

**2017 Celebrating the Reformation  
Schedule of Scripture Readings  
A Supplement to the Revised Common Lectionary  
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This supplement contains suggested scriptures in 2017 where some Revised Common Lectionary (RCL)<sup>1</sup> texts are switched out in preference for texts that sustain a year-long theme (until Advent) on commemoration of the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protestant Reformation.

The texts chosen came to mind which were, first, of particular emphasis or priority to Dr. Martin Luther, and second were not already included in either the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS)<sup>2</sup> alterations or in the RCL Series A covering 2017 from Jan. 1-Nov. 26.

This is solely the effort of myself, Dr. Jonathan M. Wilson, a Ph.D. in Church History, and does not represent the sanction of any denomination, publisher or ecumenical committee. There may be others who will find this insufficient in reflecting Luther's priorities, and will do similar work with very different suggestions. Other supplements may be proposed from other angles, such as the perspectives of other reformers or of particular Reformation themes held particularly close in their own theological or doctrinal tradition.

**How to use this supplement:**

- Texts that appear in normal type are those that are in the RCL and which I had identified as of particular value to Martin Luther.
- Bold text listing a scripture passage indicates Dr. Wilson's suggested substitution of a Reformation suggestion for the RCL.
- The note "LCMS" indicates the substitution of the LCMS text for the RCL.
- Blank spaces (most of the schedule) is what you fill in from the RCL or your own liturgical tradition.
- Not all mid-week observances are represented here; please reference the RCL for the exhaustive list of services during the Festival Time.

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<sup>1</sup><http://lectionary.library.vanderbilt.edu/lections.php?year=A&season=Christmas> accessed December 27, 2016. *The Covenant Book of Worship* (Covenant Press, 2004) reproduces much of the RCL. The Covenant Hymnal (Covenant Press, 1995) printed an earlier version of the lectionary which is very similar but predates the revision.

<sup>2</sup> <http://www.lcms.org/resources/worship/lectionary>, accessed December 27, 2016. *The Covenant Book of Worship* appears to refer to a common source with the LCMS for the special Reformation Sunday order.

	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>O.T.</u>	<u>N.T.</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
Jan. 1, New Year's	<b>150</b>			John 1:1-18
Jan. 8, Baptism	<b>137:1-6</b>			
Jan. 15	<b>73</b>		<b>2 Thess. 2:1-12</b>	
Jan. 22	27:1,4-9			Matt 4:12-23
Jan. 29	15	Micah 6:1-8		
Feb. 5				<b>John 6:1-15</b>
Feb. 12				<b>John 6:25-40</b>
Feb. 19				<b>John 6:41-55</b>
Feb. 26, Transfig	2			<b>John 6:54-69</b>
Mar. 1, Ash	51			
Mar. 5	<b>14</b>		<b>Romans 3:9-20</b>	
Mar. 12	121			John 3:1-17
Mar. 19				<b>Matt 22:15-22</b>
Mar. 26	23			
Ap. 2	130			John 11:1-45
Ap. 9, Palm	<b>118</b>			
Ap. 13, Maundy				<b>Matt 26-26-30</b>
Ap. 14, Good Friday	22	Is. 52:13-53:12		
Ap. 16, Easter	16 LCMS			
Ap. 23	<b>150</b>			
Ap. 30	<b>111</b>			Luke 24:13-35
May 7	23			<b>Luke 15:1-7</b>
May 14				<b>Luke 15:8-10</b>
May 21	<b>6</b>			<b>Luke 15:11-36</b>
May 28, Ascent	<b>110</b>			
June 4, Pentecost	25 LCMS			
June 11, Trinity	8			Matt 28:16-20
June 18, Normal Begins	100		Romans 5:6-15	
June 25			Romans 6:1-11	
July 2			Romans 6:12-23	
July 9	145:1-14		Romans 7:1-25 <sup>3</sup>	Matt 11:25-30

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<sup>3</sup>LCMS omits part of chapter 7, but RCL had omitted part of chapter 6. This includes all.

	<u>Psalm</u>	<u>O.T.</u>	<u>N.T.</u>	<u>Gospel</u>
July 16			Romans 8:1-11	
July 23	119:57-64 (LCMS)		Rom 8:12-25	
July 30	<b>9</b>		Rom 8:26-39	
Aug 6	145:14-21		Rom 9:1-9 <sup>4</sup>	
Aug 13			Rom 10:5-17	
Aug 20	133		<b>Gal 3:26-29</b>	
Aug 27	138		<b>Gal 5:1-6</b>	
Sep 3			<b>Gal 5:13-26</b>	
Sep 10			Rom 13:1-10 LCMS	
Sep 17			Rom 14:1-12 LCMS	
Sep 24	27		<b>Eph 2:8-10</b>	
Oct 1	25 (LCMS)			
Oct 8		<b>Prov. 3:5-6</b>		
Oct 15	23			
Oct 22		<b>Habakkuk 2:2-4</b>	<b>Romans 1:14-17</b>	
<b>Reformation Sunday</b>				
<b>Oct 29,</b>	46 LCMS	Lev. 19:15-18	Rom 3:19-28 LCMS	John 8:34-36 LCMS
Oct 31, Reformation Day (Tuesday). Also a children's celebration of Hallowe'en, with families going to neighbors in costume to collect candy. May be anticlimactic.				
Nov. 5, All Saints		<b>Ecc 3:1-8</b>		<b>Matt 11:25-30</b>
Nov. 12		<b>Ecc 3:9-17</b>		
Nov. 19	90	<b>Exodus 20:1-14</b>		
Nov. 22-23, Wednesday, Thursday, Thanksgiving (USA)				
Nov. 26, Jesus Rules	100	<b>Eccl. 12:9-14</b>		Matt 25:31-46

This schedule accounts for a total of 49 services. 35 of these services already include a Reformation theme text in either the RCL Series A or LCMS Alternates.

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<sup>4</sup>RCL ends at v. 5, LCMS includes the option of verses 6-13.

**Index of the 33 Reformation Theme texts not found  
in either RCL Series A or LCMS Alternates for Jan,1 – Nov. 26, 2017:**

Exodus 20:1-17 (the Ten Commandments, very important to Luther's Catechisms).

Psalms 1 (Although it is in RCL for Oct. 29 there is no recognition of it being Reformation Sunday; it is not part of a Reformation Sunday order, and it does not appear anywhere else).

Psalms 3, 6, 9, 14, 18, 73, 110, 111, 137, 150.

Proverbs 3:5-6.           Ecc. 3:1-8; Ecc. 3:9-17; Ecc. 12:9-14.       Habakkuk 2:4 (righteous shall live by faith).

Matthew 22:15-22; 26:26-30. Luke 15 (3 weeks)   John 6:1-69 (4 weeks); John 11:1-44

Romans 1:14-17       Galatians 3:26-29; 5:1-6; 5:13-15   Ephesians 2:8-10       2 Thess 2:1-12

**Some thoughts concerning Luther for a Reformation Themes Lectionary.**

First, this is not an effort to make Luther more than he was, a faithful and flawed human being used by God to initiate important changes in history. These choices here aim at lifting up the priorities that steered the early reformer as the ideas behind the reformation were first crystallizing within his immense, fluid intellect. As a means of commemorating the Reformation, it brings to the Sunday readings the texts that inspired Luther to take that direction.

Second, this means a clear de-prioritization of large portions of the Biblical canon: apocalyptic, the Catholic epistles, and Old Testament narrative, do not appear in this supplement. Represented in the supplemental suggestions are 12 gospels, 6 Pauline Epistles, the 10 Commandments, 11 Psalms, 4 Wisdom texts, and 1 Prophet. This lectionary supplement is not recommended for use more than once a century, as it appropriately commemorates a special anniversary year with its themes, but is not representative of the whole counsel of scripture.

Third, if I were venture a mini-series on the key texts of the Reformation, it would be these three:

- Romans 1:14-17/Habakkuk 2:4, "the righteous shall live by faith." –Luther's theological break-through.
- Matthew 4:17, "Repent, for the Kingdom of Heaven is near." – Cited in the first of the 95 *Theses*.
- Romans 10:5-17, on the centrality of preaching the gospel in the church's mission and life.

Fourth, a look at the schedule shows a series from Romans 5-10 in the normal time Sundays of June 18-Aug.6. I will likely be right there as I look to make a year out Reformation themes. I think that is a great opportunity to begin a Reformation focus after the conclusion of festival time, so that 2017's "normal time" can become a "Reformation festival."

Fifth, That is why I have tucked in the Romans 1:17 and the Matthew 4:17 suggestions for Oct. 15 and Oct. 22, in order to build to Reformation Sunday. Even though the LCMS choices were not on my own list for Oct. 29, I went with them.