

Lay Leadership in Worship

Spring 2026

Session 2

Two Starting Points for Creating Liturgy (in this order!)

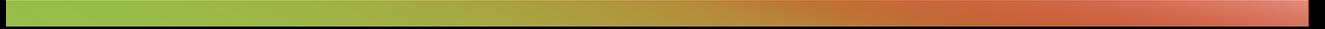
1. The Calendar
2. The Lectionary

The day or season
determines what the
readings (lections)
are.



One other factor . . .

Are there other
“interruptive
factors” in play?





The Calendar of the Church Year

Seasons & Sundays (the *temporale*)

Major Holy Days and other observances (the *sanctorale*)



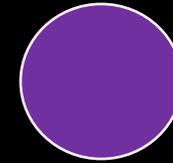
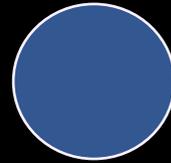
Where do I find this stuff?

-
- Some of it, you should just know!
 - BAS pp 14-33

Let's list the seasons & colours

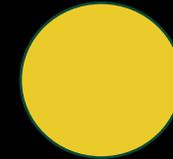
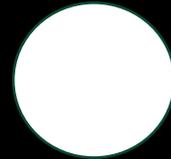
Advent

- Length?
- When does it start?
- What happens if Advent 4 is December 24?



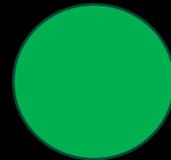
Christmas

- When is the last day?



Sundays after Epiphany

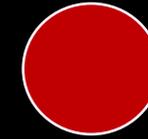
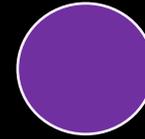
- Always begins with Baptism of our Lord
- Is reckoned by number
- Is there a “season” of Epiphany?



Let's list the seasons & colours

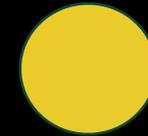
Lent

- When does it begin?
- Length?
- Holy Week & the Triduum (Solemn Three Days)



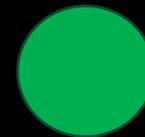
Easter

- When does it begin?
- Length? What is the last day of Easter?
- Sundays “of” Easter, not “after” Easter
- No season called “Pentecost”



Ordinary Time

- When does it begin? End?
- What is its theme?



Categorizing the Seasons

Life of
Christ

Advent / Christmas to Epiphany

Lent / Easter to Pentecost (& Trinity
Sunday)

Life of
the
Church

“Ordinary” (counted) time from
Baptism of our Lord to Sunday before
Lent

Ordinary time from Sunday after
Trinity until the Reign of Christ

Advent/Christmas

First Sunday of Advent
governed by the day of
the week on which
Christmas Day falls –
count back 4

november 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

december 2026

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

Lent & Easter

Dates are governed by the moon:

Easter Day is the first Sunday after the first full moon after the spring equinox

In 2026, April 5!



Ordinary Time

- 34 Sundays, split
- Called by their “proper number,” not how many Sundays after Epiphany or Pentecost !
- [A “proper” what?!]
- Proper 1 is always the Baptism of the Lord
- Proper 34 is always the Reign of Christ

And yet,
the basic
unit of
time is ...

The Week!

(Based on narratives of creation & redemption)

Focusing on the *Temporale*

For Sunday worship, this is your main concern – plodding through the Church year, week by week, within the overlay of the seasons.

Sunday marks our defining narrative:
resurrection & renewal

but

The *Sanctorale* can take precedence

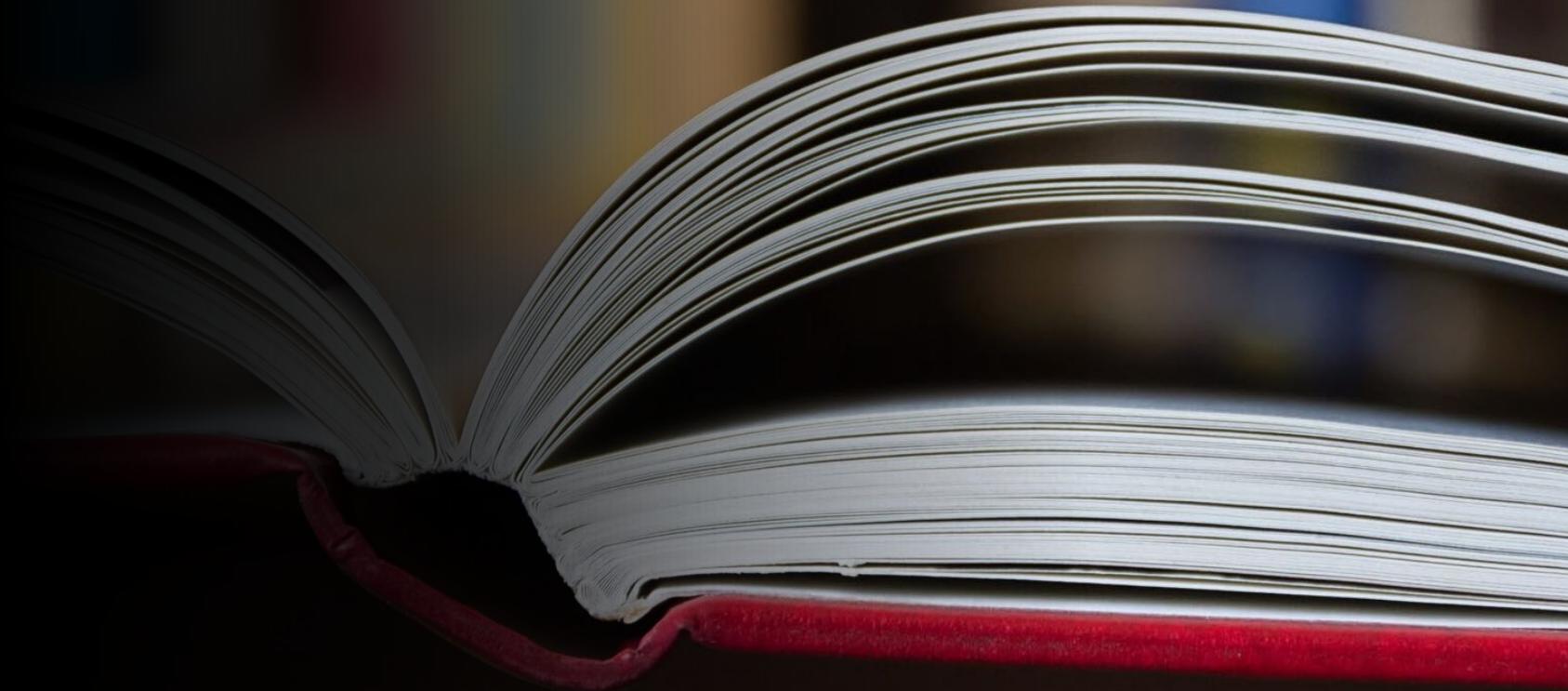
Major festivals punctuate the daily, like birthdays and anniversaries!

(For more information, see BAS pp 15-18)



The Lectionary

Now that we know
what we're celebrating,
what shall we read?



What's a Lectionary?

A prescribed cycle of bible readings (or “lections”) used by one or more denominations

Why a Lectionary?

Anglicans don't just get to choose what they *feel* like reading, or what preacher wants to preach about!

Who Chooses the Lectionary?

The Anglican Church of Canada, through its
General Synod



Current Lectionary used by the Anglican Church of Canada

“Revised Common Lectionary” (RCL) - supercedes Prayer Book lectionary

“Common” because it is shared by multiple denominations in multiple countries

“Revised” because this isn’t the first version!

Prepared by international, interdenominational liturgical and biblical scholars (“Consultation on Common Texts” and “English Language Liturgical Consultation,” ELLC)

Key Features of the “RCL”

- Three year cycle, Years A, B, C
- Two versions – “Typological” and “Semi-continuous.” You are to use the **semi-continuous** version
- Four readings each Sunday
 - Hebrew Scriptures (this was new for Anglicans at the eucharist)
 - Psalm (new to many Anglicans at the Sunday eucharist)
 - Epistle (or Acts or Revelation)
 - Gospel

Key Features of the “RCL”

- The Old Testament, Epistle & Gospel readings are all read “in course” or “semi-continuously” (new for Anglicans at the eucharist)
- Psalm is always a response to the first reading (do **NOT** use the Psalm prayer from the BAS!)

Chief Aims of the RCL

A practical expression of Christian unity

Recovery of the Hebrew Scriptures as normative for Christian worship

Allowing Old Testament narratives to unfold with their own integrity

Allowing epistles to unfold sequentially (“in course”)

Ensuring that all three Synoptic gospels are given their own integrity (one per year – “semi-continuous”)

3-year Sunday Lectionary

Year A (2025-2026)		
Gospel	Matthew	Jesus, the new Moses
First Reading	Isaiah (in lead up to Christmas) Great narratives of Genesis & Exodus Acts in Easter	Thematically related to the Gospel from Advent 1 to Easter Stories of the post-resurrection Church
Psalm		Is always a response to the first reading, and thematically related
Second Reading	Mainly Romans & 1 Corinthians Philippians & 1 Thessalonians	

A cup of dark coffee on a matching saucer sits on a dark, reflective surface. A thin layer of steam rises from the coffee. The background is dark, with a light-colored ledge or window frame visible on the left side. The text "COMFORT BREAK" is overlaid in white, bold, sans-serif font.

COMFORT BREAK

Where can I find
this “RCL”?

Option #1 of 3

In the BAS – but only in
versions printed **after 1989** –
see the frontispiece

Beginning on p. 268

The Book of Alternative Services

of the Anglican Church of Canada

with the Revised Common Lectionary

Sundays and Holy Days

Fourth Sunday in Lent—Year A

Sentence

I am the light of the world, says the Lord; those who follow me will have the light of life. *John 8.12*

Collect

Almighty God,
through the waters of baptism
your Son has made us children of light.
May we ever walk in his light
and show forth your glory in the world;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever.

Readings

1 Samuel 16.1–13 Psalm 23

Refrain The Lord has anointed his servant with oil. *Or v.5 or CR 1*

Ephesians 5.8–14 John 9.1–41

Prayer over the Gifts

God of light,
your Word brings to us a new vision of your glory.
Accept our offering of praise and thanksgiving,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Preface of Lent

Prayer after Communion

Father,
through your goodness
we receive your Son in word and sacrament.
May we always have faith in him,
Jesus Christ the Lord.

Where can I find this
“RCL”?

Option #2 of 3

Online at the Vanderbilt Revised
Common Lectionary site

lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu

Bookmark it!

There are lots of other goodies there, too – art, slides, prayers,
hymn suggestions, printable copies of the readings ...



The Revised Common Lectionary

a service of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library

[YEARS](#)

[RESOURCES](#)

[PRINT](#)

[SUBSCRIBE](#)

[SEARCH !\[\]\(ba6ba954e46cf978c7cb2eb8a8df1225_img.jpg\)](#)

[HELP](#)





1 Samuel 16:1-13 • Psalm 23 • Ephesians 5:8-14 • John 9:1-41

Year A

Fourth Sunday in Lent

Mar 15, 2026

Verse Numbers

1 Samuel 16:1-13

David is chosen and anointed

- 16:1 The LORD said to Samuel, "How long will you grieve over Saul? I have rejected him from being king over Israel. Fill your horn with oil and set out; I will send you to Jesse the Bethlehemite, for I have provided for myself a king among his sons."
- 16:2 Samuel said, "How can I go? If Saul hears of it, he will kill me." And the LORD said, "Take a heifer with you and say, 'I have come to sacrifice to the LORD.'"
- 16:3 Invite Jesse to the sacrifice, and I will show you what you shall do, and you shall anoint for me the one whom I name to you."
- 16:4 Samuel did what the LORD commanded and came to Bethlehem. The elders of the city came to meet him trembling and said, "Do you come peaceably?"

- ▶ Art
- ▶ Prayer
- ▶ Hymns
- ▶ Colors
- ▶ Other Versions
- ▶ Daily
- ▶ Slideshows (PDF)
- ▶ Slideshows (PPTX)
- ▶ Illustrations
- ▶ Print PDFs
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Prayer

LECTONARY » YEAR A » LENT » FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT PRAYER

Year A **Fourth Sunday in Lent** Mar 15, 2026

Thematic

God of wilderness and water,
your Son was baptized and tempted as we are.
Guide us through this season,
that we may not avoid struggle,
but open ourselves to blessing,
through the cleansing depths of repentance
and the heaven-rending words of the Spirit. Amen.

OR

Artist of souls,
you sculpted a people for yourself
out of the rocks of wilderness and fasting.
Help us as we take up your invitation to prayer and simplicity,
that the discipline of these forty days
may sharpen our hunger for the feast of your holy friendship,
and whet our thirst for the living water you offer
through Jesus Christ. Amen.

The texts of the Revised Common Lectionary Prayers were made possible with the cooperation of the Consultation on Common Texts, the ecumenical authoring body for the Revised Common Lectionary and the initiating body for the prayers. The prayers were written by many pastors from across the denominational spectrum—Catholic, Christian, Presbyterian, Methodist, Lutheran, Episcopal, etc. They are the group to which the credit belongs.

Art



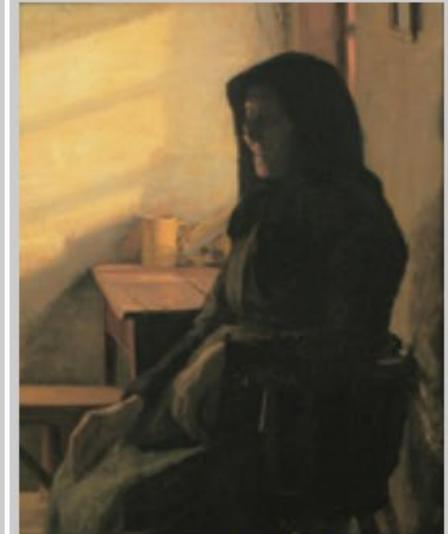
[Blind Kristian minding a child](#) .
Ancher, Michael, 1849-1927
Record number: [57303]

save



[Son of Man](#) .
McFall, David
Record number: [57304]

save



[Blind Woman in Her Room](#) .
Ancher, Anna, 1859-1935
Record number: [57305]

Caveat

Vanderbilt cites biblical references for the Psalms. You must check these against the version of the psalter you are using.

Example (Easter 3, Year A)

Psalm 116.1-4,12-19 (Bible)

is

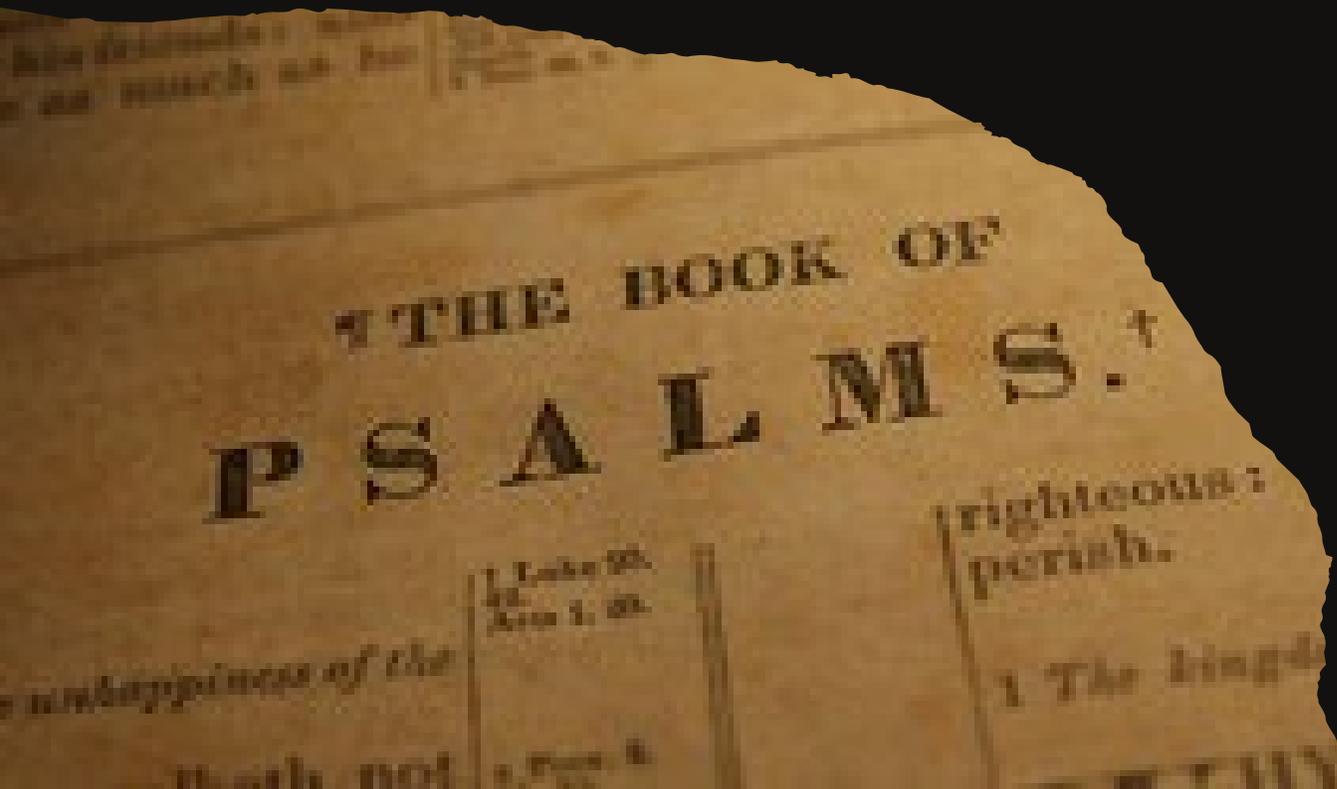
Psalm 116.1-4,12-18 (BCP)

is

Psalm 116.1-3,12-17 (BAS)

is

Psalm 116.1-4,12-19 (PWC)



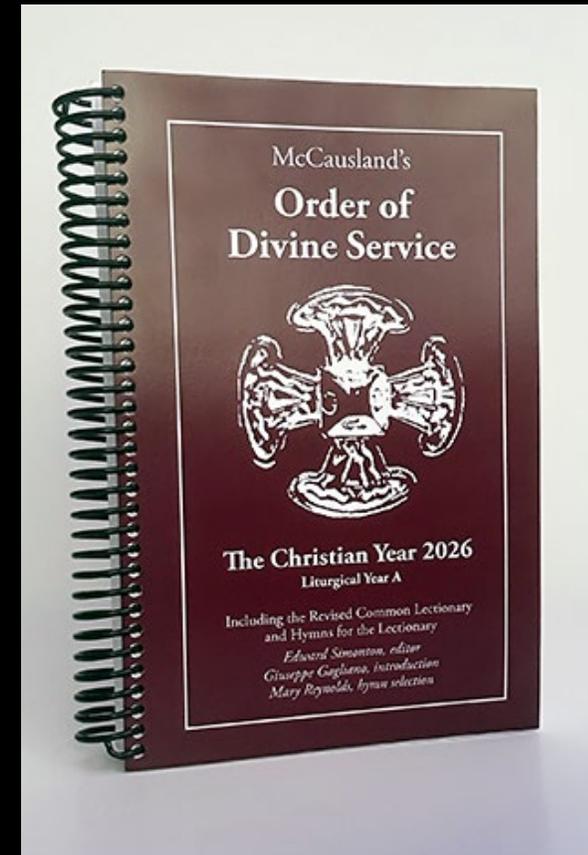
Where can I find this
“RCL”?

Option #3 of 3

McCausland's
Order of Divine Service –
Usually called “the Ordo”

The “ordo”

- Produced for the Anglican Church of Canada annually, running from Advent 1 to Proper 34 (The Reign of Christ)
- Contains some excellent essays – don’t be afraid of them!
- Does all your research for you – day of the year, colour, readings, options
- For those choosing hymns, a whole section of lection-based options (Blue Book, Common Praise, Ancient & Modern Rev, Jubilate)



Deciphering the Ordo –

It's not all Greek. Really!

Sunday March 15

Fourth Sunday in Lent (Violet)

HE Propers 291; 1 Sam 16:1-13; Ps 23; Eph 5:8-14;
John 9.1-41; Preface of Lent

DOL *MP* Ps 66, 67; Gen 48.8-22; Rom 8:11-25; Coll 291
EP Ps 19, 46; (Jer 14:1-9, 17-22); Jn 6:27-40; Coll 291

Monday, March 16

Lenten Feria (Violet)

Day of discipline and self-denial

Fourth
Sunday of
Lent

FOURTH SUNDAY IN LENT

B	CP	
376		Father of Lights, in Whom There Is No Shadow
	170	The Glory of These Forty Days
	514	Jesus, Joy of Our Desiring
	361	Surely It Is God Who Saves Me
539	520	The King of Love My Shepherd Is
547	519	The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want
561	444	Your (Thy) Hand, O God, Has Guided
	179 (+4th Sunday)	Tree of Life and Awesome Mystery
	115	Awake, O Sleeper, Rise From Death
	369	Thy Strong Word Did Cleave the Darkness
	465	Here in This Place New Light Is Streaming
	599	Awake! Awake! Fling Off the Night
	311	Awake, Arise: O Sing a New Song
	85	Shepherd of Souls, Refresh and Bless
803	345	King of Glory, King of Peace
	397	Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness
	446	Word of God, Come Down on Earth
284	560	God (Thou), Whose Almighty Word
401	393	Immortal, Invisible, God Only Wise
5	5	Christ Whose Glory Fills the Skies
568	505	Be Thou My Vision

Hymns

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Choosing a Collect

So, what's a collect?

A prayer that:

- follows a prescribed form;
- “collects” the community in prayer; and
- sets the theme or tone for the service.

The Collect belongs to the “propers” of the day, i.e. it is **variable**

It is chosen by you

Sources for collects

The BAS – bleh (and off the record,
here's why!)

Vanderbilt RCL -
<https://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/>

Anglican Church of Canada - [ACC
alternative collects](#)

Always remember, creating liturgy is a great honour.

It's also a lot of fun!
