

# Preaching and Reading the Lectionary

By O. Wesley Allen Jr.

## Suggestions for Using Introductions to Lections

The introductions for individual lections are intended to complement the cumulative preaching strategies discussed in *Preaching and Reading the Lectionary*. In today's fragmented, cacophonous world and in a day when we rarely attend to public readings, it is too much to expect worshipers, on their own, to see any more than the most obvious connections between the lections on a given Sunday, much less from Sunday to Sunday, season to season, and year to year. If we want congregations to recognize, or better experience, the three-dimensional character of the Revised Common Lectionary's approach to the canon in a way that enhances their experience of worship, the Bible, and indeed God, then lectors and preachers need to name the interconnectedness of the lections explicitly. These introductions have been written in such a way to help the congregation view the larger biblical, liturgical, and lectionary contexts and connections of each individual lesson, Sunday, and liturgical season.

The introductions for the years, seasons, and Sundays are printed in **Arial font** to signify that they are intended to be used in congregational publications (e.g., bulletins, newsletters, social media). [Except for the solemnities of Trinity Sunday, All Saints', and Reign of Christ, I offer no introductions for Sundays during Ordinary Time (i.e., the Season after Pentecost) since the lections for each Sunday share no thematic focus.] The introductions for the individual lections are printed in **Times New Roman** to signify that they are intended for oral use right before a scripture lesson is read. Worship planners and pastors, however, may wish to use either type differently. Moreover, I encourage preachers to edit the introductions so that they more closely relate to the specific cumulative preaching strategy that they choose.

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