Palm Sunday	9-16
32	A, Lent 1 C, Lent 4			
33				
34	A, All Saints B, Pent 23	1-10, 22 1-8		
35				
36	C, Epiphany 2	5-10	Holy Week	5-11
37	C, Epiph 7	1-11, 39-40		
38				
39				
40	A, Epiph 2	1-11		
41				
42	C, Pent 2			
43	C, Pent 2			
44				
45	A, Pent 5 B, Pent 15 C, Annunciation	10-17 1-2, 6-9		
46	C, Christ the King			
47			Ascension	
48	B, Pent 7			
49				
50	B, Transfiguration C, Pent 9	1-6 1-8, 22-23		
51	B, Lent 5 B, Pent 11	1-12 1-12	Ash Wednesday	1-17
52	C, Pent 6			
53				
54				
55				
56				
57				
58				
59				
60				
61				
62	B, Epiph	5-12		
63	C, Lent 3	1-8		
64				
65	C, Pent 20			

66	A, Easter 6 C, Pent 18	8-20 1-12		
67	C, Ascension			
68	A, Easter 7			
69				
70			Holy Week	
71	C, Epiphany 4 C, Pent 11	1-6	Holy Week	1-14
72	A, Advent 2	1-7, 18-19	Holy Week Epiphany	1-7, 10-14
73				
74				
75				
76			Anzac Day	
77	C, Pent 3	1-2, 11-20		
78	A, Pent 17 A, Pent 23 C, Pent 15	1-4, 12-16 1-7 1-9		
79				
80	A, C, Advent 4 B, Advent 1 C, Pent	1-7, 17-19 1-7, 17-19 1-2, 8-19		
81	C, Pent 12	1, 10-16		
82	C, Pent 5			
83				
84	B, Pent 14		Mother's Day	1-4
85	B, Advent 2 C, Pent 7	1-2, 8013	Peace Sunday	
86	A, Pent 3	1-10, 16-17		
87				
88				
89	B, Advent 4 B, Pent 9	1-4, 19-26 20-37		
90	A, Pent 21	1-6, 13-17	New Years eve	
91	C, Lent 1 C, Pent 16	1-2, 9-16 1-6, 14-16		
92				
93			Ascension	
94				
95	A, Lent 3			
96			Christmas World Communn	
97	C, Easter 7		Christmas	
98	B, Easter 6		Christmas	
99	A, Pent 20		Transfiguration	
100	A, Christ th King			
101				
102				
103				

104	B, Pent 22	1-9, 24, 35+	Pentecost Spring flowers	24-34, 35b
105	A, Pent 8 A, Pent 10 A, Pent 13 A, Pent 16	1-11, 45b 1-6, 16-22, 45b 1-6, 23-26, 45b 1-6, 37-45		
106	A, Pent 19		Reformers Sunday	
107	A, Pent 22 B, Lent 4 C, Pent 9	1-7, 33-37 1-3, 17-22 1-7		
108				
109				
110				
111	B, Epiph B, Pent 13			
112	A, Epiph 5	1-9		
113				
114	A, Pent 15		Easter Day	
115				
116	A, Easter 3 A, Pent 2	1-4, 12-19 1-2, 12-19	Holy Week	1-2, 12-19
117				
118	B, C, Easter Day C, Easter 2	1-2, 14-24 14-29	Palm Sunday	1-2, 19-29
119	A, Epiph 6 A, Epiph 7 A, Pent 6 B, Lent 5 C, Pent 19 C, Pent 21	1-8 33-40 105-112 9-16 97-104 137-144		
120				
121	A, Lent 2			
122	A, Advent 1			
123	A, Pent 24			
124	A, Pent 12 B, Pent 19			
125	B, Pent 16			
126	B, Adv 3		Harvest Festival	
127	B, Pent 25			
128	A, Pent 8			
129				
130	A, Lent 5 B, Pent 6 B, Pent 12			
131				
132	B, Christ th King			

133	A, Pent 11 B, Easter 2			
134				
135				
136				
137	C, Pent 17			
138	B, Pent 3 C, Epiph 5			
139	A, Pent 7 B, Epiph B, Pent 2	1-12, 23-24 1-6, 13-18 1-6, 13-18		
140				
141				
142				
143				
144			Waitangi Day	
145	C, Pent 22	1-5, 17-21		
146	A, Advent 3 B, Pent 24	5-10		
147	B, Epiph	1-11, 20+		
148	C, Easter 5		Christmas	
149	A, Pent 14 C, All Saints			
150				

Analysis of Lectionary use of Psalms

The 'Top 10' Psalms for special occasions are:

Psalm 96: Christmas & World Communion
 Psalm 97: Christmas
 Psalm 98: Christmas
 Psalm 149: Christmas
 Psalm 126: Harvest Festival
 Psalm 51: Ash Wednesday
 Psalm 31: Palm Sunday
 Psalm 22: Good Friday
 Psalm 118: Easter
 Psalm 104: Pentecost

Other Psalms well used (3 or more times) in the Lectionary are:

1
 8: New Year
 19
 23
 29: Epiphany
 36: Holy Week
 45
 47: Ascension

70: Holy Week
71: Holy Week
72: Holy Week and Epiphany
76: Anzac Day
78
84: Mother's Day
85: Peace Sunday
93: Ascension
99: Transfiguration
105
106: Reformers
107
114: Easter
116: Holy Week
119
130
139
144: Waitangi Day

Psalms not used at all in the Lectionary:

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(57 Psalms are omitted – about 40%)

What kind of Psalms are chosen or rejected by the Lectionary?

Lectionary Psalms tend to be the 'we' Psalms of public worship and praise
19

The 'I' Psalms of persecution and pain tend to be omitted,
e.g. 18 (I called to the Lord in my distress)
6 (my pillow is drenched with tears)
140-143

except for 31. 70, 71 which are used in Holy Week
Lent includes a few personal plea Psalms like 63, 40, 42, 43
Psalms of confession are included:
32
51

Where Psalms of personal struggle are included they have a strong hopefully positive resolution, e.g. 130 (Out of the depths I call ... I wait for the Lord more than watchmen wait for the morning)

42 (as a deer longs for flowing streams)

The Lectionary avoids the difficult Psalms, of anguish, questioning, struggle & pain, like 10 (Why do you hide in times of trouble?)

60 (You have rejected us)

69 (Save me, God, I'm drowning!)

38 (my wounds are festering)

73 (I tried to understand this)

74

79

88

94 (how long??!!)

102

and the violent Psalms

7 (rise up, Lord, in your anger!)

11 (rain burning coals & sulphur on the wicked)

35 (disgrace & humiliate them!)

109

So, all the 120 Psalms are included except for 129 & 120, psalms of suffering

Some wonderful praise Psalms are omitted, e.g. 33, 47, 108, 150

Too short: the Lectionary does not include sweet little 131, surely a favourite of many! –& 117 is also left out.

Don't know why 115 is left out.

or 136 (God's steadfast love lasts forever! refrain)

Selection of verses:

The Lectionary carefully leaves out violent or angry verses,

9 (v 6, the enemy come to eternal ruin)

17 includes the elements of confident confession, but leaves out the plea for protection from attack (my deadly enemies lying in wait like lions)

and in the process leaves out the best bit (guard me as the apple of an eye)

Clearly the Lectionary comes from a phase of Christian life when the experience of being under attack was a foreign one, and it was deemed impolite to mention in public worship.

Some verse selection is simply for length.

Links and prophecies

My bigger problem with the Lectionary is that it does not often reveal the points of connection between the New Testament books and the Psalms. Psalm references and quotes are everywhere. Occasionally these are reflected in the Lectionary

e.g. Acts 2 & Psalm 16

(it is a more major problem that little of Acts comes up in the Lectionary)

but mostly they are not

e.g. Roman 3 & Psalm 14

Hebrews

Ephesians 4:8 & Psalm 68