

The Readings

The lectionary is a big book that has all the Scripture readings we need for every possible service of the year. Each week, there are three readings:

The first is from the **OLD TESTAMENT**, except during the Easter season, when it's from **Acts**. This reading is foundational for the church. It usually compliments the **GOSPEL** lesson.

The second reading is from one of the letters in the **NEW TESTAMENT**, our **EPISTLE** reading. The epistles are the teachings of the apostles. **Acts 2:42** says: *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.*

The third reading is the **GOSPEL** lesson. This comes from the life and teaching of Jesus. We sit for the first two readings since that is a position of learning. We stand for the Gospel out of respect and honor for Jesus Christ. Before the Gospel, we stand to sing Alleluia (Praise God!), for He alone has the words of life.

We follow a three-year lectionary. *Year A* focusses on **Matthew**, *Year B* on **Mark**, and *Year C* on **Luke**. Readings from **John** are used throughout each year. The Gospel reading gives us the theme for the day. If you listen to the prayers, the sermon, and the hymns, you can hear how the theme develops from the readings.

Prayer:

Lord God, You have given us Your Word to create and build our faith. Help us to hear and learn it, so we may live the way You would have us live: through Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.