

Re-visioning the Lectionary for Lent

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Frank Henderson's Page on Liturgy and Medieval Women

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The companion study, *The Lectionary for Ash Wednesday and the Sundays of Lent: Critique and Alternative Vision*, has identified certain concerns and questions regarding the lectionary readings for Lent. It has also enunciated principles that might guide the selection of an improved set of readings, and has proposed alternative readings that are related to the concept and experience of "baptismal living." This set of alternative readings for Lent is presented here.

Ash Wednesday

Year A -- First Reading

Humankind is created in God's image (Genesis 1:26-2:3)
God does a new thing (Isaiah 43:15-21)

Year A – Second Reading

Called into fellowship with Jesus Christ (1 Corinthians 1:4-9)

Year A – Gospel

The beatitudes (Matthew 4:23-5:1)

Year B – First Reading

Loose the bonds of injustice (Isaiah 58:6-12)
That I may know what is pleasing to God (Wisdom 9:9-18)

Year B – Second Reading

Enlightened hearts (Ephesians 1:15-23)

Year B – Gospel

Jesus cured many and proclaimed the good news (Mark 1:29-39)

Year C – First Reading

A holy people (Deuteronomy 7:6-11)
God's own people (Isaiah 43:1-7)

Year C – Second Reading

Blessed and chosen in Christ (Ephesians 1:3-14)

Year C – Gospel

To bring good news (Luke 4:14-21)

First Sunday of Lent

Year A – First Reading

The man and woman in the garden (Genesis 2:15-17; 3:1-7)

Cain and Abel (Genesis 4:1-10)

The tower of Babel (Genesis 11:1-9)

Year A – Second Reading

The grace of Jesus Christ (Romans 5:12-18)

Year A – Gospel

Temptation of Jesus (Matthew 4:1-11 or Mark 1:12-15 or Luke 4:1-13)

Year B – First Reading

Grumbling in the desert (Exodus 16:1-3 or Exodus 17:1-7 or Numbers 21:4-9)

The golden calf (Exodus 32:1-10)

Fear and rebellion (Deuteronomy 1:19-33, 41-45)

Year B – Second Reading

Year B – Gospel

Judas betrays Jesus (Matthew 26:47-56 or Mark 14:43-50 or Luke 22:47-53
or John 18:1-11)

Execution of John the Baptist (Mark 6:17-29)

Year C – First Reading

Rape of Dinah (Genesis 34:1-7, 25b-31)

David lusts after Bathsheba and plots the death of her husband (2 Samuel 11:2-26)

Rape and murder of the Levite's wife (Judges 19:22b-30)

Rape of Tamar (2 Samuel 13:1-11)

Abah and Jezebel plot against Naboth (1 Kings 21:1-16)

Year C – Second Reading

Confess that Jesus is Lord (Romans 10:8-13)

Year C – Gospel

Peter denies Jesus (Matthew 26:69-75 or Mark 14:66-72 or Luke 22:54-62
or John 18:15-18)

Greatness in God's Reign (Matthew 20:25-28 or Mark 10:42-45 or Luke 22:24-27)

Second Sunday of Lent

Year A – First Reading

The three angels visit Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 18:1-5)
Know that I am with you (Genesis 28:10-17)
Moses and the burning bush (Exodus 3:12-6, 13-15)
Elijah encounters God (1 Kings 19:9b-13)

Year A – Second Reading

Christ Jesus abolished death (2 Timothy 1:8b-10)

Year A – Gospel

Transfiguration of Jesus (Matthew 17:1-9 or Mark 9:2-20 or Luke 9:28b-34)

Year B – First Reading

The women defy Pharaoh and save Moses (Exodus 1:15–2:10)
Rahab saves the scouts (Joshua 2:1-21)
A widow feeds the prophet Elijah 1 Kings 17:8-6)
The three youth refuse to worship false gods (Daniel 3:13-28)
Daniel is faithful to the one true God (Daniel 6:10-13, 16-23)

Year B – Gospel

Born again of water and the Spirit (John 3:1-10)
Every one who believes shall have eternal life (John 3:14-17) OR John 3:1-17
Receive the kingdom like a little child (Matthew 18:1-5 or Mark 10:13-16
or Luke 18:15-17)
Let the children come to me (Matthew 19:13-15 or Luke 9:46-48)

Year C – First Reading

Dry bones (Ezekiel 37:1-14)
Entrance into the promised land and first passover (Joshua 4:19-24; 5:10-12)
Elijah raises the widow's son to life (1 Kings 17:17-24)
Elisha restores the woman's son to life (2 Kings 4:18-27)

Year C – Second Reading

You will have life through God's Spirit (Romans 8:6-11)

Year C – Gospel

The ten lepers called to give praise and thanks (Luke 17:11-19)

How often should I forgive? (Matthew 18:15-22)

Third Sunday of Lent

Year A – First Reading

Covenant with Noah (Genesis 8:13-22 or Genesis 9:8-17)

Covenant and blessing of Abraham and Sarah (Genesis 17:1-8, 15-22)

Year A – Second Reading

No longer male or female (Galatians 3:26-28)

Year A – Gospel

The Samaritan woman (John 4:3-42)

Year B – First Reading

Covenant of Sinai (Exodus 19:1-6)

Covenant of Sinai: The Ten Words (Exodus 20:1-17)

Moses on the mountain (Exodus 24:1-18)

Choice and anointing of David (1 Samuel 16:1-13)

David's throne will be established forever (2 Samuel 7:1-17 or 7:11b-17)

The covenant with David (2 Samuel 23:1-5)

Year B – Second Reading

The faith of mother and grandmother (2 Timothy 1:1-7)

Year B – Gospel

The faith of the Canaanite woman (Matthew 15:21-29)

The faith of the Syrophenician woman (Mark 8:24-30)

Year C – First Reading

God's continuing covenant (Jeremiah 31:1-14 or 31:15-22 or 31:23-34 or 31:1-34)

A new heart and spirit (Ezekiel 36:23b-28)

Covenant of peace (Isaiah 54:9-14)

An everlasting covenant (Isaiah 55:1-13)

Year C – Second Reading

Female and male ministers of the gospel (Romans 16:1-16)

Year C – Gospel

The daughter of Jairus' family and the woman with the hemorrhage
(Matthew 9:18-26 or Mark 5:21-43 or Luke 9:40-56)

Fourth Sunday of Lent

Year A – First Reading

Justice and sharing with those in need (Deuteronomy 24:10-15, 17-22)

Love your neighbor (Leviticus 19:9-10, 13-14, 18)

Sharing leftovers (Ruth 2:14-18)

Year A – Second Reading

Live as children of light (Ephesians 5:1-2, 8-10, 18b-20)

Year A – Gospel

Carrying the paralytic to Jesus (Mark 2:1-5)

Year B – First Reading

God is bringing you into a good land (Deuteronomy 8:7-10)

The land shall observe a sabbath (Leviticus 25:1-7)

Wisdom, like a cedar in Lebanon (Sirach 24:1-2, 12-17)

Year B – Second Reading

God raises us up with Christ (Ephesians 2:4-10)

Year B – Gospel

The needs of our neighbor (Matthew 25:31-46)

Year C – First Reading

The river of life (Ezekiel 47:7-12)

Let the earth bless God (Prayer of Azariah and Son 35-60 / Daniel 3:57-82)

Year C – Second Reading

In Christ there is a new creation (2 Corinthians 5:16-21)

Year C – Gospel

Compassion for the widow of Nain (Luke 7:11-17)

Fifth Sunday of Lent

Year A – First Sunday

Hannah, model of prayer (1 Samuel 2:1-10)

Solomon, model of prayer (1 Kings 3:3-9)

Nehemiah, model of prayer (Nehemiah 1:5-11)

Judith, model of prayer (Judith 9:1-11)

Esther, model of prayer (Esther 14:3-14)

Year A – Second Reading

To them belongs the covenant (Romans 9:1-5)

Year A – Gospel

The faith of Martha and Mary and the raising of Lazarus (John 11:1-45)

Year B – First Reading

Keep God's word (Deuteronomy 6:4-9)

Prize wisdom (*Proverbs 4:5-13)

Wisdom is with God (Wisdom of Solomon 9:9-18)

Wisdom was created first (Sirach 1:1-10)

Year B – Second Reading

God has not rejected God's people (Romans 11:1-6)

Year B – Gospel

Jesus eats and drinks with sinners (Matthew 9:9-13 or Mark 2:13-17 or Luke 5:27-32)

Year C – First Reading

Rebekah is blessed (Genesis 24:53-61)

The blessing of Aaron (Numbers 6:22-27)

Israel is blessed (Deuteronomy 28:1-6, 8-14)
God is blessed for Abigail (1 Samuel 25:32-35)
Judith is blessed (Judith 13:18-20)

Year C – Second Reading

By faith our ancestors received approval (Hebrews 11:1-3, 7-12)

Year C – Gospel

The prodigal son and the loving father (Luke 15:11-32)
Jesus confronts the hypocrites (John 8:1-11)

Passion (Palm) Sunday

Procession with Palms

Years A, B, C

Entrance into Jerusalem (Matthew 21:1-11 or Mark 11:1-11 or John 12:12-16
or Luke 19:28-40)

Eucharist

Year A – First Reading

The people believed in the Lord and in his servant Moses (Exodus 14:21-22, 29, 31)
You should represent the people before God (Exodus 18:13-22)
God summoned Moses (Exodus 19:16-20)
Moses told the people / Covenant renewal liturgy (Exodus 24:1-8)
Moses intercedes with God for the people (Exodus 32:11-13)

Year A – Second Reading

Invited to the marriage supper of the lamb (Revelation 19:6-10)

Year A – Gospel

The woman anoints Jesus (Matthew 26:6-13)

Year B – First Reading

Moses prayed to the Lord (Numbers 11:1-3)
Would that all God's people were prophets (Numbers 11:26-29)
With Moses I speak face to face (Numbers 12:6-8a)
Moses intercedes for the people (Numbers 14:10b-19 or Numbers 14:1-19)

Year B – Second Reading

Nations will walk by the light of the Lamb (Revelation 21:22-27)

Year B – Gospel

The woman anoints Jesus (Mark 14:3-9)

Year C – First Reading

Moses prayed for the people (Deuteronomy 9:18-29 or 9:25-29)

A prophet like Moses (Deuteronomy 18:15-18)

Death of Moses; a prophet like Moses (Deuteronomy 34:5-12)

Year C – Second Reading

For the healing of the nations (Revelation 22:1-5)

Year C – Gospel

Mary of Bethany anoints Jesus (John 12:1-8)