

# **BELIEVERS EASTERN CHURCH LECTIONARY**

Bible Readings for Sundays  
and Other Special Days 2018–2019

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Bible Readings for Sundays  
and Other Special Days 2018–2019

Approved by the Synod Liturgical Commission  
Authorised by the Metropolitan.

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## PREFACE

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit ✠

A foundational principle of Believers Eastern Church is the priority we give to the reading, studying and teaching of God's Word. This is not only because it is a pattern given to us to follow by the apostles and Church Fathers, but also because God's Word is powerful and is the means to change and transform our lives.

The Word of God has the power to change lives inside out. "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discernor of the thoughts and intents of the heart" (Hebrews 4:12).

The Holy Bible provides us principles to live by, and it gives us hope and faith. "Faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10:17). It is important that we read and study the Word and teach it regularly in our parishes.

Designed to achieve that end, the lectionary is a compilation of Scripture arranged for our Sunday worship and other special days of the year. It thus becomes a guide for us to systematically read and study Gods Word.

My prayer is that this lectionary will help all of our parishes to become healthy, strong and vibrant in our knowledge and walk with God.

May the blessings of the Triune God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be with you. Amen ✠

✠ Moran Mor Athanasius Yohan Metropolitan

St Thomas Community  
1 October 2018

<b>ADVENT</b>	
<p>A season of preparation, beginning on the fourth Sunday before Christmas, in which the church recalls its hope and expectation of the coming of Christ to redeem the world (St John 3:16).</p>	
<b>1<sup>st</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>2 December 2018</b>                      First Sunday of Advent  <b>Mission Sunday</b>—<i>Special Offering</i>                      First Reading : Jeremiah 33:14–16                      Psalm Reading : Psalm 25:1–10                      Second Reading : 1 Thessalonians 3:9–13                      Gospel Reading : St Luke 21:25–36</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> The promise of the coming Saviour  <b>Outline:</b>                      1. The Lord our righteousness (Jer.)                      2. The Lord who forgives our sins (Ps.)                      3. The Lord who establishes us in holiness (1 Thess.)                      4. Waiting and preparing for the return of the Lord (Luke)</p>
<b>2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>9 December 2018</b>                      Second Sunday of Advent                      First Reading : Malachi 3:1–4                      Psalm Reading : Psalm 16:5–11                      Second Reading : Philippians 1:3–11                      Gospel Reading : St Luke 3:1–6</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Prepare the way of the Lord  <b>Outline:</b>                      1. The Lord is coming to refine His people (Mal.)                      2. The Lord is our inheritance (Ps.)                      3. Be blameless until the day of the Lord (Phil.)                      4. Repent and prepare for His coming (Luke)</p>
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>16 December 2018</b>                      Third Sunday of Advent                      First Reading : Zephaniah 3:14–20                      Psalm Reading : Psalm 78:1–7                      Second Reading : Philippians 4:4–7                      Gospel Reading : St Luke 3:7–18</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Hope of restoration  <b>Outline:</b>                      1. Rejoice at His coming (Zeph.)                      2. His works must be retold to posterity (Ps.)                      3. Be joyful in prayer (Phil.)                      4. Bear fruit until He comes (Luke)</p>
<b>4<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>23 December 2018</b>                      Fourth Sunday of Advent                      First Reading : Micah 5:2–5                      Psalm Reading : Psalm 80:1–7                      Second Reading : Hebrews 10:5–10                      Gospel Reading : St Luke 1:39–45</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> The Messiah is coming  <b>Outline:</b>                      1. The coming Messiah (Mic.)                      2. God alone can restore (Ps.)                      3. Obedience is better than Sacrifice (Heb.)                      4. Blessed are those who wait for His coming (Luke)</p>

<b>CHRISTMAS</b>	
<p>The Christmas-Epiphany season includes Christmas Eve/Day and the twelve days of Christmas. It recalls the stories of the birth and infancy of Christ. During this time, we celebrate the wonder of the incarnation; the season concludes with Epiphany.</p>	
<b>Christmas Eve</b>	
<p><b>24 December 2018, Monday</b></p> <p>First Reading : Isaiah 62:6–12            Psalm Reading : Psalm 98            Second Reading : Titus 3:4–7            Gospel Reading : St Luke 2:1–7</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Salvation is at hand  <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Approaching salvation (Isa.)</li> <li>2. Rejoice at the revealing of His Salvation (Ps.)</li> <li>3. We are made heirs by His grace (Titus)</li> <li>4. Promise of God fulfilled (Luke)</li> </ol>
<b>Christmas Day</b>	
<p><b>25 December 2018, Tuesday</b></p> <p>First Reading : Isaiah 52:7–10            Psalm Reading : Psalm 96            Second Reading : Titus 2:11–14            Gospel Reading : St Luke 2:8–20</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> The birth of the Saviour  <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Glad tidings of great joy (Isa.)</li> <li>2. Declare His greatness (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Acknowledge Him as Redeemer (Titus)</li> <li>4. God's greatest gift (Luke)</li> </ol>
<b>5<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>30 December 2018</b>            First Sunday after Christmas</p> <p>First Reading : 1 Samuel 2:18–20, 26            Psalm Reading : Psalm 148            Second Reading : Colossians 3:12–17            Gospel Reading : St Luke 2:41–52</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Growing in the favour of God and man  <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Grow in His grace and favour (1 Sam.)</li> <li>2. Grow in your relationship with the Father (Luke)</li> <li>3. The crescendo of praise (Ps.)</li> <li>4. Pleasing God in word and deed (Col.)</li> </ol>
<b>Watchnight/New Year Service</b>	
<p><b>31 December 2018 and 1 January 2019</b></p> <p>First Reading : Numbers 6:22–27            Psalm Reading : Psalm 8            Second Reading : Galatians 4:4–7            Gospel Reading : St Luke 2:15–21</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Celebrating His faithfulness  <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God is the source of all blessings (Num.)</li> <li>2. Humans are to reflect His glory (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Privilege and responsibility of sonship (Gal.)</li> <li>4. God's solidarity with sinful humanity (Luke)</li> </ol>
<b>The Epiphany—6<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>6 January 2019</b>  <b>World Leprosy Day—<i>Special Offering</i></b></p> <p>First Reading : Isaiah 60:1–6            Psalm Reading : Psalm 72:1–14            Second Reading : Ephesians 3:1–12            Gospel Reading : St Matthew 2:1–12</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Be a light to the nations  <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Your light has come (Isa.)</li> <li>2. The glory of His reign (Ps.)</li> <li>3. The mystery of the ages revealed (Eph.)</li> <li>4. The mystery revealed to all (Matt.)</li> </ol>

**AFTER EPIPHANY**

A period in which the church reflects on the manifestation of Christ to all people. The Baptism of the Lord is the first Sunday of this period. On the last Sunday, we hear the readings for the Transfiguration of the Lord. The length of this period varies depending on the date of Easter.

**7<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

**13 January 2019**

First Sunday after the Epiphany

First Reading : Isaiah 43:1–7  
 Psalm Reading : Psalm 29  
 Second Reading : Acts 8:14–17  
 Gospel Reading : St Luke 3:15–22

**Theme:** Divine provisions

**Outline:**

1. God’s protection to His children (Isa.)
2. God is sovereign (Ps.)
3. The Son of God will baptize us with fire (Luke)
4. The promise of the Holy Spirit (Acts)

**Unity Prayer Week/Unity Octave—January 18–25**

**8<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

**20 January 2019**

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

First Reading : Isaiah 62:1–5  
 Psalm Reading : Psalm 36:5–10  
 Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 12:1–11  
 Gospel Reading : St John 2:1–11

**Theme:** Gifts of God for the people of God

**Outline:**

1. God’s righteousness shines through us (Isa.)
2. God’s love gives light of life (Ps.)
3. God’s gifts for the edification of the church (1 Cor.)
4. God’s compassion towards His people (John)

**9<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

**27 January 2019**

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

First Reading : Nehemiah 8:1–10  
 Psalm Reading : Psalm 19  
 Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 12:12–31  
 Gospel Reading : St Luke 4:14–21

**Theme:** Mission of the church

**Outline:**

1. Mission rediscovered through worship (Neh.)
2. Mission is discovered (Ps.)
3. Mission defined (Luke)
4. Mission in unity (1 Cor.)

**10<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

**3 February 2019**

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

**Children Sunday—*Special Offering***

First Reading : Jeremiah 1:4–10  
 Psalm Reading : Psalm 71:1–6  
 Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 13:1–13  
 Gospel Reading : St Luke 4:22–30

**Theme:** Called to love

**Outline:**

1. God who knows us by name (Jer.)
2. God is our hope (Ps.)
3. The pre-eminence of love (1 Cor.)
4. Continuing love despite rejection (Luke)



<b>11<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>10 February 2019</b> Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>First Reading : Isaiah 6:1–13 Psalm Reading : Psalm 138 Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 15:1–11 Gospel Reading : St Luke 5:1–11</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Called to build His community <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Conviction of our call (Isa.)</li> <li>2. Depending on God's faithfulness (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Be a true witness to the Risen Lord (1 Cor.)</li> <li>4. Call to make disciples (Luke)</li> </ol>
<b>12<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>17 February 2019</b> Sixth Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>First Reading : Jeremiah 17:5–10 Psalm Reading : Psalm 1 Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 15:12–20 Gospel Reading : St Luke 6:17–26</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> How to be blessed <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Trusting God alone (Jer.)</li> <li>2. Blessings of obeying His word (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Trust in the risen Lord (1 Cor.)</li> <li>4. The way of blessing (Luke)</li> </ol>
<b>13<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>24 February 2019</b> Seventh Sunday after the Epiphany</p> <p>First Reading : Genesis 45:3–15 Psalm Reading : Psalm 37:1–11 Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 15:35–50 Gospel Reading : St Luke 6:27–38</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> God works for our good and His glory <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Adversities are God's blessings in disguise (Gen.)</li> <li>2. Wait patiently for the Lord (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Purpose of our waiting—the glorious resurrection (1 Cor.)</li> <li>4. Be merciful (Luke)</li> </ol>
<b>World Day of Prayer</b>	
<p><b>1 March 2019, Friday</b></p> <p>First Reading : Nehemiah 1:4–11 Psalm Reading : Psalm 20 Second Reading : Ephesians 1:15–23 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 5:43–48</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Prayer aligns with God's will <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Praying for community (Neh.)</li> <li>2. The Lord saves the one who trusts in Him (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Pray specifically for spiritual wisdom (Eph.)</li> <li>4. Prayer changes our prejudices (Matt.)</li> </ol>
<b>Transfiguration Sunday—14<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>3 March 2019</b> <b>Women Sunday—<i>Special Offering</i></b></p> <p>First Reading : Exodus 34:29–35 Psalm Reading : Psalm 99 Second Reading : 2 Corinthians 3:12–4:2 Gospel Reading : St Luke 9:28–36</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Effects of transforming grace <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Called to shine (Exod.)</li> <li>2. Called to be holy (Ps.)</li> <li>3. The glory of God the Son revealed (Luke)</li> <li>4. Called to reflect the glory of the Lord (2 Cor.)</li> </ol>

**GREATER LENT**

The Lent Season begins with Ash Wednesday and concludes at sundown on Holy Saturday. During the forty weekdays and six Sundays in Lent, the church remembers the life and ministry of Jesus and renews its commitment to Him through Christian disciplines. The season is the traditional time to prepare for baptisms and confirmations to be celebrated at the Easter Vigil or on Easter Sunday, or during the season of Easter.

**Ash Wednesday (Day of Repentance)**

**6 March 2019, Wednesday**

First Reading : Joel 2:1–17  
 Psalm Reading : Psalm 51:1–17  
 Second Reading : 2 Corinthians 5:20–6:10  
 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21

**Theme:** Marks of repentance

**Outline:**

1. Called to penitence (Joel & Ps.)
2. Called to repentance (Matt. & Ps.)
3. Reconcile with God (2 Cor.)
4. Called to do right things (Matt.)

**Birthday of Moran Mor Athanasius Yohan Metropolitan**

**8 March 2019, Friday**

First Reading : Exodus 19:3–8  
 Psalm Reading : Psalm 121  
 Second Reading : Ephesians 2:19–22  
 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 5:11–16

**Theme:** Be a witness to His acts

**Outline:**

1. God of deliverance (Exod.)
2. God who preserves (Ps.)
3. Rooted and built up in Christ, our cornerstone (Eph.)
4. Beatitude of salt and light (Matt.)

**15<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

**10 March 2019**

First Sunday of Lent  
 First Reading : Deuteronomy 26:1–11  
 Psalm Reading : Psalm 91:9–16  
 Second Reading : Romans 10:8–13  
 Gospel Reading : St Luke 4:1–13

**Theme:** God our salvation

**Outline:**

1. Worship as a response to His salvation (Deut.)
2. The Most High, our Refuge (Ps.)
3. Call upon Him and be saved (Rom.)
4. The Word alone can save from temptations (Luke)

**16<sup>th</sup> Sunday**

**17 March 2019**

Second Sunday of Lent  
 First Reading : Genesis 15:1–18  
 Psalm Reading : Psalm 27  
 Second Reading : Philippians 3:17–4:1  
 Gospel Reading : St Luke 13:31–35

**Theme:** Keeping covenantal relationship

**Outline:**

1. Jehovah who initiates the covenant (Gen.)
2. The Lord will never forsake us (Ps.)
3. Stand firm in the Lord (Phil.)
4. Heed His commands (Luke)

<b>17<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>24 March 2019</b> Third Sunday of Lent</p> <p>First Reading : Isaiah 55:1–9 Psalm Reading : Psalm 63:1–8 Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 10:1–13 Gospel Reading : St Luke 13:1–9</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Return to the Lord <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Invitation to abundant life (Isa.)</li> <li>2. Seek and find God's loving kindness (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Material blessings should not lead us astray (1 Cor.)</li> <li>4. Repent and bear fruit (Luke)</li> </ol>
<b>18<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>31 March 2019</b> Fourth Sunday of Lent</p> <p>First Reading : Joshua 5:9–12 Psalm Reading : Psalm 32 Second Reading : 2 Corinthians 5:16–21 Gospel Reading : St Luke 15:1–3, 11–32</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Forgiveness and reconciliation <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God forgives our past mistakes (Josh.)</li> <li>2. Blessed is the one who truly repents (Ps.)</li> <li>3. The ministry of reconciliation (2 Cor.)</li> <li>4. Save the lost (Luke)</li> </ol>
<b>19<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>7 April 2019</b> Fifth Sunday of Lent <b>Media Sunday</b>—<i>Special Offering</i></p> <p>First Reading : Isaiah 43:16–21 Psalm Reading : Psalm 126 Second Reading : Philippians 3:4–14 Gospel Reading : St John 12:1–8</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Divine restoration and human response <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God will restore His people (Ps.)</li> <li>2. Do not dwell on the past (Isa.)</li> <li>3. Forget the past and press forward (Phil.)</li> <li>4. Devotion to God is greater than piety (John)</li> </ol>
<b>HOLY WEEK</b> <b>Passion/Palm Sunday—20<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>14 April 2019</b> Sixth Sunday of Lent</p> <p>First Reading : Isaiah 50:4–9 Psalm Reading : Psalm 31:9–16 Second Reading : Philippians 2:5–11 Gospel Reading : St Luke 19:28–40</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> The humble and the servant King <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The suffering King (Isa.)</li> <li>2. Plea for deliverance (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Jesus—the epitome of a humble King (Phil.)</li> <li>4. Triumphant entry of the humble King (Luke)</li> </ol>
<b>Maundy/Holy Thursday</b>	
<p><b>18 April 2019, Thursday</b></p> <p>First Reading : Exodus 12:1–14 Psalm Reading : Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19 Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 11:23–26 Gospel Reading : St John 13:1–17</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Eucharistic lifestyle <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Passover: shadow of the great sacrifice (Exod.)</li> <li>2. Thank the Lord for His benefits (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Do this in remembrance of me (1 Cor.)</li> <li>4. The new commandment (John)</li> </ol>

<b>Good Friday</b>			
<p><b>19 April 2019, Friday</b></p> <p>First Reading : Isaiah:52:13–53:12                  Psalm Reading : Psalm 22:1–11                  Second Reading : Hebrews 10:16–25                  Gospel Reading : St John 18:1–19</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Reflections on the cross  <b>Outline:</b></p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;">                     1. “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.” (St Luke 23:34)                      2. “This day you will be with me in Paradise.” (St Luke 23:43)                      3. “Woman, behold your son.” (St John 19:26–27)                 </td> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;">                     4. “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” (St Mark 15:34; St Matt. 27:46)                      5. “I thirst.” (St John 19:28)                      6. “It is finished.” (St John 19:30)                      7. “Into your hands I commit my spirit.” (St Luke 23:46)                 </td> </tr> </table>	1. “Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.” (St Luke 23:34) 2. “This day you will be with me in Paradise.” (St Luke 23:43) 3. “Woman, behold your son.” (St John 19:26–27)	4. “My God, My God, why have you forsaken me?” (St Mark 15:34; St Matt. 27:46) 5. “I thirst.” (St John 19:28) 6. “It is finished.” (St John 19:30) 7. “Into your hands I commit my spirit.” (St Luke 23:46)
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<b>Easter Vigil/Holy Saturday</b>			
<p><b>20 April 2019, Saturday</b></p> <p>First Reading : Ezekiel 37:1–14                  Psalm Reading : Psalm 114                  Second Reading : Romans 6:3–11                  Gospel Reading : St Matthew 27:57–66</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> New life in Christ  <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Spirit of God gives life (Ezek.)</li> <li>2. Fear God who can change the circumstances (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Dying so that we may live again (Rom.)</li> <li>4. The account of Jesus’ burial (Matt.)</li> </ol>		
<b>EASTER</b>			
<p>The great fifty days of Easter includes eight Sundays beginning with the Easter Vigil and concluding on the day of Pentecost. The season celebrates the resurrection and ascension of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.</p>			
<b>Easter—21<sup>st</sup> Sunday</b>			
<p><b>21 April 2019</b>                  First Sunday of Easter</p> <p>First Reading : Acts 10:34–43                  Psalm Reading : Psalm 118:14–24                  Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 15:19–26                  Gospel Reading : St Luke 24:1–12</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Christ the risen Lord  <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Resurrection is the Gospel (Acts)</li> <li>2. Rejoice in God’s mighty acts (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Resurrection is our hope of glory (1 Cor.)</li> <li>4. The Easter narrative (Luke)</li> </ol>		
<b>22<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</b>			
<p><b>28 April 2019</b>                  Second Sunday of Easter</p> <p>First Reading : Acts 5:27–32                  Psalm Reading : Psalm 150                  Second Reading : Revelation 1:4–8                  Gospel Reading : St John 20:19–31</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Witnessing community  <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Proclaim Jesus the Saviour (Acts)</li> <li>2. Praise the all-powerful creator God (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Be a witness to the risen Lord (Rev.)</li> <li>4. Confess the Lordship of Christ (John)</li> </ol>		
<b>23<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</b>			
<p><b>5 May 2019</b>                  Third Sunday of Easter  <b>Clergy Welfare Sunday—<i>Special Offering</i></b></p> <p>First Reading : Acts 9:1–20                  Psalm Reading : Psalm 30                  Second Reading : Revelation 5:11–14                  Gospel Reading : St John 21:1–19</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Victorious life  <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Encounter with the risen Lord (Acts)</li> <li>2. Life in fellowship with God (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Witness to the victorious Lord (Rev.)</li> <li>4. Called to be shepherds (John)</li> </ol>		

<b>St John the Apostle's Day—May 8<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>Mother's Day—24<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>12 May 2019</b> Fourth Sunday of Easter</p> <p>First Reading : Acts 9:36–43 Psalm Reading : Psalm 23 Second Reading : Revelation 7:9–17 Gospel Reading : St John 10:22–30</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Vocation of mothers <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A life dedicated for others (Acts)</li> <li>2. Role of mother as a shepherd (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Mothers as redeemed and committed (Rev.)</li> <li>4. Mothers as messengers of the Lord (John)</li> </ol>
<b>Family Dedication Day—25<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>19 May 2019</b> Fifth Sunday of Easter</p> <p>First Reading : Acts 11:1–18 Psalm Reading : Psalm 148 Second Reading : Revelation 21:1–6 Gospel Reading : St John 13:31–35</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> The redeemed community of God <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God deserves praises from all creation (Ps.)</li> <li>2. God is preparing a new community for Himself (Rev.)</li> <li>3. God shows no partiality (Acts)</li> <li>4. The new commandment for the community (John)</li> </ol>
<b>26<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>26 May 2019</b> Sixth Sunday of Easter</p> <p>First Reading : Acts 16:9–15 Psalm Reading : Psalm 67 Second Reading : Revelation 21:10, 21:22–22:5 Gospel Reading : St John 14:23–29</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> God initiates and directs His mission <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God's ways and salvation should be proclaimed to all (Ps.)</li> <li>2. He directs His people for this proclamation (Acts)</li> <li>3. Holy Spirit is the source of our proclamation (John)</li> <li>4. God will be the light and salvation of His people (Rev.)</li> </ol>
<b>Ascension—27<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>2 June 2019</b> Seventh Sunday of Easter <b>Seminary Sunday—<i>Special Offering</i></b></p> <p>First Reading : Acts 16:16–34 Psalm Reading : Psalm 97 Second Reading : Revelation 22:12–21 Gospel Reading : St John 17:20–26</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Witness and reward <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Sovereign Lord reigns (Ps.)</li> <li>2. Witness at any cost (Acts)</li> <li>3. God will reward according to one's deeds (Rev.)</li> <li>4. The ultimate reward for His people (John)</li> </ol>
<b>Day of Pentecost—28<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>9 June 2019</b></p> <p>First Reading : Acts 2:1–21 Psalm Reading : Psalm 104:24–35 Second Reading : Romans 8:14–17 Gospel Reading : St John 14:8–17</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> The Holy Spirit <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The Spirit gives life (Ps.)</li> <li>2. The Spirit bears witness (Rom.)</li> <li>2. The promise of the Holy Spirit (John)</li> <li>4. Fulfillment of the promise (Acts)</li> </ol>

<b>AFTER PENTECOST</b>	
<p>A period of time that varies in length depending on whether Easter is early or late. In this period, the church recalls its faith in the Holy Trinity. It seeks to relate its faith as a people of God to Christ's mission in the world. It commences with Trinity Sunday and concludes with the feast to Christ the King.</p>	
<b>Feast of the Holy Apostles—June 16–29</b>	
<b>Trinity Sunday/Father's Day—29<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>16 June 2019</b>                      First Sunday after Pentecost                      First Reading : Proverbs 8:1–4, 22–31                      Psalm Reading : Psalm 8                      Second Reading : Romans 5:1–5                      Gospel Reading : St John 16:12–15</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> The Holy Trinity  <b>Outline:</b>                      1. God's wisdom at work in creation (Prov.)                      2. Man's place in creation (Ps.)                      3. The work of the Triune God in our salvation (Rom.)                      4. The Holy Spirit will guide us into all truth (John)</p>
<b>30<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>23 June 2019</b>                      Second Sunday after Pentecost                      First Reading : 1 Kings 19:1–15                      Psalm Reading : Psalm 22:19–28                      Second Reading : Galatians 3:23–29                      Gospel Reading : St Luke 8:26–39</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> The Lord who provides and delivers  <b>Outline:</b>                      1. The Lord who provides (1 Kgs.)                      2. The Lord who delivers us (Ps.)                      3. The Lord who justifies us (Gal.)                      4. The Lord who meets all our needs (Luke)</p>
<b>31<sup>st</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>30 June 2019</b>                      Third Sunday after Pentecost                      First Reading : 2 Kings 2:1–14                      Psalm Reading : Psalm 77:11–20                      Second Reading : Galatians 5:1, 13–25                      Gospel Reading : St Luke 9:51–62</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> The spirit-filled life  <b>Outline:</b>                      1. God's anointing must be sought after (2 Kgs.)                      2. God will save His anointed (Ps.)                      3. A life being led by the Spirit (Gal.)                      4. The Spirit and the cost of discipleship (Luke)</p>
<b>St Thomas Day</b>	
<p><b>3 July 2019, Wednesday</b>                      First Reading : Daniel 7:1–3, 15–18                      Psalm Reading : Psalm 149                      Second Reading : Ephesians 1:11–23                      Gospel Reading : St Luke 6:20–31</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Momentary affliction prepares us for eternal glory  <b>Outline:</b>                      1. Today's woes will lead to tomorrow's blessings (Luke)                      2. God's Spirit enables us to realise our inheritance (Eph.)                      3. The holy people will inherit the kingdom (Dan.)                      4. Praise the Lord for the victory He has given (Ps.)</p>

<b>Seventy-two Evangelist Day—July 5<sup>th</sup></b>	
<b>32<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>7 July 2019</b> Fourth Sunday after Pentecost <b>Bible Sunday—<i>Special Offering</i></b> First Reading : 2 Kings 5:1–14 Psalm Reading : Psalm 66:1–9 Second Reading : Galatians 6:7–16 Gospel Reading : St Luke 10:1–11, 16–20</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Heed God’s voice and live <b>Outline:</b> 1. Heed the voice of God and reap blessings (2 Kgs) 2. Praise God for His awesome deeds (Ps.) 3. We will reap what we sow (Gal.) 4. Rejoice that our names are written in heaven (Luke)</p>
<b>33<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>14 July 2019</b> Fifth Sunday after Pentecost First Reading : Amos 7:7–17 Psalm Reading : Psalm 25:1–10 Second Reading : Colossians 1:1–14 Gospel Reading : St Luke 10:25–37</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Following the way of the Lord <b>Outline:</b> 1. The God will punish our disobedience (Amos) 2. Invoke God’s mercy and receive it (Ps.) 3. Live and walk worthy of the Lord (Col.) 4. The way of the Lord—love Him and love your neighbors (Luke)</p>
<b>34<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>21 July 2019</b> Sixth Sunday after Pentecost First Reading : Amos 8:1–12 Psalm Reading : Psalm 15 Second Reading : Colossians 1:15–28 Gospel Reading : St Luke 10:38–42</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Hunger after God <b>Outline:</b> 1. Seek the word of the Lord innately (Amos) 2. The character of an approved worshipper (Ps.) 3. The Christ in you—the hope of glory (Col.) 4. Worship is above service (Luke)</p>
<b>35<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>28 July 2019</b> Seventh Sunday after Pentecost First Reading : Hosea 1:2–10 Psalm Reading : Psalm 85 Second Reading : Colossians 2:6–15 Gospel Reading : St Luke 11:1–13</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Gracious and forgiving God <b>Outline:</b> 1. God’s forgiving love (Hos.) 2. God forgives and restores (Ps.) 3. New life in Christ (Col.) 4. Forgive as you have been forgiven (Luke)</p>
<b>36<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>4 August 2019</b> Eighth Sunday after Pentecost <b>Youth Sunday—<i>Special Offering</i></b> First Reading : Hosea 11:1–11 Psalm Reading : Psalm 49:1–12 Second Reading : Colossians 3:1–11 Gospel Reading : St Luke 12:13–21</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Living in the light of eternity <b>Outline:</b> 1. God’s reckless love (Hos.) 2. The folly of trusting mortals (Ps.) 3. Set your mind on things from above (Col.) 4. Do not work for worldly treasures (Luke)</p>

<b>37<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>11 August 2019</b> Ninth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>First Reading : Isaiah 1:1, 10–20 Psalm Reading : Psalm 33:12–22 Second Reading : Hebrews 11:1–3, 8–16 Gospel Reading : St Luke 12:32–40</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Be faithful stewards</p> <p><b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Worship without right living is in vain (Isa.)</li> <li>2. The Lord observes our actions (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Be faithful and alert (Luke)</li> <li>4. Keep trusting in God for the future hope (Heb.)</li> </ol>
<b>38<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>18 August 2019</b> Tenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>First Reading : Isaiah 5:1–7 Psalm Reading : Psalm 82 Second Reading : Hebrews 11:29–12:2 Gospel Reading : St Luke 12:49–56</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Live wisely as the days are evil</p> <p><b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. We are the vineyard of God (Isa.)</li> <li>2. God expects us to live justly (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Jesus Christ is the object of our faith (Heb.)</li> <li>4. Discern the sign of the times (Luke)</li> </ol>
<b>39<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>25 August 2019</b> Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>First Reading : Jeremiah 1:4–10 Psalm Reading : Psalm 71:1–6 Second Reading : Hebrews 12:18–29 Gospel Reading : St Luke 13:10–17</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> The privilege and responsibility of the called</p> <p><b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God empowers the called (Jer.)</li> <li>2. God’s hand is upon the called from birth (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Communion of the called (Heb.)</li> <li>4. Mission of the called (Luke)</li> </ol>
<b>40<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>1 September 2019</b> Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost <b>World Literacy Day—<i>Special Offering</i></b></p> <p>First Reading : Jeremiah 2:4–13 Psalm Reading : Psalm 112 Second Reading : Hebrews 13:1–8, 15–16 Gospel Reading : St Luke 14:1, 7–14</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Walk humbly before the Lord</p> <p><b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Do not forget the goodness of the Lord (Jer.)</li> <li>2. Blessed is the one who fears the Lord (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Do not forget to do good (Heb.)</li> <li>4. Do not exalt self (Luke)</li> </ol>
<b>World Literacy Day—41<sup>st</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>8 September 2019</b> Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>First Reading : Jeremiah 18:1–11 Psalm Reading : Psalm 139:1–6, 13–18 Second Reading : Philemon 1:1–21 Gospel Reading : St Luke 14:25–33</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Touching godliness through submission</p> <p><b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God knows us intimately (Ps.)</li> <li>2. Submit to the master potter (Jer.)</li> <li>3. Submit to your leaders (Philem.)</li> <li>4. Forsake all to follow Christ (Luke)</li> </ol>



<b>42<sup>nd</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>15 September 2019</b> Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>First Reading : Jeremiah 4:11–12, 22–28</p> <p>Psalm Reading : Psalm 14</p> <p>Second Reading : 1 Timothy 1:12–17</p> <p>Gospel Reading : St Luke 15:1–10</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> God's abundant mercy</p> <p><b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Apostasy will be punished (Jer.)</li> <li>2. God is looking for those who seek Him (Ps.)</li> <li>3. God is gracious to those who turn to Him (1 Tim.)</li> <li>4. Heaven rejoices when one's soul repents (Luke)</li> </ol>
<b>43<sup>rd</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>22 September 2019</b> Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>First Reading : Jeremiah 8:18–9:1</p> <p>Psalm Reading : Psalm 113</p> <p>Second Reading : 1 Timothy 2:1–7</p> <p>Gospel Reading : St Luke 16:1–13</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Duties of a true Christian</p> <p><b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God is concerned about human affairs (Ps.)</li> <li>2. Intercede for God's people (Jer.)</li> <li>3. Intercede for the elders (1 Tim.)</li> <li>4. Be faithful stewards (Luke)</li> </ol>
<b>44<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>29 September 2019</b> Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>First Reading : Jeremiah 32:1–3, 6–15</p> <p>Psalm Reading : Psalm 146</p> <p>Second Reading : 1 Timothy 6:6–19</p> <p>Gospel Reading : St Luke 16:19–31</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Godliness with contentment is great gain</p> <p><b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God fulfils our material needs (Jer.)</li> <li>2. Be content with what we have (1 Tim.)</li> <li>3. Blessed is he whose hope is in the Lord (Ps.)</li> <li>4. Do not put your trust in wealth (Luke)</li> </ol>
<b>45<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>6 October 2019</b> Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost <b>SOC Sunday—<i>Special Offering</i></b></p> <p>First Reading : Lamentations 3:19–26</p> <p>Psalm Reading : Psalm 137</p> <p>Second Reading : 2 Timothy 1:1–14</p> <p>Gospel Reading : St Luke 17:5–10</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> The Lord is your reward</p> <p><b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. It is good to wait for the Lord (Lam.)</li> <li>2. Longing for God's visitation (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Do your duties without expecting rewards (Luke)</li> <li>4. Hold on to the teachings imparted to you (2 Tim.)</li> </ol>
<b>46<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>13 October 2019</b> Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>First Reading : Jeremiah 29:1, 4–7</p> <p>Psalm Reading : Psalm 111</p> <p>Second Reading : 2 Timothy 2:8–15</p> <p>Gospel Reading : St Luke 17:11–19</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> The attitude that is pleasing to God</p> <p><b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Remember the covenant of God who is just (Ps.)</li> <li>2. Intercede before God for the place you dwell in (Jer.)</li> <li>3. Present ourselves as approved workers of God (2 Tim.)</li> <li>4. Be thankful for His benefits (Luke)</li> </ol>

<b>47<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>20 October 2019</b> Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>First Reading : Jeremiah 31:27–34 Psalm Reading : Psalm 119:97–104 Second Reading : 2 Timothy 3:14–4:5 Gospel Reading : St Luke 18:1–8</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> People of the new covenant <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Pray without ceasing (Luke)</li> <li>2. Meditate on the Word of God (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Preach the Word of God (2 Tim.)</li> <li>4. God’s people will have His words in their hearts (Jer.)</li> </ol>
<b>48<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>27 October 2019</b> Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>First Reading : Joel 2:23–32 Psalm Reading : Psalm 84:1–7 Second Reading : 2 Timothy 4:6–8, 16–18 Gospel Reading : St Luke 18:9–14</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> God’s providential care <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. God restores His people (Joel)</li> <li>2. God’s house is a shelter for His people (Ps.)</li> <li>3. The Lord will strengthen His people (2 Tim.)</li> <li>4. God vindicates the humble (Luke)</li> </ol>
<b>All Saints Day/Feast of All Saints—November 1<sup>st</sup></b>	
<b>49<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>3 November 2019</b> Twenty-first Sunday after Pentecost <b>World Sunday School Day/Children Sunday—<i>Special Offering</i></b></p> <p>First Reading : Habakkuk 1:1–4; 2:1–4 Psalm Reading : Psalm 119:137–144 Second Reading : 2 Thessalonians 1:1–4, 11–12 Gospel Reading : St Luke 19:1–10</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> Living faith <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The just shall live by faith (Hab.)</li> <li>2. The righteous shall live by His word (Ps.)</li> <li>3. God’s people must grow in faith (2 Thess.)</li> <li>4. The faith that transforms (Luke)</li> </ol>
<b>50<sup>th</sup> Sunday</b>	
<p><b>10 November 2019</b> Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost</p> <p>First Reading : Haggai 1:15b–2:9 Psalm Reading : Psalm 17:1–9 Second Reading : 2 Thessalonians 2:1–5, 13–17 Gospel Reading : St Luke 20:27–38</p>	<p><b>Theme:</b> The disciplines of christian life <b>Outline:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Be strong in the Lord (Hag.)</li> <li>2. Pray with confidence (Ps.)</li> <li>3. Hold on the traditions of true faith (2 Thess.)</li> <li>4. Look expectantly for the resurrection (Luke)</li> </ol>

**51<sup>st</sup> Sunday****17 November 2019**

Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading : Isaiah 65:17–25

Psalm Reading : Psalm 98

Second Reading : 2 Thessalonians 3:6–13

Gospel Reading : St Luke 21:5–19

**Theme:** Ultimate victory**Outline:**

1. God is coming to judge (Ps.)
2. The signs of His coming (Luke)
3. Do not grow weary in doing good (2 Thess.)
4. God will renew creation (Isa.)

**Annunciation of Virign Mary—52<sup>nd</sup> Sunday****24 November 2019**

Twenty-Fourth Sunday after Pentecost

First Reading : Jeremiah 23:1–6

Psalm Reading : Psalm 46

Second Reading : Colossians 1:11–20

Gospel Reading : St Luke 23:33–43

**Theme:** God—The giver and the gift**Outline:**

1. God is our refuge (Ps.)
2. The Lord Himself will shepherd His flock (Jer.)
3. God sacrifices Himself for His people (Luke)
4. God reconciles Himself with His people through Christ (Col.)

## DAYS OF SPECIAL OFFERING

Mission Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday, December 2018
World Leprosy Day	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday, January 2019
Children Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday, February 2019
Women Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday, March 2019
Media Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday, April 2019
Clergy Welfare Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday, May 2019
Seminary Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday, June 2019
Bible Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday, July 2019
Youth Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday, August 2019
World Literacy Day	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday, September 2019
SOC Sunday	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday, October 2019
World Sunday School Day	1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday, November 2019

## IMPORTANT DAYS OF THE CHRISTIAN CALENDAR YEAR 2018–19

1.	Beginning of Twenty-five Days of lent; Visitation of Virgin Mary to Elizabeth	December 1, 2018
2.	Birth of John the Baptist	December 8, 2018
3.	Annunciation to Joseph	December 15, 2018
4.	Sunday before Christmas (Our Lord Comes)	December 22, 2018
5.	Yeldho—Christmas	December 25, 2018
6.	Watchnight Service	December 31, 2018
7.	Feast of Circumcision and New Year	January 1, 2019
8.	Denaha—Baptism of Jesus	January 6, 2019
9.	St Stephen's Day	January 8, 2019
10.	Unity Prayer Week/Unity Octave	January 18–25, 2019
11.	Mayaltho—Entry of Jesus Christ to the Temple	February 2, 2019
12.	Fast of Nineveh (Three Day lent)	February 11, 2019
13.	World Day of Prayer	March 1, 2019
14.	Pethurtha—Begining of Great Lent, Transfiguration Sunday	March 3, 2019
15.	Ash Wednesday	March 6, 2019
16.	Birthday of Moran Mor Athanasius Yohan Metropolitan	March 8, 2019
17.	Mid Lent	March 27, 2019
18.	Fortieth Friday	April 12, 2019
19.	Hosanna Sunday (Palm Sunday)	April 14, 2019
20.	Good Friday	April 19, 2019
21.	Holy Saturday	April 20, 2019
22.	Easter	April 21, 2019
23.	St John the Apostle's Day	May 8, 2019
24.	Family Dedication Day	May 19, 2019
25.	Feast of the Ascension Day (Fortieth Day After Easter)	May 30, 2019
26.	Sulokho—Ascension Sunday	June 2, 2019
27.	Feast of Pentecost (Fiftieth Day After Easter)	June 9, 2019
28.	Feast of the Holy Apostles	June 16–29, 2019
29.	St Peter and Paul Memorial Day	June 29, 2019
30.	St Thomas the Apostle's Day	July 3, 2019
31.	Seventy-two Evangelists Day	July 5, 2019
32.	St James the Apostle's Day	July 25, 2019
33.	St Matthew the Apostle's Day	September 21, 2019
34.	All Saints Day/Feast of All Saints	November 1, 2019
35.	World Sunday School Day	November 1, 2019
36.	Annunciation of Zachariah	November 17, 2019
37.	Annunciation of Virgin Mary	November 24, 2019
38.	St Andrew the Apostle's Day	November 30, 2019

## APPENDIX: THE MEANING OF CHRISTIAN WORDS IN THE LECTIONARY

Lectionary	An ordered system for reading the Holy Scriptures at the worship Service
Advent	The first season of the church year—Preparation to celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ, and the anticipation of the return of Christ
Christmas	Celebration of the birth of Jesus
Christmas Eve	The evening before Christmas Day
Ephiphany	Manifestation of Christ during the Baptism of Jesus (Eastern)
Transfiguration	Christ's appearance in radiant glory in presence of his disciples
Lent	A period of penitence and fasting
Ash Wednesday	The first day of the Lent named for the custom of placing blessed ashes on the foreheads
Palm Sunday	The Sunday before Easter at which Jesus' triumphal entry of Jesus into Jerusalem
Holy Week	The week between Palm Sunday and Easter
Maundy/Holy Thursday	The Thursday before Easter Sunday that commemorates the institution of the Eucharist
Good Friday	Friday on which the church commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus
Easter Vigil	Celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus
Easter	The Feast of Christ's Resurrection
Ascension	The occasion on which the risen Christ is taken into heaven
Pentecost	The term means "Fiftieth day." It commemorates the descent of the Holy Spirit on the disciples
Trinity	The Trinity is one God: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit



