

#15 Year C: What is the reason our Gospel lesson comes from Luke each week?

There are four Gospels, yet for the next year our Gospel lesson will often come from the Gospel of Luke. That's because our scripture readings are not chosen by the priest, or by anyone else at St. Paul's. For centuries, leaders of Episcopal, Lutheran, Roman Catholic and Orthodox churches have arranged our scripture readings in a systematic way, which is called 'The Lectionary'. The idea behind the Lectionary is to systematically make our way through much of the Old and New Testaments in a three-year cycle.

If you attend Sunday worship each week, over the course of three years you will hear most of the New Testament and a bit less than half of the Old Testament. This three year cycle is designated with three letters: A, B and C. The arrangement of Gospel lessons over the three years is easy to see. In Year A most of our Gospel readings are from Matthew. In Year B most of our Gospel readings are from Mark. In Year C most of our Gospel readings are from Luke. Each year we read portions of the Gospel of John in the weeks before and after Easter.

Year C began with the first Sunday of Advent, on December 1, and will continue until next November. Beginning the first Sunday of Advent, at the end of November, 2025, we will begin the three-year cycle again, with Year A and Gospel readings from Matthew.

If you have a question about something in our liturgy, I will be happy to answer it. Please ask in person, or send an email to me at revmajor@stpaulsyr.org.
Fr. Philip +