

Where Two or Three are Gathered: Worship for Small Assemblies

Ordinary Time:

Lectionary 22 to Lectionary 28 Year B

The 15th Sunday after Pentecost to the 21st Sunday after Pentecost

September 1 to October 13, 2024

Prepared by Rev. Erik Parker

Planning Notes for Leaders

Season and Lectionary

In the fall portion of Ordinary time - the second half of the yearly liturgical calendar that is the long season of Green where we slow down the pace of the action - we continue to hear Jesus' teaching, parables, miracles and other vignettes from his years of ministry.

Green Sundays are often colloquially referred to as Pentecost Sundays, though this is technically incorrect. They are Sundays AFTER Pentecost, which is a season that lasts just one day - the 50th day after Easter Sunday. The long season of green doesn't have a proper name, but the most accurate term is 'Ordinary Time.' The season is not ordinary as in boring or average, but rather ordinary refers to 'ordinal time' or counting time.

In Lectionary Year B our focus is the Gospel of Mark, beginning with Jesus' call to the first disciples. Mark's gospel was likely written to the early church community living in Rome, contending with how to be followers of Jesus living in the diaspora.

Another feature of the readings for Ordinary Time is that there is a choice for the First reading and Psalm to be made between the Thematic set of readings and the Semi-Continuous. The official lectionary of the ELCIC is the Semi-Continuous option, but our sibling church to the south the ELCA uses the Thematic readings. Thus the Thematic set is often the default when using Sundays and Seasons planning tools. The Thematic first reading and Psalm are chosen to fit the theme of the Gospel reading thus might jump around from book to book in the Old Testament. The Semi-Continuous usually follows readings connected to one another (this year following the story of King David and the Kingdom of Israel) but might not obviously fit the themes of the Gospel reading.

Seasonal visuals and music

The colour for Ordinary Time is Green. Given the length of the season, a possible variation throughout would be to begin with light shades of green for vestments, paraments and other fabric decor. Throughout the season or part-way through changes to darker and darker greens can mark the passage of time. Potted plants and flowers may also feature prominently in the seasonal decorations.

Given the variety and open nature of the season, Ordinary Time is the chance to choose all the music that isn't particularly connected to other seasons. Often there are hymns and songs that

speak to particular Gospel texts or other readings. There also might be other music that connects with the green theme of growing and nature during this time.

Seasonal variations on the liturgy

Ordinary Time is usually a chance to simplify the liturgy.

Ordinary Time can be a time to play with omitting the Kyrie or Hymn of Praise or both. Other hymns may be substituted in their place, or a simpler service that moves from Apostolic Greeting to the Prayer of the Day is also possible.

In the season of Ordinary Time the Apostle's Creed is normally used.

Other liturgies may be acceptable on Sunday mornings such as Morning Prayer.

Special hymn choices for a set time might be advisable, such as the same call to worship or offertory during a period of 4 or 6 weeks.

The seasonal prayer options provided by Sundays and Seasons for Confession and Forgiveness, the Offering Prayer, the Thanksgiving at the Table and the Blessing will often contain themes related to the Gospel stories of the season and/or related to growing and new life.

In some congregations, a particular focus on creation is used called '**The Season of Creation.**' Resources for this fall emphasis can be found here: <https://lutheranworld.org/resources/publication-season-creation-celebration-guide-2024>

Suggested Orders for Holy Communion and Service of the Word

Order for Holy Communion

Gathering

Greeting
Kyrie (Option to Omit)
Hymn of Praise (Option to Omit)
Prayer of the Day

Word

First Reading (Choose between Thematic and Semi-Continuous)
Psalm (Choose between Thematic and Semi-Continuous)
Second Reading
Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Readings

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Nicene Creed

Prayers of Intercession

ELW p. 105 offers helpful guidelines for crafting prayers from the assembly

Peace

Offering

Meal

Eucharistic Prayer

(ELW p. 65-70, choose between forms V-XI)

Lord's Prayer

Communion

Prayer after Communion

Sending

Blessing

God most merciful

✠ bless you, keep you,
and give you peace.

Amen.

(From SundaysandSeasons.com)

Sending Hymn

Dismissal

Order for Service of the Word

Gathering

Greeting

Kyrie (Option to Omit)

Hymn of Praise (Option to Omit)

Prayer of the Day

Word

First Reading (Choose between Thematic and Semi-Continuous)

Psalm (Choose between Thematic and Semi-Continuous)

Second Reading

Gospel Acclamation

Gospel Readings

Sermon

Hymn of the Day

Nicene Creed

Prayers of Intercession

ELW p. 105 offers helpful guidelines for crafting prayers from the assembly

Peace

Offering

THANKSGIVING FOR THE WORD for summer year B, adapted by Rev. Erik Parker

Let us pray.

Praise be to you O Lord, for in you, all things are made new: you bring life to the lifeless, hope to the hopeless and mercy to those in need. For your Word of peace, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

By your call through the prophets, you raised up a nation of your chosen people: You anointed David to defeat Goliath, you made him the King of your people, and through David's line you promised a saviour. For your Word of peace, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

Through Christ, your Kingdom comes near: From the smallest of all seeds it fills the garden, for disciples fearful in the boat, you calm the storm, for crowds without a shepherd you gather your people. For your Word of peace, O God,
we give you thanks and praise.

In the call of the Spirit, you promise us new life: grant us your gifts of faith, hope and love, in order that we might be a light to the world. Through your faithful and abiding love, remind us always that you are near: through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honour and glory forever.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Sending

Blessing

Blessing

God most merciful

✝ bless you, keep you,

and give you peace.

Amen.

(From SundaysandSeasons.com)

Sending Hymn

Dismissal

Communion Hymn Suggestions for the Season

All Who Hunger, Gather Gladly ELW 461

Now We Join in Celebration ELW 462
As the Grains of Wheat ELW 465
By Your Hand You Feed Your People ELW 469
Let Us Break Bread Together ELW 471
Eat This Bread ELW 472
Bread of Life from Heaven ELW 474
We Come to the Hungry Feast ELW 479
Here is Bread ELW 483
Lord Jesus Christ, lover of all ACS 1019
Spirit, open my heart ACS 1043
Jesus Christ, our blessed Savior ACS 963

Lectionary 22 / 15th Sunday After Pentecost September 1st, 2024

Lectionary:

Deuteronomy 4:1-2, 6-9; Song of Solomon 2:8-13 (semicontinuous); Psalm 15; Psalm 45:1-2, 6-9 (semicontinuous); James 1:17-27; Mark 7:1-8, 14-15, 21-23 (Green)

Hymn Suggestions:

Awake, my soul, and with the sun ELW 557
Lord, let my heart be good soil ELW 512
There's a wideness in God's mercy ELW 588
Let us Ever Walk with Jesus ELW 802
Mercy, we abide in you ACS 1077
Guide my feet ACS 987

Lectionary 23 / 16th Sunday After Pentecost September 8th, 2024

Lectionary:

Isaiah 35:4-7a; Proverbs 22:1-2, 8-9, 22-23 (semicontinuous); Psalm 146; Psalm 125 (semicontinuous); James 2:1-10 [11-13] 14-17; Mark 7:24-37 (Green)

Hymn Suggestions:

God is here! ELW 526, WOV 719
Earth and all stars! ELW 731
Open my heart ACS 1079
Hallelujah! We sing your praises/ Haleluya! Pelo tsa rona ELW 535
Hope of the world ACS 1085
Listen now for the gospel ACS 972

Lectionary 24 / 17th Sunday After Pentecost September 15th, 2024

Lectionary:

Isaiah 50:4-9a; Proverbs 1:20-33 (semicontinuous); Psalm 116:1-9; Psalm 19 or Wisdom 7:26--8:1 (semicontinuous); James 3:1-12; Mark 8:27-38 (Green)

Hymn Suggestions:

How firm a foundation ELW 796
God, my faithful God ELW 806
Christ is the life ACS 927
Take up your cross, the savior said ELW 667
Before the waters nourished earth ACS 1049

Lectionary 25 / 18th Sunday After Pentecost September 22nd, 2024

Lectionary:

Jeremiah 11:18-20; Wisdom 1:16--2:1, 12-22 (alternate); Proverbs 31:10-31 (semicontinuous); Psalm 54; Psalm 1 (semicontinuous); James 3:13--4:3, 7-8a; Mark 9:30-37 (Green)

Hymn Suggestions:

Oh, praise the gracious power ELW 651
Built on a rock ELW 652
Lord, whose love in humble service ELW 712
The Spirit sends us forth to serve ELW 551
God, we gather as your people / For All the Children ACS 1038
Build a longer table ACS 1062

Lectionary 26 / 19th Sunday After Pentecost September 29th, 2024

Lectionary:

Numbers 11:4-6, 10-16, 24-29; Esther 7:1-6, 9-10, 9:20-22 (semicontinuous); Psalm 19:7-14; Psalm 124 (semicontinuous); James 5:13-20; Mark 9:38-50; (Green)

Hymn Suggestions:

How clear is our vocation, Lord ELW 580
Where cross the crowded ways of life ELW 719
O Jesus, I have promised ELW 810
Feed us with hunger for justice ACS 968
Look who gathers at Christ's table ACS 977

Lectionary 27 / 20th Sunday After Pentecost October 6th, 2024

Lectionary:

Genesis 2:18-24; Job 1:1, 2:1-10 (semicontinuous); Psalm 8; Psalm 26 (semicontinuous); Hebrews 1:1-4, 2:5-12; Mark 10:2-16 (Green))

Hymn Suggestions:

Earth is full of wit and wisdom ACS 1064
Lord, let my heart be good soil ELW 512
For the fruit of all creation ELW 679
For the beauty of the earth ELW 879
As rivers flow from a distant spring ACS 1046

Lectionary 28 / 21st Sunday After Pentecost October 13th, 2024

Lectionary:

Amos 5:6-7, 10-15; Job 23:1-9, 16-17 (semicontinuous); Psalm 90:12-17; Psalm 22:1-15 (semicontinuous); Hebrews 4:12-16; Mark 10:17-31 (Green)

Hymn Suggestions:

We plow the fields and scatter LBW 362
Rise up, O saints of God! ELW 669
Come, ye thankful people, come ELW 693
Take my life, that I may be ELW 583
Take my life, that I may be ELW 685
For the troubles and the sufferings ACS 1051