

The Story Lectionary

YEAR TWO

2020-2021

April 12, 2020 EASTER (End of Story Lectionary Year One)

April 19, 2020

God Creates a Garden (Genesis 2-3)

The Story of Balak and Balaam's Blessings on Israel (Numbers 22-24)

Psalm 36: The Lord is the Fountain of Life

Psalm 46: God's Dwelling Place

Psalm 92: The Righteous of the Lord Will Flourish

Psalm 103: The Lord Has Established His Throne

Song of Songs (4): Garden of Love

Isaiah's Song of Zion's Salvation (51)

Ezekiel's Vision of the Temple and Rivers of Water, Fruit Trees, and Abundance (47)

Jeremiah's Prophecy of the Redemption of Israel (31)

Jesus' Parable of the Mustard Seed (Matthew 13:31-32; Luke 13:18-19)

John's Witness to Jesus (The Living Water) With the Woman at the Well (4)

John's Witness to Jesus' Encounter With Mary in the Garden (20)

Paul's Witness to Paradise (2 Corinthians 12)

God's Restoration of Humanity to the Garden (Revelation 22)

METAPHORS:

Garden, Donkey, Angel, Fountain/Water/Deep/Well/Living Water/Spring, Tabernacle, Throne, Temple, Trees/Tree of Life, Fruit, Mustard Seed

COLORS:

White, Multi/Pastel

April 26, 2020

God Creates Soul (Nephesh) from Body and Spirit (Genesis 2)

The Story of Joseph (Genesis 37-50)

Choose Life and Be Faithful to the Lord –The Universe Witnesses to the Choice Before You as Given to You by the Lord Your God (Deuteronomy 29-30)

Psalm 2: The Sovereignty of the Lord's Son
Psalm 16: The Path of Life
Psalm 19: The Witness of the Universe to God's Sovereignty and Glory
Isaiah's Song of Praise and Resurrection (Isaiah 26)
The Lord's Redemption (Isaiah 49)
The Invitation to All Who Are Thirsty (Isaiah 55)
Ezekiel and the Valley of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 37)
In the End Times, Those From the Dust Will Awaken (Daniel 2)
The Lord's Anger and Promise of Resurrection (Hosea 6 and 13)
Jesus' Prophecy of the Holy Spirit (John 15:26-27)
Luke's Witness to Jesus' Appearance to His Disciples (23:33-49)
Cornelius and Peter and the Witness to the Gentiles (Acts 10)
The Story of the Witnesses as Told by Paul and Barnabus (Acts 13)
The Lord Opens Hearts by Means of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2)
The Meaning of Resurrection (1 Corinthians 15)

METAPHORS:

Coat/Cloak/Tunic, Path/Way, Son, Water/Spring, Desert/Dry Bones/Valley/Dust, Mountain, Spirit/Breath/Wind/Voice/Witness

COLORS:

White, Green, Multi/Pastel

May 3, 2020

Rebekah Tricks Isaac into Blessing Jacob Instead of Esau By Touching Goat Skin (Genesis 27)
Massah and Meribah (Exodus 17:1-7 and Numbers 20)
The Story of Gideon's Conversations with God and the Sign of the Fleece (Judges 6)
Psalm 18: Praise Be the Rock
Psalm 25: In You I Put My Trust
Psalm 34: Taste and See that the Lord is Good
Psalm 42: Put Hope in God
Psalm 98: The Lord Has Made His Salvation Known
Psalm 103: Praise the Lord My Soul
Psalm 135: God's Signs
John's Witness to Jesus' Post-Resurrection Appearance to Thomas Didymus (20:24-29)
Paul Preaches: Christ Crucified Is Our Wisdom (1 Corinthians 1:18-31)

METAPHORS:

Goat Skin, Hair/Fur/Fleece, Desert, Oasis/Spring/Water, Body, Blood

COLORS:

White, Green, Blue

May 10, 2020

The Genesis of the Light (Genesis 1)
God Makes a Covenant With Abram With Light (Genesis 15)
Moses and the Burning Bush (Exodus 3)
Moses Receives the Ten Commandments and Reappears With Radiant Face (Exodus 34)
Elisha Bids God Strike the Arameans Blind and Then Restore Their Sight (2 Kings 6)
Psalm 4: The Light of Your Face
Psalm 18: The Consuming Fire
Psalm 27: The Lord is My Light
Psalm 104: The Lord is Wrapped in Light
Ezekiel's Vision of Radiance and the Coals of Fire (Ezekiel 1)
The Throne of Flaming Fire (Daniel 7)
Jesus Heals a Blind Man and Talks About the State of Blindness (John 9)
John's Testimony to Jesus' Divinity (John 1:1-18)
Paul's Experience of Heavenly Blinding Light and the Voice of Jesus (Acts 9:1-31)

METAPHORS:

Light, Fire, Face, Eye, Coals, Throne, Blindness, Sight, Voice/Spirit

COLORS:

White

May 17, 2020

The Story of Noah's Mission and the Rebirth of the World (Genesis 9)
The Story of Tamar's Mission to Bear a Child of the Covenant (Genesis 38)
The Birth and Saving of Moses (Exodus 2:1-10)
The Story of Passover and the Saving of Israel's Children (Exodus 12)
The Story of Esther's Loyal Mission in the Midst of Turmoil (Esther)
Ezekiel's Prophecy of God's Restoration of Fruitfulness to the Mountains of Israel (Ezekiel 36)
Psalm 92: The Righteous Will Flourish like the Palm Tree
Psalm 105: Praise for God's Fruitful Covenant
Psalm 128: The Fruit of Blessing
Matthew's Witness to Jesus' Parables of Seeds and Weeds (13:1-32)
Matthew's Witness to Jesus' Commissioning of His Disciples (28:16-20)
Mark's Witness to Jesus' Commissioning of His Disciples (16:14-20 -within the longer ending)
Paul Explains the Fruits of the Spirit (The Letter to the Galatians 5)

METAPHORS:

Child, Field/Earth, Pregnant/Womb, Birth/Water/Blood/Passover, Fruit, Mountain, Palm Tree, Seeds, Weeds

COLORS:

White, Green, Blue

May 24, 2020

Jesus' Ascension

God's Blessing Upon Abram (Genesis 12)

The Blessing of Melchizedek, High Priest of the Most High God Upon Abram (14)

God's Blessing Upon Jacob and the Experience at Bethel (Genesis 28)

The Blessing and Monument at Gilgal When the Ark Came Up Out of the Jordan (Joshua 4)

Psalm 18: The Lord Lives in High Places

Psalm 24: Ascending the Mountain of God

Psalm 68: Proclaiming the Power of God

Psalm 110: A Priest in the Order of Melchizedek

Psalm 121 (A Song of Ascent): The Lord's Blessing

Psalm 123 (A Song of Ascent): I Lift Up My Eyes

The Lord's Servant Will Be Raised and Lifted Up (Isaiah 52)

The Mountain of the Lord (Micah 4)

Jesus the High Priest in the Eternal Order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 7)

Luke's Witness to Jesus' Blessing of His Disciples and Ascension (Luke 24:[45-49; 50-53])

The Story of Jesus' Ascension (Acts 1)

The Living Stone of Zion (1 Peter 2)

METAPHORS:

Priest/Melchizedek, Bread/Wine, Ladder, Stones/Altar, Water/Deep/River,
Baptism/Earth/Vista/Mountain

COLORS:

White, Green

May 31, 2020

The Day of Pentecost

God's Creative Breath of Life (Genesis 1-2)

The Lord's Wind Dries the Water and God Makes a Promise to Noah (Genesis 8)

The Festivals Dedicated to the Lord (Leviticus 23)

The Year of Jubilee (Leviticus 25)

Psalm 1: The Blessed Yield Fruit in Season

Psalm 19: The Lord as Bridegroom

Psalm 16 and 110 (The Lord's Power as Attested to by David, mentioned in Peter's Sermon)

The Book of Ruth (The Covenant Promise and the Role of Ruth in Covenant Marriage)

Ezekiel's Vision of Wind and Fire (1)

Joel's End-times Prophecy (2)
Resurrection Life (1 Corinthians 15)
The Day of Pentecost (Acts 2)

METAPHORS:

Breath/Spirit/Wind/Voice/Shofar/Fire, Water/Deep, Feast/Festival, Fruit/Harvest,
Wedding/Marriage/Bridegroom/Covenant

COLORS:

Red, White

June 7, 2020

Jesus' Baptism

Those Who Walked with God in the First Covenant (Genesis 5)
God's Plague of Locusts Upon the Egyptians (Exodus 10)
God's Abundance for Those Who Turn to Him (Deuteronomy 28)
Psalm 19: The Lord's Words Are Sweeter Than Honey
Psalm 78: Israel's Disobedience Until David Comes to the Throne
Psalm 81: The Lord Fills His Faithful with Honey from the Rock
Psalm 103: The Lord's Compassion on Those Who Keeps His Covenant
Psalm 105: God's Covenant Promise to Those Who Worship Him
God's Punishment of Locusts and His Abundant Restoration (Joel 2)
God Laments That Israel Will Not Return No Matter What He Does (Amos 4)
God Bids Ezekiel to Eat a Scroll and is Therefore Bound to Decree God's Words of Warning
(Ezekiel 3)
The Coming Restoration of Israel (Isaiah 40)
The Importance of Faith Throughout Covenant History (Hebrews 11)
The Prophecy About John the Baptist (Luke 1)
John the Baptist's Prophecy and His Baptism of Jesus (Matthew 3; Mark 1:1-11; Luke 3; John
1:1-34)
Peter's Sermon and the Prophecy of Joel (Acts 2:14-41)
The Punishment of Locusts (Revelation 9:1-11)
The Consuming of the Scroll of God and the Mission of Prophecy (Revelation 10)

METAPHORS:

Walk/Feet/Way/Road, Locusts/Plague, Fruit/Abundance, King/Throne, Honey, Rock,
Scroll/Words/Word

COLORS:

White, Gold

June 14, 2020

God Creates (Genesis 1)

The Word of God Appears to Abram (Genesis 15:1; Genesis 12:7; Genesis 18)

The Word of the Lord Appears to Elijah (1 Kings 19)

The Word of the Lord Calls Samuel (1 Samuel 3)

Psalm 33: Creator God

Psalm 119: The Word of the Lord is Eternal

Psalm 147: The Lord Has Revealed His Word

The Birth of Wisdom (Proverbs 8:22-36)

The Book of Job: God's Voice Speaks with Job (Chapters 38-42)

Creator God (Isaiah 40) and the Word of the Lord (Isaiah 55)

Jeremiah Encounters the "Word of the Lord" (Jeremiah 1)

John the Apostle Explains Jesus' Identity (John 1)

Paul Explains the Identity of God and Jesus to Greeks in Thessalonica (Acts 17:16-34)

The Victory of the "Word of God" (Revelation 19)

METAPHORS:

Cosmos/Deep/Chaos/Word/Logos/Presence/Spirit/Wind/Breath/Voice

COLORS:

White

June 21, 2020

The Story of Hagar and Ishmael in the Wilderness (Genesis 16)

The Tribes of Those Who Reached the Promised Land (Numbers 26)

God's Promise from the Wilderness (Deuteronomy 8)

Those Who Settled in Jerusalem (Nehemiah 11)

A Genealogy from Adam to Abram (1 Chronicles 1:1)

The Story of Esther, Adopted of Mordecai, Queen of Persia

The Story of Daniel and His Test of Faith in God (Daniel 6)

God's Lament Over His Son Israel in the Words of the Prophet Hosea (Hosea 11)

God's Restoration of His Son Israel (Jeremiah 31)

Psalm 2: The Son of the Lord

Psalm 8: Children of God

Psalm 12 and 14: God's Mission for the Faithful and Restoration for the Righteous

Psalm 90: We are God's Dwelling Place

Psalm 115: The Lord Will Bless His People

Jesus High Priest in the Order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 4-8)

Jesus, Son of God, is Baptized, Vetted, Tested, and Sent (Luke 3:21-4:15)

Paul's Sermon on Adoption to Sonship Through Living in the Spirit (Romans 8)

METAPHORS:

Wilderness, Oasis/Water/Spirit, Milk and Honey/Fruit, Feast, Fire, Tabernacle/Priest/Son

COLORS:

White, Red

June 28, 2020

Joseph's Vision and Persecution by His Brothers (Genesis 37)

The People Challenge Moses and Aaron and Joshua and Threaten to Stone Them (Numbers 14)

God's Spirit Comes Upon Samson Despite Those Who Would Foil Him (Judges 13-16)

The Spirit of God Comes Upon David and He Prevails Over Goliath Despite His Critics (1 Samuel 16-17)

Saul Tries to Kill David but is Unable Due to God's Spirit (1 Samuel 19)

David's Pride and Persecution of Uriah the Hittite (2 Samuel 11-12)

King Uzziah's Pride and Anger (2 Chronicles 26)

Psalm 2: The Lord Has Installed His Son

Psalm 72: The Royal Son Will Defend the Afflicted

Psalm 103: The Lord Heals and Redeems

Psalm 112: Blessed are the Righteous

God Will Pour Out His Spirit Upon His Chosen One (Isaiah 42)

The Healing of the Nations Jew and Gentile (Ezekiel 47)

Matthew's Witness to the Beginning of Jesus' Ministry (4)

Luke's Witness to the Beginning of Jesus' Ministry and His Proclamation at Nazareth (4)

The Conversion of Gentiles (Acts 15)

[Optional Scriptures: Elijah Helps the Widow of Zarephath; Elisha heals Naaman the Syrian]

METAPHORS:

Dreams/Visions, Wheat/Sheaves, Cosmos, Stone/Pillars/Stones, King/Son, Water/Spirit, Scroll, Feast/Jubilee/Abundance/Harvest

COLORS:

Red, Blue, White

July 5, 2020

The Song of Moses: Our God Who Heals (Deuteronomy 32)

Elijah Heals the Son of the Widow at Zarepheth Who Challenges Him (1 Kings 17)

An Evil Spirit Torments Saul and He Tries to Kill David (1 Samuel 16:14-23; 18:6-16; 19:1-24)

The Prayer of Nabonitus (The Mad King) –(This Aramaic text belongs to the famous Dead Sea scrolls: four scraps of parchment from Cave 4, usually called 4Q242, copied from an older original in the second half of the first century BCE and belongs in the midst of Daniel)

Psalm 16: The Lord Will Not Abandon Me to the Realm of the Dead

Psalm 91: The Lord Will Rescue You

Psalm 106: They Turned from the Spirit of God

The Apocryphal Psalms (Aramaic Psalms Used as Incantation in Jewish Exorcisms)

Satan Accuses High Priest Joshua and the Lord Cleanses Him in Clothes of White (Zechariah 3)

The Lord Will Remove the Spirit of Impurity from the Land (Zechariah 13)
Mark's Witness to Jesus' Exorcism of Unclean Spirit in Capernaum (1:21-28)
Luke's Witness to Jesus' Exorcism of Unclean Spirit in Capernaum (4:31-37)
Matthew's Witness to Jesus' Healing Power and Ministry in Galilee (12-17 {18-22} 23-25)
The Perils of Turning Away from God (James 1)

METAPHORS:

Spirit/spirits, Clothing, Fire, Voice, Hand, Eye, Face

COLORS:

Red, White

July 12, 2020

Lord of Womb and Water, Birth and Rebirth (Exodus 15 and 17)
Moses and the Healing Snake (Numbers 21)
Psalm 90: The Lord of Birth and Rebirth
Psalm 104: Lord of Water and Creation
Psalm 139: The Womb of the Lord
The Book of Jonah: A Womb of Water
The Lord's Waters of Redemption (Isaiah 35)
The Pregnancy of Salvation (Isaiah 42)
The Restoration Through Womb, Water, and Spirit (Isaiah 44)
The Womb of Redemption (Isaiah 49)
Redemption with Water and Spirit (Ezekiel 36-37)
From the Womb of the Creator/Redeemer Lord (Job 38)
Rebirth and Renewal Through Jesus (Titus 3)
Nicodemus' Visit with Jesus (John 3)

METAPHORS:

Womb, Water, Snake, Spirit/Breath, Birth

COLORS:

Red, White, Blue

July 19, 2020

God Gives Moses Signs to Prove God's Power Including Healing of Leprosy (Exodus 4)
I Am the Lord Who Heals You (Exodus 15)
Priestly Rituals for Examining and Pronouncing Diseases of the Skin (Leviticus 13 and 14)
Miriam and Aaron Speak Against Moses (Numbers 12)
Naaman is Cured of Leprosy by Elisha and the Deceit of Gehazi Brings Leprosy Upon Him (2 Kings 5)
Psalm 12: The Perils of the Tongue

Psalm 15: Those Who Utter Truth and Not Slander
Psalm 34: May Your Tongue Praise the Lord and Not Speak Deceit
Psalm 39: I Will Keep My Tongue from Sin
Psalm 52: Those Who Speak Evil as Opposed to Those Who Speak of the Lord
Psalm 73: The Wicked Speak with Malice
Psalm 109: The Wicked and Deceitful Speak Evil
The Evil Tongue of Haman (The Book of Esther)
God's People Deceiver and Slander Each Other and God (Jeremiah 9)
The "Leprosy" of the Deeds of Sodom and Gomorrah (Isaiah 1)
Matthew's Witness to Jesus' Healing of a Leper (8:1-4)
Luke's Witness to Jesus' Healing of a Leper (5:12-16)
Mark's Witness to Jesus' Healing of a Leper (1:35-45)
Your Tongue is a Rudder and Do Not Slander Your Brothers and Sisters (James 3 and 4)
The Evil of False Teaching (2 Timothy 2)

METAPHORS:

Leprosy, Hand, Skin/Sin, Tongue/Words/Rudder

COLORS:

Red

July 26, 2020

The Story of Noah (Genesis 8)
The Hand of Jeroboam is Shriveled and Powerless in the Face of the Lord's Prophet (1 Kings 13:4-6)
Elijah and the Dry Land of Ahab / Elijah's Power Over Water (I Kings 17:1-16 and I Kings 18)
Psalm 1: In Streams of Water Leaves Don't Wither
Psalm 73: The Lord Holds Me By My Right Hand and Saves
Psalm 74: The Sovereignty of God
Psalm 99: The Lord's Power and Sovereignty
Psalm 102: A Prayer of the Afflicted Whose Heart Has Withered
Psalm 107: The Lord Controls the Waters
Psalm 118: The Right Hand of the Lord Saves
Psalm 129: Those Who Hate the Lord are Like Grass that Withers
Psalm 136: The Lord's Mighty Hand and Outstretched Arm
Psalm 138: With Your Right Hand You Save Me
Psalm 144: The Lord Delivers Me With His Right Hand
God's Nurture as Explained to Job by Bildad the Shuhite (Job 8)
Lack of Faith Dries Up the Land (Joel 1:13-20)
The Lord Will Send Rains of Redemption and Restoration to Dry Up Storms (Zechariah 10)
God Creates Green and Dry Trees / The Vine of Israel is Planted by Water (Ezekiel 17, 19)
The Land of God is Well-Watered (Ezekiel 47)
Jesus Withers a Tree Outside of Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-21 and Mark 11:20)

Matthew's Witness to Jesus' Healing of a Withered Hand (12:9-21)

Mark's Witness to Jesus' Healing of a Withered Hand (3:1-12)

Luke's Witness to Jesus' Healing of a Withered Hand (6:6-11)

METAPHORS:

Hand, Ark (Saving Vessel), Dry Land, Water/Springs/River/Streams/Rain,
Heart/Vine/Root/Garden, Storms, Trees/Vines

COLORS:

Red, Green, Blue, Multi

August 2, 2020

The Light Comes into Being (Genesis 1)

The Lord Makes a Covenant with Abram as a Smoking Firepot (Genesis 15)

The Lord Meets Moses as a Fiery Furnace on Mt. Sinai (Exodus 19)

The Lord Burns Up Elijah's Sacrifice Like an Oven (1 Kings 18)

Elisha Heals the Spring Waters of Jericho with Salt (2 Kings 2:19-22)

In David's Song, the Lord Appears as a Fiery Furnace (2 Samuel 22)

Psalm 16: I Keep My Eyes Only on the Lord

Psalm 25: My Eyes Are Ever on the Lord

Psalm 49: Those with Wealth Do Not Endure

Psalm 73: The Malice of a Callous Heart

Psalm 97: Light Shines on the Upright in Heart

Psalm 101: My Eyes Will Be on the Faithful

Psalm 119: Open My Eyes

The Story of Daniel and the Fiery Furnace (Daniel 3)

The Lord Laments the Idolatrous Eye of Israel and Will Bring Forth an Unquenchable Flame
(Ezekiel 20)

Israel's Cleansing by Fire of the Cookpot (Ezekiel 24)

Matthew's Account of Jesus' Teaching on a Mountainside Regarding Salt and Light (5:13-16 and
6:19-24)

The 7 Lampstands (Revelation 1)

METAPHORS:

Light, Smoke/Fog, Firepot/Furnace/Oven/Fire/Spirit, Springs/Water/River, Salt, Eye, Mountain,
Lamps/Lampstands

COLORS:

Red, Blue, White, Gold

August 9, 2020

Jacob's Prayer (Genesis 32:9-12)

Our Father and Savior (Isaiah 63:11-19 and 64)
Hezekiah's Prayer (2 Kings 19:15-19)
Hannah's Prayer (1 Samuel 2:1-10)
Nehemiah's Prayer (Nehemiah 1)
The Kaddish
Psalm 51: David's Prayer
Psalm 103: Praise the Lord My Soul who is like a Father to Me
Psalm 121: The Lord Will Keep You from Harm
Psalm 143: Lord Rescue Me and Bring Me Out of Trouble
Psalm 145: Blessed Be the Lord and His Kingdom
Daniel's Prayer (Daniel 9)
Jeremiah's Prayer (Jeremiah 10:23-25)
Jonah's Prayer (Jonah 2:2-9)
Matthew's Account of Jesus' Teaching on Prayer and Fasting
Paul's Prayer for the Church in Ephesus (Ephesians 3:14-21)

METAPHORS:

Prayer/Voice/Eye/Ear, Body/Church

COLORS:

Red, White

August 16, 2020

God's Guidelines for Justice and Mercy (Exodus 23:1-9)
King Solomon Judges With God's Wisdom (1 Kings 3:16-28)
God Empowers Othniel, First Savior (Judge) of Israel (Judges 3)
God Entreats Judges to Judge As God Would Judge With Love (2 Chronicles 19:4-11)
The Song of Deborah (Judges 5)
Psalm 7: We Fall into the Pits We Dig
Psalm 25: No One who Hopes in You Will Be Put to Shame
Psalm 37: The Lord Upholds the Righteous
Psalm 50: Those Who Testify Against Their Brother are Arraigned by God
Psalm 58: David Declares the Unjust Rulings of the Judges
Psalm 125: The Lord Will Be Good to Those Who Are Good
God Demonstrates Measure for Measure in Accusation of Vineyard Spoilers (Isaiah 3:1-15)
God Chastises Jerusalem for Her Sins (Ezekiel 16)
Matthew's Witness to Jesus' Teaching About Loving and Judging (5:38-48 and 7:1-6)
Luke's Witness to Jesus' Teaching About Loving and Judging (6:27-36 and 6:37-42 and 6:43-45)
Paul Declares God's Measure for Measure to High Priest Ananias (Acts 23:1-3)
Paul Preaches of God's Righteous Judgment –Measure for Measure (Romans 2)
Paul Entreats to Stop Judging One Another (Romans 14)

METAPHORS:

Pit, Vineyard, Weights and Measures/Law, Heart

COLORS:

Red, Green

August 23, 2020

The Story of God's Gift of the Torah on Mt. Sinai (Exodus 19 and 34)

The Lord's Command to Celebrate the Feast of Weeks (Deuteronomy 16 and Exodus 23:14-19 and Leviticus 23)

Leave Some Grain in the Field for Foreigners and Others (Deuteronomy 24:19-22)

David and the Threshing Floor and the Judgment of the Lord (2 Samuel 24)

The Crossing of the Jordan with the Ark on Dry Ground During God's Harvest (Joshua 3)

Psalm 23: The Shepherd of Salvation

Psalm 67: The Lord's Salvation Harvest

Psalm 107: Let the Redeemed of the Lord Tell Their Story

Psalm 126: The Joy of the Lord's Harvest

The Song of Songs

The Story of Ruth and the Lord's Saving Harvest

Repent for the Lord's Harvest is Appointed (Hosea 6)

The Time to Harvest Unrepentant Babylon is Coming Soon (Jeremiah 51)

The Harvest is Ripe and All Will be Judged (Joel 3)

The Song of God's Vineyard (Isaiah 5)

The Pruning Before the Harvest (Isaiah 18)

The Lord Will Be Israel's Shepherd (Ezekiel 34:1-16)

Matthew's Witness to Jesus' Parable of Wheat and Tares (13:24-30)

Matthew's Witness to Jesus' Instruction on the Coming Harvest (9:35-38)

Luke's Witness to Jesus' Instruction on the Coming Harvest and Sending into the Field (10:1-24)

The Lord Will Enlarge the Harvest of Your Righteousness and You Will Rejoice (2 Corinthians 9)

METAPHORS:

Mountain, Tablets/Torah/Word/Heart/Stone/Rock, Feast, Field, Grain, Threshing Floor, Way/Path, Harvest, Shepherd, Marriage/Betrothal, Ripe Fruit, Vineyard, Wheat, Weeds/Thistles

COLORS:

Red, Green

August 30, 2020

The Purpose of the Seed (Genesis 1)

The Story of Cain's Offering (Bad Ground/A Jealous Heart, Genesis 4)

Psalm 1: The Righteous is a Fruit-Bearing Tree by the Water

Psalm 37: The Evil Like Plants Will Die Away
Psalm 67: A Joyous Psalm of Harvest
Psalm 92: The Righteous Will Flourish Like a Palm Tree
Psalm 128: You Will Eat the Fruits of Your Labor
Proverbs 3: The Lord's Wisdom is a Tree of Life
The Prophet Hosea Compares Israel to Poisonous Weeds Plowed into the Sowed Field (Hosea 10)
Israel Must Break Up Its Unplowed Ground and Return to the Lord (Jeremiah 4)
Jesus' Parables of Seed and Harvest As Told By His Disciples (Mark 4, Luke 8, Matthew 13)
Paul Warns That You Reap What You Sow (Galatians 5 and 6)
The Restoration of Eden and the Tree of Life Bearing 12 Crops of Fruit for Healing (Revelation 22)

METAPHORS:

Seed, Earth/Ground/Adama, Heart, Fruit/Tree/Roots, Water/Spirit, Harvest, Palm Tree, Tree of Life, Weeds, Field, Plow, Sow, Eden/Garden

COLORS:

Green, Gold, Multi

September 6, 2020

The Waters Drown the Pursuing Egyptians (Exodus 14 and 15)
Guidelines for Clean and Unclean Foods (Leviticus 11)
Saul is Tormented by an Evil Spirit (1 Samuel 16-18)
Elijah Confronts Ahab and the Prophets of Baal are Slaughtered at the Brook Kishon (1 Kings 18)
Psalm 49: The Tombs of the Wealthy Will Become Their Homes
Psalm 68: The Lord Reigns from Mt. Bashan
Psalm 80: A Prayer for God to Restore the Lands of Manasseh and Others
Psalm 91: The Lord Will Be Your Dwelling Place
Psalm 106: The Perils of Idol Worship and the Saving Grace of the Lord
Psalm 107: The Lord Redeems from All the Lands
God's Warning to Those Who Worship Idols and Eat Pig as Spoken By Isaiah (Isaiah 65)
The Warning to Idol Worshipers (Hosea 4)
On that Day I Will Banish Idols from the Land (Zechariah 13)
Jesus' Parable of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15)
Jesus Exorcises Demons for a Man from Gerasene and Sends Them into a Herd of Swine (Luke 8, Mark 5:1-20, Matthew 8:28-34)
Some Attempt to Use the Name of Jesus to Cast Out Demons Without Faith in Ephesus (Acts 19)

METAPHORS:

Water/Spirit/Brook, spirits, Food, Mountain, Tabernacle, Son, Swine/Pigs, Demons/Idols

COLORS:

Green, Blue

September 13, 2020

The Curse of the Dust (Genesis 3)

Abraham Pleads with God and God's Angels Warn Lot and His Family (Genesis 18 and 19)

Shimei Casts Dirt Upon David for His Deeds (which David Attributes to the Lord) (2 Samuel 16)

Elijah Confronts Ahab and Jezebel (1 Kings 18)

Psalm 30: The Lord Turns Wailing into Dancing

Psalm 44: Lord Raise Us from the Dust

Psalm 103: The Lord has Compassion and Remembers that We are Dust

Psalm 113: The Lord Raises the Needy from the Dust

Psalm 119: Follow the Lord for the Enduring Reward

God's Warning to Samaria and Jerusalem (Micah 1)

Mark Records Jesus' Sending Out of His Disciples in Order to Call People to Repentance (Mark 6:6-13)

Matthew's Account of Jesus' Instructions to His Disciples on Going Before Him (Matthew 10)

Luke's Account of the Sending of 12 and then 72 Disciples to Proclaim and Warn All the Towns of Israel (Luke 9 and 10)

The Crowd Tosses Dust at Paul's Proclamation (Acts 22)

METAPHORS:

Dust/Dirt/Earth/Adama, Angel, Fire/Spirit

COLORS:

Green, Brown

September 20, 2020

The Story of Dinah and Schechem (Genesis 34)

The Story of the Saving of Moses by Batya (Bithiah), Daughter of Pharaoh (Exodus 1 and 2)

The Story of Samson and Delilah (Judges 16)

The Story of Ruth

Psalm 37: The Salvation of the Righteous Comes from the Lord

Psalm 51: Create in Me a New Heart O God

Psalm 106: The Lord Gathers from the Nations

Psalm 119: Seek God with Your Heart

Psalm 145: The Lord has Compassion on All He has Made

The Mountain of the Lord to Which All Peoples Will Come (Isaiah 2)

Isaiah's Prophecy of the Lord's Anger at Those Who Persecute Others with False Traditions (59)

The Lord Our Shepherd Will Gather All People of the Nations (Ezekiel 34)

Jesus' Story of the Good Samaritan

Jesus' Healing of the Syro-Phoenician (Gentile) Woman's Daughter

Mark's Witness to Jesus' Teaching on Defilement and God's True Way (7:1-23 and 24-30)

Matthew's Witness to Jesus' Teaching on Defilement (15)
Luke's Witness to Jesus' Teaching on Defilement (11:37-54)
Peter's Dream and His Meeting With Cornelius (Acts 10)

METAPHORS:

Woman/Daughter, Harvest, Heart, Mountain, Shepherd

COLORS:

Green, Gold

September 27, 2020

The Story of Joseph, Whose Sons Were Ephraim and Manasseh (Genesis 37 and 39)
Jacob's Blessing of Ephraim and Manasseh Whose Land Would Become Samaria (Genesis 48)
The Assyrians Lay Siege to Samaria and Deport the Jewish Citizens Bringing in Foreigners (2 Kings 17)
The Prophet Oded Convinces the Samaritans to Return Prisoners to Israel, Clothing and Feeding Them (2 Chronicles 28)
Hezekiah Invites the Tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh to Celebrate Passover in Jerusalem Presided Over by the Priests and Levites (2 Chronicles 30)
Psalm 60 and 108: The Restoration of All of Israel, Including Ephraim and Manasseh, Philistia and Shechem
Psalm 80: The Restoration of Ephraim, Benjamin, and Manasseh
The Lord Will Gather All Who Worship Him (Isaiah 56)
The Lord Will Restore All of Israel, Including Ephraim and Manasseh (Jeremiah 31)
Jesus' Parable of a Good-Hearted Samaritan (Luke 10)
The Apostles Preach and Convert Followers to Jesus in Samaria (Acts 8)

METAPHORS:

Land/Harvest/Abundance/Grain/Food, Clothing, Passover, Blood

COLORS:

Green, Red, Gold

October 4, 2020

The Distraction of the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9)
Abraham's Three Holy Visitors (Genesis 18)
Esau's Distraction With His Hunger (Genesis 19:34)
Jacob Dreams of God and Realizes "Surely the Lord is in This Place and I Was Not Aware of It" (Genesis 28)
God Dwells in the Holy Tabernacle With Moses and With God's People (Exodus 11, 34, 40)
The Command to Dwell With God Joyfully (Deuteronomy 16:13-15)
Solomon Celebrates Sukkot with God's Presence in the Tabernacle (1 Kings 8)

Samson is Distracted by Delilah (Judges 16)
Hannah's Prayer of Joy (1 Samuel 2:1-11)
David Dances in Joy Before the Lord While Uzzah Worries About the Ark (2 Samuel 6)
David is Distracted by Bathsheba (2 Samuel 11 and 12)
Psalm 16: Apart from You I Have No Good Thing
Psalm 95: Kneel Before the Lord
Psalm 100: The Joy of the Lord
*Psalm 118: His Love Will Endure Forever (The Psalm of Sukkot)
Psalm 105: Seek His Face Always
The Joy of the Redeemed (Isaiah 35)
The People Are Distracted by Building Their Own Houses and Have Forgotten God's House (Haggai 1)
Do Not Grieve, for The Joy of the Lord is Your Strength (Nehemiah 8)
Don't Worry About Tomorrow (Matthew 6:25-34)
Jesus Visits the Home of Martha and Mary (Luke 10:38-42)
Peter's Angel and Rhoda's Joy (Acts 12)
Be Anxious in Nothing, Be Joyful in Everything (Philippians 4)

METAPHORS:

Tower/Wall, Angel/Elohim, Hunger/Food, Ladder, Tabernacle, Stone, Ark, Dance, House/Household, Field

COLORS:

Green, Gold

October 11, 2020

The Curse of Cain (Genesis 4)
The Error of the Yoke of Rehoboam (1 Kings 12)
Elisha, Driving Oxen in the Fields, Quits Them to Succeed Elijah as God's Servant and Prophet (1 Kings 19)
The Mystery of the Return of the Ark of the Covenant by the Philistines via Yoked Cows (1 Samuel 6)
The Shema Prayer
Psalm 23 (of David): The Lord is My Shepherd
Psalm 119 (of Solomon): Teach Your Servant to Follow You Lord for I Am a Lost Sheep
The People Will Live Under the Yoke of Babylon Until the Time of the Lord's Restoration and then the Lord Will Break the Yoke of Babylon (Jeremiah 27 and 28; see also Jeremiah 5)
True Fasting to the Lord is Breaking the Yokes of Oppression Upon Others and Loving God and Neighbor (Isaiah 58)
I Will Raise Up a Shepherd to Feed My Sheep and Break the Yoke of Their Bondage and I Will Bless My People (Ezekiel 34:23-31)
Jesus Invites Us to Take On His Yoke (His Way of Living the Shema) (Matthew 11)
The Yoke of the Gentiles if Broken and Circumcision is Not Required (Acts 15)

The Freedom of Walking in the Spirit and the Breaking of the Yoke of Sin (Galatians 5)

METAPHORS:

Blood, Yoke, Oxen/Servant, Ark, Shepherd, Sheep, Sheepfold

COLORS:

Green, Red, Gold

October 18, 2020

The Story of Noah When the Floodgates of Heaven were Opened Up (Genesis 7)

The Enabling of the Tongue of Moses (Exodus 4)

Korah and Those Who Defied Moses are Swallowed Up When the Earth's Mouth is Opened Up by God (Numbers 16)

Psalm 40: My ears have been opened; I proclaim your saving acts

Psalm 51: Open my lips Lord

The Joy of the Redeemed (Isaiah 35)

Daniel's Speech (Daniel 10)

The Lord's Power to Loose (Job 12:7-25)

God's Heavenly Voice Who Calls You (Hebrews 3)

Jesus Heals a Man Born Deaf and Mute (Mark 7:31-37)

METAPHORS:

Floodgates/Water/Deep/Spirit/Voice, Tongue/Word/Speech, Earth/Adama/Lips, Ear

COLORS:

Green

October 25, 2020

The Lord's Covenant With Abram of Chaldea and the Gift of the Land of Canaan (Genesis 15)

The Story of Joseph and His Brothers from Canaan (Genesis 37)

The Land of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh is Established East of the Jordan in Gilead (Numbers 32)

Instructions for the Land of Canaan (Deuteronomy 7)

Psalm 60: God's Triumph and Restoration of Israel of the Northern Tribes

Psalm 68: All Nations Will Submit to God

Psalm 100: We Are God's People the Sheep of His Pasture

Psalm 103: Praise to God the Great Healer

Psalm 119: The Prayer for Redemption of Those Who Have Strayed

The Call to Wisdom in Following the Lord (Proverbs 9)

God's Anger at the Northern Tribes and Their Idolatry (Jeremiah 8)

God's Restoration of Both Israel and Judah (Jeremiah 30-31)

Israel Will Rise Again in Gilead and Bashan (Micah 7)

I the Lord Will Save the Tribes of Joseph (Zechariah)
The Lord Will Heal Those Who Have Defiled in Gilead and in Judah (Hosea 6)
Jesus Asks Peter to “Feed My Sheep” (John 21:15-17)
Jesus Heals Many and Feeds 4000 in the Decapolis, the Former Gilead and Then Warns of the Teaching of the Pharisees (Mark 8:1-21; Matthew 15:29-39 and 16:9-10; Luke 12:1-12)
God’s Restoration and the Healing of the Nations (Revelation 22)

METAPHORS:

Land, Grain/Food, Sheep, Field/Pasture/Bashan

COLORS:

Green

November 1, 2020

The Celebration of the Saints

Jacob and Esau are Restored in God’s Presence and Jacob Builds a Sukkah (Genesis 33)
Moses Encounters the “I Am Who I Am” in the Burning Bush (Exodus 3)
The Feast of Tabernacles (Deuteronomy 16)
God’s Mission of Salvation (Isaiah 43)
The Day of the Living Water (Zechariah 14)
Psalm 27: To Dwell in the House of the Lord
Psalm 49: The Days to Come
Psalm 72: The Blessing of God’s King
Psalm 103: The Lord Establishes His Kingdom
Psalm 130: De Profundis
Jesus the is the Logos from the Beginning of Time (John 1)
Jesus and the Pharisees Dispute Jesus’ Identity (John 7 and 8)
The Day of the Seventh Trumpet (Revelation 11)
The New Jerusalem (Revelation 21)

METAPHORS:

Sukkah/Tabernacle, Fire/Light, Water, King/Kingdom, Logos/Spirit

COLORS:

White

November 8, 2020

Abraham and God Discuss Sodom and Gomorrah’s Lack of Loyal People (Genesis 18)
Stay Loyal and True to the Lord Your God (Deuteronomy 8)
Psalm 24: Receive the Blessings of the Lord
Psalm 62: Those Who Set Their Hearts on God Will Be Rewarded

Proverbs 23: The Deceptiveness of Wealth and Sin

The Lord of Abundance Will Judge Those Who Have Turned Away and Bless Those Who are Loyal (Malachi 3)

God's Warning to Jerusalem Sister of Sodom Who Does Not Care for Its Poor (Ezekiel 16)

Jesus' Parable of the Rich Fool and Warnings to His Disciples and Others as Told by Luke (12)

The Warning of Material Corruption and the Bid to Save Many for God (James 5)

Paul Calls Disciples to Live in the Spirit and Not of the Law (Galatians 5)

The Bid to Focus on God and Not on Material Wealth (1 Timothy 6)

Jesus' Parable of the Rich Fool and Warnings to His Disciples and Others as Told by Luke

METAPHORS:

Wealth/Miser, Heart, Silos, Field

COLORS:

Green, Red, Gold

November 15, 2020

The Making of the Golden Calf (Exodus 32)

David Takes What is Not His and is Confronted by Nathan on God's Behalf (2 Samuel 12)

Gehazi's Greed (2 Kings 5)

King Hezekiah's Offer of Monetary Retribution to the King of Assyria (2 Kings 18)

Advice on Storing Up Treasure in Heaven from Father to Son (Tobit 4)

Love Your Neighbor with the Entirety of Your Means (Sirach 29)

The Book of Jubilees

Psalm 15: Who May Live in the Lord's Tents?

Psalm 40: The Lord's Mercy to the Contrite

Psalm 51: David's Psalm of Contrition

Psalm 118: The Lord Will Save

The Story of Jonah and God's Forgiveness of Ninevah's Greed

Joshua Witnesses God's People's Vow to Serve God as Master at Shechem (Joshua 24)

James' Warning to Those Who Have Made Riches Their God (James 5)

Jesus' Encounter with Zacchaeus the Repentant Tax Collector (Luke 19)

Jesus' Parable of the Dishonest Manager (Luke 16)

The Monetary Deception of Ananias and Sapphira (Acts 5)

Simon the Sorcerer Attempts to Buy the Gifts of the Apostles (Acts 8)

METAPHORS:

Gold/Treasure, Calf, Tax, Manager, Bribes

COLORS:

Green, Gold

November 22, 2020

Jesus' Transfiguration

Jacob Anoints the Altar at El Bethel (Genesis 35)
Tablets of Stone from the Mountain of the Lord (Exodus 24)
The Construction of the Stone Foundation for Solomon's Temple (1 Kings 5)
Balaam and Barak (Numbers 22-24)
The Stones of Gilgal (Joshua 4)
Psalm 16: You Alone Lord
Psalm 51: Whiter Than Snow
Psalm 96: The Lord's Salvation of the Faithful
Psalm 99: The Lord Reigns
Psalm 118: The Cornerstone
The Radiant Beloved (Song of Songs 5:10-16)
I Will Lay a Stone in Zion (Isaiah 18)
The Lord's Restoration and God's Spirit Within (Ezekiel 36)
The Story of Jesus' Transfiguration (Matthew 17:1-9; Luke 9:28-36; Mark 9:2-13, 32)
You are God's Temple (1 Corinthians 3)
The Warnings Against Idols (1 Corinthians 10)
Christ's Spiritual House and the Living Stones (1 Peter 2)
Peter Confirms the Disciples' Witness to Jesus' Transfiguration (2 Peter 1:16-18)
The Revelation of John about the Church in Pergamum (Revelation 1 and 2:12-17)
The Seal of the Multitude Washed White in the Blood of Jesus (Revelation 7)
The Light of the Lord's Eternal City (Revelation 21)

METAPHORS:

Altar/Tablet/Stone, Mountain, Temple/House, Blood, White/Light

COLORS:

White, Red

[November 25, 2020: Thanksgiving Eve]

November 29, 2020

The First Sunday in the Advent of Our Lord's Birth

Handmaiden Hagar and Ishmael Her Son, Sent Into the Wilderness, Encounter God (Genesis 21)
Handmaidens Bilhah and Zilpah Bear Sons Who Will Become Lost Tribes of Israel (Genesis 30)
Psalm 34: I Will Glory in the Lord
Psalm 63: You God are My God
Psalm 73: Surely God is good to those pure in heart
Psalm 121: The Lord Will Watch Over You
Psalm 139: Lord, You Know Me
The People Walking in Darkness Have Seen a Great Light (Isaiah 9)

My Servant in Whom I Delight, My Chosen One (Isaiah 42)
Your Light Has Come (Isaiah 60)
Faith and Witness (Hebrews 11-12)
Luke's Statement of Purpose and Mary's Encounter with Gabriel in Nazareth (Luke 1:1-4; 26-38)
Faith in the Witness (1 John 5)

METAPHORS:

Wilderness, Darkness, Light, Pregnancy, Seed

COLORS:

Red, Blue, White

December 6, 2020

The Second Sunday in the Advent of Our Lord's Birth

The Lord Blesses Abraham With Children (Genesis 15)
I Will Raise Up a Prophet from Among You (Deuteronomy 18:14-22)
Hannah's Prayer (1 Samuel 2:1-10)
Psalm 33: We Put Our Hope in You
Psalm 47: God Reigns Over the Nations –He is Greatly Exalted
Psalm 110: Sit At My Right Hand Until I Make Your Enemies a Footstool for Your Feet
Psalm 113: The Lord is Exalted –He Raises the Poor from the Dust
Optional: Psalms 135 and 136
The Eighteen Psalms of Solomon
The Heritage of Israel, a Barren Woman Blessed By God (Isaiah 54)
Daniel's Prayer and Prophecy (9)
From Nazareth to Judea: Mary Visits Elizabeth (Luke 1:39-56)
Peter Proclaims the Prophecy Fulfilled in Jesus (Acts 3)
Stephen's Interpretation of the Fulfillment of the Prophecy in Jesus (Acts 7)

METAPHORS:

Children, Right Hand, Dust, Barrenness/Desert, Song, Pregnancy

COLORS:

Red

December 13, 2020

The Third Sunday in the Advent of Our Lord's Birth

Pregnant Hagar Encounters God as the Angel of the Lord Who Gives Her a Message (Genesis 16 and 21)
The Angel of the Lord Speaks to Abraham Regarding His Sacrifice of Isaac (Genesis 22)

The Betrothal of Isaac and Rebecca (Genesis 24)
The Angel of the Lord Visits Gideon (Judges 6-7)
Manoah's Wife Becomes Pregnant with Samson After Such Announcement of the Angel of the Lord (Judges 13)
Psalm 34: The Angel of the Lord Will Deliver
Psalm 68: Praise God in His Holy Habitation
Psalm 91: He Will Command His Angels to Guard Over You
Psalm 103: Bless the Lord and His Angels
Psalm 148: May All Praise the Lord
Isaiah's Commission by the Lord's Presence in a Vision (Isaiah 6)
The Presence of the Lord as Angel Will Go With You (Isaiah 63)
The Angel Gabriel Interprets Daniel's Vision (Daniel 8)
The Messenger of the Lord (Malachi 3)
Mary and Joseph in Nazareth: Betrothal (Matthew 1:18-25)
The Seven Angels of God (Revelation 8)

METAPHORS:

Angel, Pregnancy, Stone/Altar, Betrothal/Marriage/Promise/Covenant, Dream/Vision, Messengers

COLORS:

Red

December 20, 2020

The Fourth Sunday in the Advent of Our Lord's Birth

Abraham Journeys from Ur of Chaldees to the Promised Land (Genesis 12)
Moses Journeys with God's People to the Promised Land and Consecrates Firstborn (Exodus 13-15)
Elijah Journeys to Horeb (1 Kings 19)
Psalm 1: He Who Walks with the Lord
Psalm 23: The Lord Leads Into Green Grasses
Psalm 25: Walking the Lord's Paths
Psalm 121: The Lord Watches Over Your Coming and Going
Ezra Journeys from Babylon to Jerusalem (Ezra 7)
Mary and Joseph Journey to Bethlehem to the Home of Joseph's Family (Luke 2:1-7)
Paul's First Journeys (Acts 13)

METAPHORS:

Milk and Honey, Land/Food, Field/Vineyard/Grass, Path/Way, Bethlehem

COLORS:

Red, Green, Gold

[December 24, 2020: Christmas Eve]

December 27, 2020

The Birth of Our Lord (Christmas Celebration)

The Birth of Sons and the Favor of Abel (Genesis 4)
Moses and the Pleasure of the Lord (Exodus 33)
The Favor of the Lord Upon Hannah and Samuel (1 Samuel 2:18-26)
Psalm 84: Blessed are Those Who Dwell in Your House
Psalm 106: The Lord Shows Favor
The Story of Ruth
The Day of Salvation / The Year of the Lord's Favor (Isaiah 49)
The Birth of Jesus (Luke 2:6-20)
The Day of the Lord's Favor / The Day of Salvation (2 Corinthians 6)

METAPHORS:

Birth, Son, House/Household, Field/Harvest/Jubilee

COLORS:

White, Gold

January 3, 2021

New Year's Celebration

It is Not Good for Adam to be Alone / Adam Names the Animals (Genesis 2:18-24)
God Calls Himself El Shaddai and Names Jacob Israel (Genesis 35 and 32:22-32)
Psalm 8: The Lord's Name is Majestic
Psalm 96: Sing to the Lord and Proclaim His Salvation
Psalm 99: Those Who Have Called on the Name of the Lord
Psalm 145: Praise God's Holy Name
Psalm 147: God Names Even the Stars
The Lord Calls Forth Even the Stars (Isaiah 40)
God's Betrothal with Israel and Future Consummation (Hosea 2)
Jesus is Named and Presented (Luke 2:21-38)
The Wedding Supper of the Lamb (Revelation 19)

METAPHORS:

Animals, Adam/Ground/Earth/Field/Garden, Cosmos, Names, Wedding, Feast, Lamb

COLORS:

White, Gold, Multi

[Epiphany: January 6, 2021]

January 10, 2021

The Visit of the Magi

The Priest of the God Most High Melchizedek (Genesis 14)

Joseph is Given Asenath Daughter of Potiphara the Egyptian Priest of On to be His Wife (Genesis 41:41-52) and They Bear Ephraim and Manasseh

Moses Marries Ziporah the Daughter of Midian Priest Jethro (Exodus 2 and 3)

The Prophecy of Balaam Son of Beor (Numbers 24)

Psalms 2: The Lord Has Raised Up His Anointed

Psalms 110: The Lord Extends His Scepter to His Chosen Priest

The Psalms of Solomon: the Proclamation of the Priestly Messiah

The Coming of the Messiah (Isaiah 52)

The Lord of the Nations (Isaiah 60)

Daniel Chief of the Magi in Nebuchadnezzar's Court Interprets the Writing on the Wall (Daniel 5)

Daniel's Prayer from Medes (in the Reign of Xerxes) (Daniel 9)

The Visit of the Magi to Bethlehem (Matthew 2)

The Priestly Order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 7)

Jews and Gentiles All Citizens of God's Kingdom (Ephesians 2)

METAPHORS:

Priest/Melchizedek, Marriage/Covenant/Lineage, Scepter/King, Magi, Finger/Hand, Writing/Word, Wall/Stone/Tablet/Dust/Dirt/Adama, Kingdom

COLORS:

Red, Purple,

January 17, 2021

Joseph Weeps in Compassion for His Brothers (Genesis 42-45)

David Weeps on the Mount of Olives (2 Samuel 15)

The Book of Lamentations (for the destruction of the Temples)

Psalms 11: The Lord Will Examine

Psalms 12: Help Lord, for No One is Faithful Anymore

Psalms 69: Zeal for Your House Consumes Me (A Lament of David)

The Mark of the Saved and Ezekiel's Lament for Jerusalem (Ezekiel 9)

I Weep for My People Who Have Been Deceitful (Jeremiah 9)

Restrain Your Eyes from Tears for Your Work Will Be Rewarded (Jeremiah 31 – Rachel's Weeping in Ramah)

Joel's Call for Lament (Joel 1)
Jesus Laments for Jerusalem (Luke 13:31-35)
Jesus Laments Jerusalem and its Keepers (Matthew 23)
Paul Weeps for His Church (2 Corinthians 2)

METAPHORS:

Tears, Mountain, Olives, Temple/House/Household/People, Eyes, Lament

COLORS:

Green, White

January 24, 2021

The Role of the Priests and the Prophet Among You (Deuteronomy 18)
David Son of Jesse, a Herder of Sheep, is Chosen to be King by God Through the Prophet Samuel (1 Samuel 16)
The Unpopular Prophet Who Speaks God's Word, Micaiah (1 Kings 22)
Psalm 23: The Lord As Shepherd
Psalm 51: A Psalm of Confession and Plea for Absolution
Psalm 80: The Shepherd of Israel
Daniel's Vision of Greece, a Ram, and a Goat (8)
God Pronounces Against False Prophets (Ezekiel 13)
The Lord Will Be Israel's Shepherd (Ezekiel 34)
The Lord Will Raise Up A Righteous Shepherd (Jeremiah 23)
The Story of the Hellenization of the Jews Before the Revolts (1 Maccabees 1)
Jesus the Good Shepherd and the Infiltrators of God's Sheep Gate: Jesus' Disputes with the Pharisees According to John (John 10)
The Messianic Throne (Hebrews 1)
Jude Warns of False Shepherds (The Book of Jude)
Peter Warns of False Teachers Who Reject Jesus (2 Peter 2)
The Lord is the Temple in the New Jerusalem (Revelation 21)

METAPHORS:

Priests, Shepherd, Sheep, Ram, Goat, Teeth/Claws, Throne/Temple, Sheepgate/Kingdom

COLORS:

Green

January 31, 2021

Moses' Mother Hides Him and Moses Later Hides in Midian (Exodus 2)
Jonathan Helps David Flee from Ramah and Hide from Saul (1 Samuel 20)
The Lord Bids that Elijah Hide in the Kerith Ravine (1 Kings 17)
Jehosheba Hides Joash Son of King Ahaziah for Six Years to Protect Him (2 Kings 11)

Everything in Its Time (Ecclesiastes 3:1-8)

Psalm 27: The Lord Will Hide Me From My Enemies

Psalm 32: You are My Hiding Place

Psalm 91: The Lord is My Refuge

Officials of the King Instruct Jeremiah and Baruch to Hide While the Scroll is Read (Jeremiah 36)

The Massacre of Infants in Judea and Jesus' Hiding Places in Egypt and Nazareth (Matthew 2)

The Mystery Has Been Revealed in Jesus (Colossians 1)

METAPHORS:

Bulrushes, Caves, Ravine, Hiding Places, Mystery/Deep/Dark/Womb

COLORS:

Green, Brown

February 7, 2021

From Enoch Who Walked With God to Noah Who Walked With God (Genesis 5-8)

Jacob Wrestles with God (Genesis 32:24-28)

David Teaches God's People to Seek the Lord Always (1 Chronicles 16)

Psalm 35: Plead My Cause O Lord

Psalm 42: My Soul Thirsts for God

Psalm 51: A Humble Prayer

Psalm 150: Let Everything With Breath Praise the Lord

The Book of Job

You Will Find Me When You Seek Me With Your Heart (Jeremiah 29:10-14)

Hosea Comments on Jacob's Persistent Wrestling With God (Hosea 12:4)

Daniel Prays Unceasingly (Daniel 9)

By Faith (Hebrews 11)

Jesus Tells a Parable of a Widow and Judge and Heals a Blind Beggar (Luke 18)

Paul's Advice to Pray Unceasingly and Perseveringly (1 Thessalonians 5)

METAPHORS:

Walk/Way, Wrestling/Limbs/Hands/Muscle, Limp/Lean

COLORS:

Green

February 14, 2021

Adam and Eve Hide from God (Genesis 3)

Rehoboam Overtaxes the People (1 Kings 12)

Psalm 15: Those Who Dwell with the Lord Do Not Overcharge Others

Psalm 19: The Lord Refreshes the Soul

Psalm 139: There is No Hiding from God

Proverbs 22:2: Rich and Poor Alike
Proverbs 28:8-10: Those Who Overtax Others
The Story of Jonah
Blessed is the One Who Trusts in the Lord and Not in the World (Jeremiah 17:1-18)
Desire Gives Birth to Sin but God Saves (James 1:1-18)
Jesus Sees Zacchaeus in a Sycamore and Invites Himself to Zacchaeus's Table (Luke 19)
Jesus Saves Sinners of Which I am the Worst Says Timothy (1 Timothy 1:12-17)

METAPHORS:

Garden/Leaves, Tax, Boat/Whale Belly/Womb, Tree, Table/Feast

COLORS:

Green

[February 17, 2021: Ash Wednesday: Purple]

February 21, 2021

The First Sunday in Jesus' "Lenten" Journey to Jerusalem

God Restores the Women After all Wombs Have Been Closed Due to Sarah (Genesis 20:1-18)
Abraham Purchases a Cave at Machpelah for Sarah (Genesis 23)
Deborah, Rachel, and Isaac are Buried (Genesis 35)
I Have Set Before You the Choice of Life or Death (Deuteronomy 30)
David Mourns Saul and Jonathan (2 Samuel 1-2:7)
The Restoration of Elijah (1 Kings 19:11-13 and Joshua 10)
A Dead Man Thrown Into the Cave of Deceased Elisha Comes to Life After Contact With Elisha's Bones (2 Kings 13: 14-21)
The Death of Joshua and Eliezer (Joshua 24:29-33 and Judges 2)
Hezekiah is Saved by God with Help from Isaiah After Three Days From the Shadow of Death and Lives Another 15 (2 Kings 20:1-11 and Isaiah 38)
Psalm 16: You Will Not Abandon Me to the Realm of the Dead
Psalm 34 and 91: The Lord Delivers
Psalm 103: Praise to the Lord Who Heals!
God's Metaphor of the Restoration of Israel and the Resurrection of Dry Bones (Ezekiel 36 and 37)
The Promise of Restoration (Jeremiah 30:17 and 33)
God's Comfort to His People and the Servant of Light to the Nations (Isaiah 40 and 42)
Tobit's Prayer of Thanksgiving for What God Has Done (13)
The Power and Mercy of God Who Loves Life (The Wisdom of Solomon 11:21-26)
On Mourning the Dead (Sirach 38:16-23)
The Death and Raising of Lazarus and the Plot to Kill Him (John 11 and 12)

METAPHORS:

Womb, Seed, Cave, Bones, Three Days, Dry Bones/Valley, Mountain, Light, Unwrapped Clothes

COLORS:

Purple, White

February 28, 2021

The Second Sunday in Jesus' Lenten Journey to Jerusalem

Jacob's Strange Prophecies for the Stubborn 12 Tribes of Israel (Genesis 49)

Celebrate the Passover, Clean or Unclean (Numbers 9)

Hezekiah Celebrates Passover and Prays for All of the People, Clean and Unclean (2 Chronicles 30)

The Story of Abigail and Her Attitude of Service to David (1 Samuel 25)

Psalm 32: Do Not Be Like the Horse or the Mule

Psalm 90: Psalm of Ashes

Psalm 131: My Heart is Not Proud

The Servant's Mission (Isaiah 49)

Jonah the Stubborn Prophet and Ninevah a Repentant People (The Book of Jonah)

Jesus' Judgment, Anointing, Dinner, and Foretelling of Judas and Peter (Matthew 25:31-26:35)

Jesus' Anointing, Dinner, and Foretelling of Peter's Denial (Mark 14:1-31)

Judas' Betrayal of Jesus, the Dinner, and Jesus' Foretelling of Peter's Denial (Luke 22:1-34)

Jesus' Washes His Disciples' Feet and Predicts That Judas Will Betray Him and Peter Will Deny Him (John 13)

Peter Explains About Humility (1 Peter 5)

METAPHORS:

Passover, Blood, Dinner/Feast, Oil/Anointing, Water/Washing/Spirit

COLORS:

Purple, Red, Blue

March 7, 2021

The Third Sunday in Jesus' Lenten Journey to Jerusalem

Thorns Out of Paradise (Genesis 3)

Joseph is Betrayed By His Brothers for 20 Shekels of Silver (Genesis 37)

The Three-Score and 10 Pieces of Silver for Abimelech's Murders and Jotham's Parable of the Trees and Bramble (Judges 9:1-14 and 7-15)

Samuel Kisses Saul and Anoints Him King and the Holy Spirit Effects God's Plan (1 Samuel 10)

David Prays on the Mt. of Olives Weeping as He Realizes His Trusted Advisor, Ahithophel's, Betrayal (2 Samuel 15-17)

Josiah's Passover Celebration and Following Death (2 Chronicles 35 and 1 Esdras 1)
Psalm 2: Kiss the Son
Psalm 55: David's Song About Betrayal By a Trusted Friend
The Book of Esther: Haman's Offer of Silver to Xerxes to Exterminate the Jewish People
Song of God's Vineyard: God's Lament (Isaiah 5:1-30)
The Prophecy to the Line of Judah (Isaiah 48)
The Prophecy of the Wineskins (Jeremiah 13:12-14)
The Unworthy Shepherd, a Potter's Field, and Thirty Pieces of Silver (Zechariah 11)
Though the Fig Tree Does Not Bud, I Will Rejoice in the Lord My Strength (Habakkuk 3:17-19)
A Prophecy of Betrayal (Micah 7:1-7)
Judas Betrays Jesus (Matthew 25:31-6:25; Mark 14:1-25; Luke 22:1-23)
Jesus the True Vine (John 15 and 16)
Peter Comments on Judas' Betrayal (Acts 1:15-20)

METAPHORS:

Thorns/Brambles, Silver/Shekels, Kiss, Mountain, Olives, Myrtle, Vineyard/Garden, Fig Tree, Potter's Field/Graveyard, Wineskins, Vine/Roots

COLORS:

Purple, White

March 14, 2021

The Fourth Sunday in Jesus' Lenten Journey to Jerusalem

The Priest of Melchizedek, King of Salem (Genesis 14:14-18)
The Priestly Garments of Holiness (Exodus 28)
The Ordination of Aaron (Leviticus 8)
Aaron's Priestly Blessing (Numbers 6:22-27)
The Lord Speaks to Some in Dreams and Visions, to Moses Face to Face (Numbers 12:6-8)
The Budding of Aaron's Rod (Numbers 17)
Micaiah's Vision (1 Kings 22)
David's Prayer (1 Chronicles 17:16-27)
Psalm 69: David's Prayer for Help in the Midst of Persecution
Psalm 109: David's Prayer to God as He Stands Before Accusers
Psalm 110: The Priest of Melchizedek at the Right Hand of God
Daniel's Vision of the Son of God (Daniel 7:13-14)
Daniel's Prayer and Vision of Temple and Messiah (Daniel 9: 1-19 and 20-27)
The Prayer of Azariah in the Fiery Furnace and His Song of Praise
Mordechai's Prophetic Dream (Greek Esther 10:4-13)
A Prayer of Thanksgiving for Deliverance from Death (Sirach 51:1-12)
The Prophecy of the Coming Priest (The Testament of Levi)
The Priest in the Order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 5 and 7)
Zechariah's Vision About His Son John (To Be Called The Baptist) (Luke 1:5-17)

Jesus' Prayer in Gethsemane, His Arrest, and His Confrontation by Caiaphas the High Priest (Matthew 26:36-56 and 57-75; Mark 14:32-51 and 53-72; Luke 22:39-53 and 54-71)
Caiaphas' Dream of the Messiah, Jesus' Prayer in Gethsemane, and His Arrest by Jewish Officials (John 11:45-57 and 18:1-27)

METAPHORS:

Priest/Melchizedek, Garments/Clothing, Almond Tree/Rod/Mandorla/Menorah/Tree of Life, Fire/Spirit, Dream/Vision, Son

Colors:

Purple, White, Pink

March 21, 2021

The Fifth Sunday in Jesus' Lenten Journey to Jerusalem

Abimelek's Warning Vision Regarding Sarah (Genesis 20)
Pharaoh's Warning Dreams of Famine (Genesis 41)
Washing of Hands in Atonement (Deuteronomy 21:1-8)
Israel Wants a King (1 Samuel 8-9)
David is Anointed King (2 Samuel 5,6,7)
David's Prayer (2 Samuel 7:18-29)
Psalm 109: God's Help in a Time of Condemnation
Psalm 134: Praise to Those Who Minister at Night
The Prophecy of the Lord's Salvation (Isaiah 61 and 62)
Nebuchadnezzar's Warning Dream of the Fall of Babylon (Daniel 2)
The Day of Judgement is Coming (Joel 2)
The Plot Against Jeremiah (11:11-19)
Restoration is Coming (Amos 9:1-15)
The Letters of Pontius Pilate (Apocrypha)
Jesus' Encounter with Roman Governor Pontius Pilate and the Dream of Pilate's Wife (Matthew 27:1-26; Mark 15:1-15; Luke 23:1-25; John 18:28-18:16)
Paul Before the High Priest and the Plot to Kill Paul (Acts 23)

METAPHORS:

Dreams/Visions, Abundance, Famine, Water, Hands, King, Priest

COLORS:

Purple, White, Blue

March 28, 2021 [Palm Sun]

Palm Sunday / The Procession of the Lamb

The Crushing of the Serpent's Head and the Striking of the Heel of Man (Genesis 3)
The Census of Israel (Numbers 1)
A Woman Crushes the Head of Abimelech Saving the People (Judges 9)
David Strikes the Head of Goliath of Gath (1 Samuel 17)
King David Brings the Ark of the Covenant Back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15 and 2 Samuel 6)
David's Prayer (2 Samuel 7:18-29)
The Stones of Gilgal (Joshua 4)
Joshua Assigns Territories to All of Israel's Tribes and Reaffirms the Covenant (Joshua 17-24)
The Death of Jezebel and Ahab and the Declaration of King Jehu With Cloaks Strewn (2 Kings 9)
Mourning in Death (Lamentations 3)
Psalm 22: It is Finished; the Lord Has Done It!
Psalm 41: The Lord Rescues Those Whom the Lord's Enemies Persecute
Psalm 57: My Heart is Steadfast in the Midst of Distress
Psalm 73: It is Good to be Near God
Psalm 88: You are the God Who Saves Me as My Life Draws Near Death
God's Suffering Servant (Isaiah 53)
The Shepherd Will Deliver (Micah 2:12-13)
The Death and Martyrdom of Eleazar (2 Maccabees 6:18-31)
The Martyrdom of the 7 Sons (4 Maccabees 18:6-24)
Ezra Sees a Vision of the Son of God and Palms (2 Esdras 2:42-48)
The Stories of the Secrets of the Sanhedrin: Secret Disciples Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus Anoint Jesus for Burial (Matthew 27:27-61; Mark 15:16-47; Luke 23:26-56; John 19:17-42)
James, Brother of John is Killed With a Sword, and Peter is Arrested (Acts 12:1-5)

METAPHORS:

Serpent's Head, Heel, Ark/Tabernacle, Stones/Altars, Cloaks, Palms, Donkey, Shepherd, Sons, Sword

COLORS:

Purple, Blue, White, Green

[April 1, 2021: Maundy Thursday / April 2, 2021: Good Friday]

April 4, 2021 [Easter]

The Resurrection of Our Lord (Easter)

The Time of Jubilee (Leviticus 25)
The Celebration of First Fruits (Deuteronomy 26)
David's Song of Thanksgiving (2 Samuel 22-24 and 1 Chronicles 16)
Psalm 95: Psalm of Joy
Psalm 98: Our Eyes Have Seen the Salvation of the Lord
Psalm 105: The Lord's Miracles

Psalm 126: The Lord's Restoration

Blessing is Coming / Be the Rock from Which You are Cut (Isaiah 51)

God's Eternal Covenant and the Promise of Eternal Life (Isaiah 54-55)

God's Deliverance and the Coming of the Bridegroom (Isaiah 61-62)

The Vision of Resurrection (Daniel 12)

Put Off the Garment of Mourning: God's Ingathering (Baruch 4:36-5:9)

Signs of Coming (2 Esdras)

The Women Come to Find the Stone Rolled Away, an Angel Perched, and Jesus Resurrected (Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:1-8)

Peter is Rescued and Spared by an Angel Who Opens the Doors of His Cell (Acts 5 and 12)

METAPHORS:

Jubilee/First Fruits, Rock, Bridegroom/Wedding/Feast, Garment, Stone, Angel/Light, Door/Cell

COLORS:

White

FOUR OPTIONAL LECTIONARY READINGS (SUBSTITUTIONAL):

One:

Isaac Puts Down Roots in the Land of the Philistines (Genesis 26)

Joseph's Investment in Egypt and His Plan for Abundance and Famine (Genesis 41)

Invest in as Many Ways as You Can for You Do Not Know What Comes (Ecclesiastes 11:1-6)

Psalm 1: A Good Person is Like a Tree Planted

Psalm 33: The Lord Sees All We Do

Psalm 127: The Lord Builds Your House

God's Letter to the Exiles in Babylon –Build Homes and Settle Down in Babylon (Jeremiah 29)

Jesus' Parable of the Ten Pounds as Told by Luke (19)

Matthew's Account of Jesus' Parable of Virgins and Bags of Gold (25)

We Must Avoid Divisiveness and Work Together As a Unified People Saved by Jesus (Titus 3)

Building on the Foundation of Jesus Together as the Church (1 Corinthians 3)

METAPHORS:

Roots, Famine, Trees, Gold, Stone/Foundation

COLORS:

Green, Gold

Two:

The Story of Noah (Genesis 5-7)
Psalm 22: God's Victory Psalm
Psalm 30: You Have Turned My Mourning into Dancing
Psalm 84: Blessed are Those Who Dwell in Your House
Psalm 90: You Are Our Dwelling Place
Psalm 113: The Lord Raises Up and Seats the Needy with Princes
Psalm 123: The Lord Sits Enthroned in Heaven
Psalm 132: The Dwelling Place and Promise to David
The Lord's Restoration and a New Dwelling Place (Amos 9)
Jesus the New Covenant and New Tabernacle (Hebrews 9)
The Coming of the Holy Spirit as Told by John (14)
On the Lord's Holy Eternal Temple (Ephesians 2)
Messages to the Churches Regarding the New Dwelling Place (Revelation 3)

METAPHORS:

Sackcloth, Dance, Throne/Tabernacle, Spirit

COLORS:

White, Red

Three:

The Building of the Tower of Babel (Genesis 11)
Sarai is Astounded at God's Power and Goodness (Genesis 18)
Moses and Pharaoh (Exodus 5-6)
The Budding of Aaron's Rod (Numbers 17)
The Story of David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17)
Joshua's Victory Over Jericho (Joshua 5-6)
Psalm 34: Taste and See that the Lord is Good
Psalm 37: Commit to the Lord
Psalm 63: You Are My God, I Earnestly Seek You
Psalm 119: Seek the Lord With All Your Heart
Psalm 138: I Praise You With My Whole Heart
Psalms 100, 118, 136: Give Thanks for the Lord is Good
Daniel and the Fiery Furnace (Daniel 3)
Job's Acknowledgement of the Lord's Goodness and Sovereignty (Job 42)
The Strength and Sovereignty and Goodness of God (Isaiah 40)
Jesus' Encounter with a Rich, Young Member of the Sanhedrin (Matthew 19:16-30; Mark 10:17-31; Luke 18:18-30)
The Secret of Contentment (Philippians 4)

METAPHORS:

Tower/Wall, Field, Tree/Rod/Almond Branch, Stones, Water, Giant, Shofar/Voice/Spirit,
Fire/Furnace

COLORS:

Green

Four:

The Story of Noah (Genesis 5-7)

Abraham Attempts to Sacrifice His Son Isaac But Due to God's Sign Declines (Genesis 22)

Hold Fast to the Lord and You Will Receive God's Abundance (Deuteronomy 30)

The Ebenezer Stone Represents Holding Fast to God and God's Help to Israel (1 Samuel 7)

Psalm 26: Examine My Heart and Mind for I Have Been Faithful

Psalm 73: I Will Stay Steadfast to the Lord Despite Those Around Me Who Seem to Flourish

Psalm 119: I Seek You with All My Heart...Do Not Let Me Stray from You

Daniel is Saved from Lions Due to His Steadfast Faith in God (Daniel 6)

The Story of Job

All Those Who Hold Fast to the Lord Will Be Blessed (Isaiah 56:1-8)

The Tribes Hold Fast to the Lord (Joshua 22)

Jesus Tells His Disciples to Heed the Signs of the End of the Age (Mark 13; Matthew 24)

Paul's Advice to the Thessalonians to Hold Fast to God and Be Loving to All (1 Thessalonians 5)

The Victory of the Lamb for Those Who Have Held Fast to Jesus (Revelation 12)

METAPHORS:

Water/Deep, Land/Mountain, Harvest, Stone, Lions, Lamb

COLORS:

Green, Gold, Blue