

**BELIEVERS EASTERN CHURCH
LECTIONARY**

Bible Readings for Sundays
and Other Special Days 2019–2020

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and Other Special Days 2019–2020

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 discerner 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 I
Metropolitan

St Thomas Community
1 November 2019

ADVENT	
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).	
Beginning of Twenty-five Days of lent —1st Sunday	
<p>1 December 2019 First Sunday of Advent Mission Sunday—<i>Special Offering</i> First Reading : Isaiah 2:1–5 Psalm Reading : Psalm 122 Second Reading : Romans 13:11–14 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 24:36–44</p>	<p>Theme: Being watchful to meet the Lord Outline: 1. Walking in the light (Isa.) 2. Praying for the peace of heart (Ps.) 3. It is full time to awake (Rom.) 4. Constantly living in expectation (Matt.)</p>
Visitation of Virgin Mary to Elizabeth —2nd Sunday	
<p>8 December 2019 Second Sunday of Advent First Reading : Isaiah 11:1–10 Psalm Reading : Psalm 72:1–7, 18–19 Second Reading : Romans 15:4–13 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 3:1–12</p>	<p>Theme: Coming of Christ Outline: 1. It was foretold (Isa.) 2. It is a marvellous deed (Ps.) 3. It brings hope (Rom.) 4. It demands repentance and preparation of the way (Matt.)</p>
Birth of John the Baptist —3rd Sunday	
<p>15 December 2019 Third Sunday of Advent First Reading : Isaiah 35:1–10 Psalm Reading : Psalm 146:5–10 Second Reading : St James 5:7–10 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 11:2–11</p>	<p>Theme: Wait for the Lord Outline: 1. He will bring a great joy (Isa.) 2. He will do justice to the poor (Ps.) 3. Be patient until His coming (Jam.) 4. The long expected Saviour has come (Matt.)</p>
4th Sunday	
<p>22 December 2019 Fourth Sunday of Advent First Reading : Isaiah 7:10–16 Psalm Reading : Psalm 80:1–7, 17–19 Second Reading : Romans 1:1–7 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 1:18–25</p>	<p>Theme: God's work of salvation Outline: 1. A miraculous sign was given (Isa.) 2. Hope of restoration was given (Ps.) 3. Grace was bestowed (Rom.) 4. A sign was fulfilled (Matt.)</p>

CHRISTMAS	
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.	
Christmas Eve	
24 December 2019, Tuesday First Reading : Isaiah 9:2–7 Psalm Reading : Psalm 96 Second Reading : Titus 2:11–14 Gospel Reading : St Luke 2:1–20	Theme: Hope has arrived Outline: 1. Unto us a Child is born (Luke) 2. This Child will bring eternal peace (Isa.) 3. Because of Jesus, we praise God and declare His glory (Ps.) 4. Through the gift of His life, we receive salvation (Titus)
Yeldho—Christmas Day	
25 December 2019, Wednesday First Reading : Isaiah 52:7–10 Psalm Reading : Psalm 98 Second Reading : Hebrews 1:1–12 Gospel Reading : St John 1:1–14	Theme: The greatest gift of God Outline: 1. The good news of salvation is for whole world (Isa.) 2. Praise the Lord for His faithfulness (Ps.) 3. The Son is the complete revelation of God (Heb.) 4. The Son of God came to make us sons of God (John)
5th Sunday	
29 December 2019 First Sunday after Christmas First Reading : Isaiah 63:7–9 Psalm Reading : Psalm 148 Second Reading : Hebrews 2:10–18 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 2:13–23	Theme: Kindness of the Lord Outline: 1. Praise Him for good things He has done (Isa.) 2. Thank God for His kindness (Ps.) 3. In kindness Jesus shared our humanity (Heb.) 4. Kindness of the Lord saves (Matt.)
Watchnight/New Year Service	
31 December 2019 and 1 January 2020 First Reading : Genesis 32:22–31 Psalm Reading : Psalm 103:1–12 Second Reading : Romans 8:31–39 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 14:22–33	Theme: Give thanks to the Lord Outline: 1. God is the source of all blessings (Gen.) 2. Do not forget all His blessings (Ps.) 3. Take courage: The Lord is with you (Matt.) 4. Nothing can separate us from the love of Christ (Rom.)

6th Sunday	
<p>5 January 2020 Second Sunday after Christmas Leprosy Sunday—<i>Special Offering</i> First Reading : Jeremiah 31:7–14 Psalm Reading : Psalm 147:12–20 Second Reading : Ephesians 1:3–14 Gospel Reading : St John 1:10–18</p>	<p>Theme: The Lord turns our mourning into gladness Outline: 1. The Lord saves His people (Jer.) 2. He satisfies you with the finest things (Ps.) 3. Blessed us in the heavenly realms (Eph.) 4. We have received our blessings one after another (John)</p>
Denaha (Epiphany)—Baptism of Jesus	
<p>6 January 2020, Monday First Reading : Isaiah 60:1–6 Psalm Reading : Psalm 72:1–7, 10–14 Second Reading : Ephesians 3:1–12 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 2:1–12</p>	<p>Theme: Being a shining star Outline: 1. To shine for the glory of God (Isa.) 2. To tell His work of deliverance (Ps.) 3. To tell about the revealed mystery of salvation (Eph.) 4. To lead the seeker to the Saviour (Matt.)</p>
AFTER EPIPHANY	
<p>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.</p>	
7th Sunday	
<p>12 January 2020 First Sunday after the Epiphany First Reading : Isaiah 42:1–9 Psalm Reading : Psalm 29 Second Reading : Acts 10:34–43 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 3:13–17</p>	<p>Theme: God's chosen servant is with us Outline: 1. God's chosen servant (Isa.) 2. Acknowledge His power (Ps.) 3. Attentive to God's leading and His presence (Acts) 4. God takes delight in His servant (Matt.)</p>
St Athanasius Day	
<p>18 January 2020, Saturday St Athanasius Day First Reading : Jeremiah 15:19–21 Psalm Reading : Psalm 37:3–6 Second Reading : 1 John 5:1–5 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 10:22–28</p>	<p>Theme: The character of God's servant. Outline: 1. The Lord will restore us if we repent (Jer.) 2. Trust in the Lord: He will vindicate you (Ps.) 3. Keep His commands (1 John) 4. The one who endures till the end will be saved (Matt.)</p>

Unity Prayer Week/Unity Octave—January 18–25	
8th Sunday	
<p>19 January 2020 Second Sunday after Epiphany First Reading : Isaiah 49:1–7 Psalm Reading : Psalm 40:1–11 Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 1:1–9 Gospel Reading : St John 1:29–42</p>	<p>Theme: Light to the nations Outline: 1. For the salvation to the world (Isa.) 2. Through declaring God’s saving acts (Ps.) 3. Through yielding to be kept blameless (1 Cor.) 4. Through testifying about Saviour (John)</p>
9th Sunday	
<p>26 January 2020 Third Sunday after Epiphany First Reading : Isaiah 9:1–4 Psalm Reading : Psalm 27:1, 4–9 Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 1:10–18 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 4:12–23</p>	<p>Theme: Unity in the Christ the Light Outline: 1. Living as Christ, the great light lived (Isa.) 2. Let us seek His face as He always cares for us (Ps.) 3. The light of Christ dispels darkness of disagreement (1 Cor.) 4. The Light of Christ leads us to God through repentance (Matt.)</p>
Mayaltho—Entry of Jesus Christ to the Temple—10th Sunday	
<p>2 February 2020 Fourth Sunday after Epiphany Children Sunday—<i>Special Offering</i> First Reading : Micah 6:1–8 Psalm Reading : Psalm 15 Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 1:18–31 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 5:1–12</p>	<p>Theme: Blessed Christian life Outline: 1. Godly qualities of a blessed individual (Mic.) 2. Characteristics of a blessed individual (Ps.) 3. Strength of the blessed individual (1 Cor.) 4. Definition of the blessed individual (Matt.)</p>
11th Sunday	
<p>9 February 2020 Fifth Sunday after Epiphany First Reading : Isaiah 58:1–12 Psalm Reading : Psalm 112:1–10 Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 2:1–16 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 5:13–20</p>	<p>Theme: Overflow of Theosis: Being salt and light Outline: 1. Being the morning light to tear away the curtain of the night (Isa.) 2. Fearing the Lord and delighting in His commands (Ps.) 3. Only the spirit can search God’s wisdom (1 Cor.) 4. Good fountains overflow for the benefit of others (Matt.)</p>

12th Sunday	
<p>16 February 2020 Sixth Sunday after Epiphany First Reading : Deuteronomy 30:15–20 Psalm Reading : Psalm 119:1–8 Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 3:1–9 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 5:21–37</p>	<p>Theme: Life through obedience Outline: 1. Choose life and live (Deut.) 2. Walk in God’s way and be blessed (Ps.) 3. You will be rewarded according to your work (1 Cor.) 4. Reconciled leads to life and blessings (Matt.)</p>
Transfiguration Sunday—13th Sunday	
<p>23 February 2020 Last Sunday before Lent First Reading : Exodus 24:12–18 Psalm Reading : Psalm 99 Second Reading : 2 Peter 1:16–21 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 17:1–9</p>	<p>Theme: God’s law demands our obedience and righteous life Outline: 1. Rolling away of the stone discloses sacrament, the Law (Exod.) 2. God demands His people to keep His statutes and decrees (Ps.) 3. The word is not invented; it comes from the Lord (2 Pet.) 4. This is my beloved Son, listen to Him (Matt.)</p>
Ash Wednesday (Day of Repentance)	
<p>26 February 2020, Wednesday Ash Wednesday First Reading : Joel 2:1–2, 12–17 Psalm Reading : Psalm 51:1–17 Second Reading : 2 Corinthians 5:20–6:10 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 6:1–6, 16–21</p>	<p>Theme: Humble yourself and seek God’s favour Outline: 1. Return to the Lord (Joel) 2. Humble yourself; confess your sins to the Lord (Ps.) 3. Waste no time in reconciling yourself to God (2 Cor.) 4. Practice penitence without hypocrisy (Matt.)</p>
PETHURTHA—BEGINING OF GREAT LENT	
<p>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.</p>	

14th Sunday	
<p>1 March 2020 First Sunday in Lent Women Sunday—<i>Special Offering</i> First Reading : Genesis 2:15–17; 3:1–7 Psalm Reading : Psalm 32 Second Reading : Romans 5:12–19 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 4:1–11</p>	<p>Theme: Wages of sin is death but the gift of God is eternal life Outline: 1. Pride is the beginning of all sin (Gen.) 2. Confession brings salvation (Ps.) 3. Death came through Adam but life came through Christ (Rom.) 4. Overcome the devil not by miracle but by forbearance (Matt.)</p>
World Day of Prayer	
<p>6 March 2020, Friday First Reading : Exodus 24:12–18 Psalm Reading : Psalm 61 Second Reading : 2 Peter 1:16–21 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 5:43–48</p>	<p>Theme: A people called to pray Outline: 1. The importance of setting time apart to meet God (Exod.) 2. The Lord hears us whenever we call out to Him (Ps.) 3. God is pleased when we spend time with Him (2 Pet.) 4. Pray also for those who persecute you (Matt.)</p>
Birthday of Moran Mor Athanasius Yohan I Metropolitan—15th Sunday	
<p>8 March 2020, Sunday Second Sunday in Lent First Reading : Genesis 12:1–4 Psalm Reading : Psalm 121 Second Reading : Romans 4:1–5, 13–17 Gospel Reading : St John 3:1–17</p>	<p>Theme: Our spiritual journey (Athmeeya Yathra) Outline: 1. Like Abraham, all of us are on a spiritual journey (Gen.) 2. Our help is from the Lord (Ps.) 3. The promises of Abraham are for believers by faith (Rom.) 4. The end of the journey: Life everlasting (John)</p>
16th Sunday	
<p>15 March 2020 Third Sunday in Lent First Reading : Exodus 17:1–7 Psalm Reading : Psalm 95 Second Reading : Romans 5:1–11 Gospel Reading : St John 4:5–42</p>	<p>Theme: The Lord is the source of living water Outline: 1. Unless the rock is struck it does not have any water (Exod.) 2. Come let us worship the Lord, the Rock of our salvation (Ps.) 3. God’s love has been poured out through the Holy Spirit (Rom.) 4. The Lord gives spiritual drink to the thirsty (John)</p>

17th Sunday	
<p>22 March 2020 Fourth Sunday in Lent First Reading : 1 Samuel 16:1–13 Psalm Reading : Psalm 23 Second Reading : Ephesians 5:8–14 Gospel Reading : St John 9:1–41</p>	<p>Theme: Walk as the children of light Outline: 1. Man looks on the outward appearance, God looks on the heart (1 Sam.) 2. Trust in God’s protection in the midst of difficulty (Ps.) 3. You are the light in the world (Eph.) 4. The blind man sees the light (John)</p>
Annunciation to Virgin Mary (Suboro)	
<p>25 March 2020, Wednesday Annunciation to Virgin Mary (Suboro) First Reading : Judges 13:2–14 Psalm Reading : Psalm 1 Second Reading : 1 John 3:2–17 Gospel Reading : St Luke 1:26–38</p>	<p>Theme: Purify yourselves and set yourself apart Outline: 1. The Annunciation Narrative (Luke) 2. The children of promise must abstain from certain things (Judg.) 3. The children of God must abstain from evil company (Ps.) 4. The children of God must purify themselves to see Him (1 John)</p>
18th Sunday	
<p>29 March 2020 Fifth Sunday in Lent First Reading : Ezekiel 37:1–14 Psalm Reading : Psalm 130 Second Reading : Romans 8:6–11 Gospel Reading : St John 11:1–45</p>	<p>Theme: God is all–powerful to bring life from death Outline: 1. The bones came together and God gave life (Ezek.) 2. Wait patiently for God’s help in the midst of troubles (Ps.) 3. Death is estrangement from God and life is immortality (Rom.) 4. Whoever believes in Him is alive (John)</p>
HOLY WEEK	
Passion/Palm Sunday—19th Sunday	
<p>5 April 2020 Sixth Sunday in Lent Media Sunday—<i>Special Offering</i> First Reading : Isaiah 50:4–9 Psalm Reading : Psalm 31:9–16 Second Reading : Philippians 2:5–11 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 27:11–54</p>	<p>Theme: The Great High Priest humbled for our sake Outline: 1. God is with us in our suffering (Isa.) 2. He hears our petition for help and protection (Ps.) 3. Christ humbled Himself taking on the form of a slave (Phil.) 4. He laid down His life for us (Matt.)</p>

Maundy/Holy Thursday			
<p>9 April 2020, Thursday</p> <p>First Reading : Exodus 12:1–4, 11–14</p> <p>Psalm Reading : Psalm 116:1–2, 12–19</p> <p>Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 11:23–26</p> <p>Gospel Reading : St John 13:1–17, 31–35</p>	<p>Theme: Do this in remembrance of Me</p> <p>Outline:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The institution of the Passover (Exod.) 2. Lift up the cup of salvation and call on Him (Ps.) 3. The institution of the Eucharist (1 Cor.) 4. A new commandment: Love one another (John) 		
Good Friday			
<p>10 April 2020, Friday</p> <p>First Reading : Isaiah 52:13–53:12</p> <p>Psalm Reading : Psalm 22</p> <p>Second Reading : Hebrews 10:16–25</p> <p>Gospel Reading : St John 18:1–19:42</p>	<p>Theme: The death of God</p> <p>Outline:</p> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; vertical-align: top;"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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;"> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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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Easter Vigil/Holy Saturday			
<p>11 April 2020, Saturday</p> <p>Easter Vigil</p> <p>First Reading : Job 14:1–14</p> <p>Psalm Reading : Psalm 31:1–4, 15–16</p> <p>Second Reading : 1 Peter 4:1–8</p> <p>Gospel Reading : St Matthew 27:57–66</p>	<p>Theme: Christ endured death for us</p> <p>Outline:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The finality of death (Job) 2. Our times are in the Lord’s hand: He will deliver (Ps.) 3. The burial of Christ our Lord (Matt.) 4. Be willing to suffer for Christ (1 Pet.) 		
EASTER			
<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>			
Easter—20th Sunday			
<p>12 April 2020</p> <p>First Reading : Acts 10:34–43</p> <p>Psalm Reading : Psalm 118:1–2, 14–24</p> <p>Second Reading : Colossians 3:1–4</p> <p>Gospel Reading : St Matthew 28:1–10</p>	<p>Theme: Christ has risen</p> <p>Outline:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Lord provided proof of His resurrection (Acts) 2. The Lord is lifted high (Ps.) 3. Live a life in the light of the resurrection of the soul (Col.) 4. The risen Christ appeared before many (Matt.) 		

21st Sunday	
<p>19 April 2020 Second Sunday of Easter First Reading : Acts 2:14, 22–32 Psalm Reading : Psalm 16 Second Reading : 1 Peter 1:3–9 Gospel Reading : St John 20:19–31</p>	<p>Theme: Courage and confidence of the disciples Outline: 1. Apostle Peter’s boldness (Acts) 2. Building confidence in the Lord (Ps.) 3. Living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Pet.) 4. The Holy Spirit will guide us on our spiritual journey (John)</p>
22nd Sunday	
<p>26 April 2020 Third Sunday of Easter First Reading : Acts 2:14, 36–41 Psalm Reading : Psalm 116:1–4, 12–19 Second Reading : 1 Peter 1:17–23 Gospel Reading : St Luke 24:13–35</p>	<p>Theme: Breaking bread Outline: 1. Jesus forgives our sins (Acts) 2. God loves us and helps us in difficult situation (Ps.) 3. Demonstration of love is the outcome of our inner purity (1 Pet.) 4. We experience God’s presence in the sacrament of Holy Communion (Luke)</p>
23rd Sunday	
<p>3 May 2020 Fourth Sunday of Easter Clergy Welfare Sunday—<i>Special Offering</i> First Reading : Acts 2:42–47 Psalm Reading : Psalm 23 Second Reading : 1 Peter 2:19–25 Gospel Reading : St John 10:1–10</p>	<p>Theme: Fellowship and communion Outline: 1. Fellowship and communion are the indelible marks of the early church (Acts) 2. Suffering injustice and hardship are unavoidable Christian experiences (1 Pet.) 3. Being under the shepherd ensures protection, provision and direction (Ps.) 4. Fellowship with Christ offers abundant life (John)</p>
Mother’s Day—24th Sunday	
<p>10 May 2020 Fifth Sunday of Easter First Reading : Acts 7:55–60 Psalm Reading : Psalm 31:1–5, 15–16 Second Reading : 1 Peter 2:2–10 Gospel Reading : St John 14:1–14</p>	<p>Theme: Boldness in faith Outline: 1. As Christians we must be ready to suffer for our faith (Acts) 2. We must trust God for His care and protection (Ps.) 3. As God’s chosen people we must share our faith (1 Pet.) 4. Our boldness is outcome of the promise of heaven (John)</p>

25th Sunday	
<p>17 May 2020 Sixth Sunday of Easter First Reading : Acts 17:22–31 Psalm Reading : Psalm 66:8–20 Second Reading: 1 Peter 3:13–22 Gospel Reading: St John 14:15–21</p>	<p>Theme: God is near Outline: 1. God is always near to His children (Acts) 2. He is near to His children when they suffer for Him (1 Pet.) 3. When we seek Him He is always near to us (Ps.) 4. When we love Him we will obey Him (John)</p>
Sulokho—Feast of the Ascension Day	
<p>21 May 2020, Thursday Fortieth Day after Easter Sulokho-Feast of the Ascension Day First Reading : Acts 1:1–11 Psalm Reading : Psalm 47 Second Reading: Ephesians 1:15–23 Gospel Reading: St Luke 24:44–53</p>	<p>Theme: You shall be my witnesses Outline: 1. God is King over all (Ps.) 2. The Ascension Narrative (Acts) 3. We are called for a blessed hope and resurrection (Eph.) 4. We must be witnesses of the resurrection (Luke)</p>
26th Sunday	
<p>24 May 2020 Seventh Sunday of Easter First Reading : Acts 1:6–14 Psalm Reading : Psalm 68:1–10, 32–35 Second Reading: 1 Peter 4:12–14; 5:6–11 Gospel Reading: St John 17:1–11</p>	<p>Theme: Power from above Outline: 1. God's power makes you His witness (Acts) 2. God refreshed His people with His power (Ps.) 3. God's power sustains us when we suffer for Him (1 Pet.) 4. Protection by the power of His name (John)</p>
Day of Pentecost (Fiftieth Day After Easter)—27th Sunday	
<p>31 May 2020 Day of Pentecost First Reading : Acts 2:1–21 Psalm Reading : Psalm 104:24–35 Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 12:3–13 Gospel Reading: St John 20:19–23</p>	<p>Theme: The gift of the Holy Spirit Outline: 1. Holy Spirit is given to the church as gift (Acts) 2. Holy Spirit is given to quench our thirst (John) 3. Holy Spirit is given to us as spiritual gifts for His glory (1 Cor.) 4. Holy Spirit is given us to worship Him for His deeds (Ps.)</p>

AFTER PENTECOST	
<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>	
28th Sunday	
<p>7 June 2020 First Sunday after Pentecost Trinity Sunday Seminary Sunday—<i>Special Offering</i> First Reading : Genesis 1:1–2:4 Psalm Reading : Psalm 8 Second Reading : 2 Corinthians 13:11–13 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 28:16–20</p>	<p>Theme: God the creator Outline: 1. God the creator of all the visible and invisible (Gen.) 2. We should praise Him for His magnificent glory (Ps.) 3. God has called us to live in unity and peace (2 Cor.) 4. Christ has promised; He will always be with us (Matt.)</p>
29th Sunday	
<p>14 June 2020 Second Sunday after Pentecost First Reading : Genesis 18:1–15 Psalm Reading : Psalm 100 Second Reading : Romans 5:1–8 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 9:35–10:8</p>	<p>Theme: Sharing God's grace Outline: 1. Believing and obeying God's promises (Gen.) 2. Christ's death for our sins brought peace with God (Rom.) 3. God's Goodness and love causes us to sing His praise (Ps.) 4. We share the Good News of God in response to God's grace (Matt.)</p>
Father's Day—30th Sunday	
<p>21 June 2020 Third Sunday after Pentecost First Reading : Genesis 21:8–21 Psalm Reading : Psalm 69:7–10, 16–18 Second Reading : Romans 6:1–11 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 10:24–39</p>	<p>Theme: Precious to God Outline: 1. We are precious to Him; so He loves and protects us (Gen.) 2. We are precious to Him; so He died for us and rose again (Rom.) 3. We are precious to Him; so we need not fear anything (Ps.) 4. We are precious to Him; so He will protect (Matt.)</p>
31st Sunday	
<p>28 June 2020 Fourth Sunday after Pentecost First Reading : Genesis 22:1–14 Psalm Reading : Psalm 89:1–4, 15–18 Second Reading : Romans 6:12–23 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 10:40–42</p>	<p>Theme: God's promises to the righteous Outline: 1. Complete confidence in God will fulfil His promise (Gen.) 2. Trials and troubles are means to experience God's leading (Ps.) 3. Yield to God without sin, as He offers eternal life (Rom.) 4. Offer a cup of cold water from your whole heart (Matt.)</p>

34th Sunday	
<p>19 July 2020 Seventh Sunday after Pentecost First Reading : Genesis 28:10–19 Psalm Reading : Psalm 86:11–17 Second Reading : Romans 8:12–25 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 13:24–30, 36–43</p>	<p>Theme: God keeps His promises Outline: 1. God’s encompassing presence and gracious promises (Gen.) 2. A hopeful plea based on the God’s past help (Ps.) 3. Life in the Spirit in the Life of Hope (Rom.) 4. Assurance of victorious and good future (Matt.)</p>
35th Sunday	
<p>26 July 2020 Eight Sunday after Pentecost First Reading : Genesis 29:15–28 Psalm Reading : Psalm 119:129–136 Second Reading : Romans 8:26–39 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 13:31–33, 44–52</p>	<p>Theme: The Spirit intercedes for us Outline: 1. God’s faithfulness in keeping the covenant (Gen.) 2. Keeping God’s Word is a means of His grace (Ps.) 3. Assurance of guaranteed victory (Rom.) 4. Single minded pursuit of God’s reign (Matt.)</p>
36th Sunday	
<p>2 August 2020 Ninth Sunday after Pentecost Youth Sunday—<i>Special Offering</i> First Reading : Genesis 32:22–31 Psalm Reading : Psalm 145:8–9, 14–21 Second Reading : Romans 9:1–5 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 14:13–21</p>	<p>Theme: God of compassion and mercy Outline: 1. Deep desire for God’s blessing (Gen.) 2. Counting on God to watch over His children (Ps.) 3. Discouragement when others miss God’s mark (Rom.) 4. God cares about the details (Matt.)</p>
Feast of Transfiguration	
<p>6 August 2020, Thursday First Reading : Exodus 24:12–18 Psalm Reading : Psalm 34 Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 15:1–10 Gospel Reading : St Luke 9:28–36</p>	<p>Theme: From glory to glory Outline: 1. Glorify the Lord and heed His Word (Ps) 2. The glory of the First Testament (Exod.) 3. Christ – the fulfillment of the Law and Prophets (Luke) 4. The proof of the resurrection (1 Cor.)</p>
37th Sunday	
<p>9 August 2020 Tenth Sunday after Pentecost First Reading : Genesis 37:1–4, 12–28 Psalm Reading : Psalm 85:8–13 Second Reading : Romans 10:5–15 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 14:22–33</p>	<p>Theme: Finding peace and justice with God Outline: 1. Evicting envy from the heart (Gen.) 2. Experiencing perfect peace, love and justice (Ps.) 3. Choosing to share Good News (Rom.) 4. Having faith to follow (Matt.)</p>

Dormition of the Theotokos (Shunoyo)	
<p>15 August 2020, Saturday First Reading : Joshua 4:4–10 Psalm Reading : Psalm 16 Second Reading : Galatians 4:4–11 Gospel Reading : St Luke 11:27–32</p>	<p>Theme: Remember the works of the Lord Outline: 1. The Lord will not abandon those who trust Him (Ps.) 2. Always remember the great deeds of God (Josh.) 3. God became man so that men could become like Him (Gal.) 4. Those who hear and obey the Word are the sons of God (Luke)</p>
38th Sunday	
<p>16 August 2020 Eleventh Sunday after Pentecost First Reading : Genesis 45:1–15 Psalm Reading : Psalm 67 Second Reading : Romans 11:1–2, 29–32 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 15:21–28</p>	<p>Theme: The sweetness of forgiveness Outline: 1. To forgive – The most radical choice (Gen.) 2. Becoming grateful for God’s gifts and works (Ps.) 3. Thanking God for His mercy and faithfulness (Rom.) 4. Having a clean heart and a strong faith (Matt.)</p>
39th Sunday	
<p>23 August 2020 Twelfth Sunday after Pentecost First Reading : Exodus 1:8–2:10 Psalm Reading : Psalm 138 Second Reading : Romans 12:1–8 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 16:13–20</p>	<p>Theme: Experiencing God’s protection and help Outline: 1. God’s care for His people (Exod.) 2. God’s help is always available (Ps.) 3. Becoming a living, holy and acceptable sacrifice (Rom.) 4. A life of faithful service (Matt.)</p>
40th Sunday	
<p>30 August 2020 Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost First Reading : Exodus 3:1–15 Psalm Reading : Psalm 26:1–8 Second Reading : Romans 12:9–21 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 16:21–28</p>	<p>Theme: Joy at walking in truth Outline: 1. Getting to know God (Exod.) 2. Leading a life of integrity and trust (Ps.) 3. Exercising true love for God and others (Rom.) 4. Deny yourself and follow Him (Matt.)</p>
41st Sunday	
<p>6 September 2020 Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost Literacy Sunday—<i>Special Offering</i> First Reading : Exodus 12:1–14 Psalm Reading : Psalm 119:33–40 Second Reading : Romans 13:8–14 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 18:15–20</p>	<p>Theme: Walking in the right path Outline: 1. Leaving slavery behind (Exod.) 2. A prayer for understanding the right ways (Ps.) 3. Walking in the light of God’s love (Rom.) 4. Resolving conflict in love (Matt.)</p>

Birth of Virgin Mary	
<p>8 September 2020, Tuesday Birth of Virgin Mary First Reading : Isaiah 11:1–8 Psalm Reading : Psalm 45:9–17 Second Reading : 1 John 3:2–16 Gospel Reading : St Luke 8:16–21</p>	<p>Theme: How God’s people ought to be Outline: 1. God desires our dedication (Ps.) 2. God desires us to be holy (1 John) 3. All who hear and obey God’s commands are His family (Luke) 4. A glorious future foretold (Isa.)</p>
42nd Sunday	
<p>13 September 2020 Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost First Reading : Exodus 14:19–31 Psalm Reading : Psalm 103:1–13 Second Reading : Romans 14:1–12 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 18:21–35</p>	<p>Theme: The comfort of God’s care Outline: 1. God’s protection in time of dangers (Exod.) 2. God’s divine benefits (Ps.) 3. Living peaceably in the midst of differences (Rom.) 4. Having an attitude of forgiveness and generosity (Matt.)</p>
Feast of the Holy Cross	
<p>14 September 2020, Monday Feast of the Holy Cross First Reading : Numbers 21:4–9 Psalm Reading : Psalm 98:1–5 Second Reading : 1 Corinthians 1:18–24 Gospel Reading : St John 3:13–17</p>	<p>Theme: The sign of our salvation Outline: 1. God has revealed His salvation to the world (Ps.) 2. A sign for salvation (Num.) 3. The crucified Christ is God’s sign for all (1 Cor.) 4. He who believes in God’s Son is saved and has life (John)</p>
43rd Sunday	
<p>20 September 2020 Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost First Reading : Exodus 16:2–15 Psalm Reading : Psalm 145:1–8 Second Reading : Philippians 1:21–30 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 20:1–16</p>	<p>Theme: God’s extravagant generosity Outline: 1. Praising God for His greatness and goodness (Ps.) 2. Learning to trust God for all the needs (Exod.) 3. Knowing Christ deeply through suffering (Phil.) 4. Experiencing God’s joy and overflowing generosity (Matt.)</p>

44th Sunday	
<p>27 September 2020 Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost First Reading : Exodus 17:1–7 Psalm Reading : Psalm 25:1–9 Second Reading : Philippians 2:1–13 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 21:23–32</p>	<p>Theme: A call to humility and service Outline: 1. Humility leads into the ways of God (Ps.) 2. Humility positions us to receive God’s provisions (Exod.) 3. In humility, look out for the interests of others (Phil.) 4. True humility precedes repentance (Matt.)</p>
45th Sunday	
<p>4 October 2020 Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost SOC Sunday—<i>Special Offering</i> First Reading : Exodus 20:1–4, 7–9, 12–20 Psalm Reading : Psalm 19 Second Reading : Philippians 3:4–14 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 21:33–46</p>	<p>Theme: Times of quietness and rest Outline: 1. Honouring God and keeping His commandments (Exod.) 2. Living in the glory of God (Ps.) 3. Pressing on towards higher and valuable goals (Phil.) 4. Building a life that lasts (Matt.)</p>
46th Sunday	
<p>11 October 2020 Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost First Reading : Exodus 32:1–14 Psalm Reading : Psalm 23 Second Reading : Philippians 4:1–9 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 22:1–14</p>	<p>Theme: True confession and praise Outline: 1. God teaches us to intercede for others (Exod.) 2. Confessing and praising that God is protector and provider (Ps.) 3. Praising God by focusing on what He has done for us (Phil.) 4. Praising God for the promise of eternal life (Matt.)</p>
47th Sunday	
<p>18 October 2020 Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost First Reading : Exodus 33:12–23 Psalm Reading : Psalm 96 Second Reading : 1 Thessalonians 1:1–10 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 22:15–22</p>	<p>Theme: Seeking first the kingdom of God Outline: 1. By being in his presence and glory (Exod.) 2. By praising His greatness (Ps.) 3. By waiting for Christ’s return (1 Thess.) 4. By giving what is due to Him (Matt.)</p>

48th Sunday	
25 October 2020 Twenty-First Sunday after Pentecost First Reading : Leviticus 19:1–2, 15–18 Psalm Reading : Psalm 90:1–6, 13–17 Second Reading : 1 Thessalonians 2:1–8 Gospel Reading : St Matthew 22:34–46	Theme: Call to a holy life Outline: <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Living with genuine love for God and others (Lev.)2. Dwelling in the Lord always (Ps.)3. Rendering faithful and sacrificial service (1 Thess.)4. Responding with love (Matt.)

DAYS OF SPECIAL OFFERING

Mission Sunday	1 st Sunday, December 2019
World Leprosy Day	1 st Sunday, January 2020
Children Sunday	1 st Sunday, February 2020
Women Sunday	1 st Sunday, March 2020
Media Sunday	1 st Sunday, April 2020
Clergy Welfare Sunday	1 st Sunday, May 2020
Seminary Sunday	1 st Sunday, June 2020
Bible Sunday	1 st Sunday, July 2020
Youth Sunday	1 st Sunday, August 2020
World Literacy Day	1 st Sunday, September 2020
SOC Sunday	1 st Sunday, October 2020

**IMPORTANT DAYS OF THE CHRISTIAN CALENDAR
YEAR 2019–20**

1. Beginning of Twenty-five Days of lent	December 1, 2019
2. Visitation of Virgin Mary to Elizabeth	December 8, 2019
3. Birth of John the Baptist	December 15, 2019
4. Annunciation to Joseph by angel Gabriel	December 22, 2019
5. Yeldho—Christmas	December 25, 2019
6. Watchnight Service	December 31, 2020
7. Feast of Circumcision and New Year	January 1, 2020
8. Denaha (Ephiphany)—Baptism of Jesus	January 6, 2020
9. St Stephen's Day	January 8, 2020
10. St Athanasius Day	January 18, 2020
11. Unity Prayer Week/Unity Octave	January 18–25, 2020
12. Mayaltho—Entry of Jesus Christ to the Temple	February 2, 2020
13. Fast of Nineveh (Three Day lent)	February 3-5, 2020
14. Pethurtha—Begining of Great Lent, Transfiguration Sunday	February 23, 2020
15. Ash Wednesday	February 26, 2020
16. World Day of Prayer	March 6, 2020
17. Birthday of Moran Mor Athanasius Yohan Metropolitan	March 8, 2020
18. Mid Lent	March 18, 2020
19. Annunciation to Virgin Mary (Suboro)	March 25, 2020
20. Fortieth Friday	April 3, 2020
21. Hosanna Sunday (Palm Sunday)	April 5, 2020
22. Maundy/Holy Thursday	April 9, 2020
23. Good Friday	April 10, 2020
24. Holy Saturday	April 11, 2020
25. Easter	April 12, 2020
26. St John the Apostle's Day	May 8, 2020
27. Sulokho—Feast of the Ascension Day	May 21, 2020
28. Feast of Pentecost (Fiftieth Day After Easter)	May 31, 2020
29. Feast of the Holy Apostles	June 16–29, 2020
30. St Peter and Paul Memorial Day	June 29, 2020
31. St Thomas the Apostle's Day	July 3, 2020
32. St James the Apostle's Day	July 25, 2020
33. Shunoyo—15 Days Dormition Fast	August 1-15
34. Feast of Transfiguration	August 6, 2020
35. Dormition of Theotokos	August 15, 2020
36. Birth of Virgin Mary	September 8, 2020
37. Feast of the Holy Cross	September 14, 2020
38. St Matthew the Apostle's Day	September 21, 2020

APPENDIX: THE MEANING OF CHRISTIAN WORDS IN THE LECTIONARY

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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
Ash Wednesday	Lent A period of penitence and fasting 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 Thursday 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

