

# **Re-visioning the Lectionary for the Easter Season**

J. Frank Henderson

Frank Henderson's Page on Liturgy and Medieval Women

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## **Introduction**

The study, *The Lectionary for the Sundays of the Easter Season and Ascension: Critique and Alternative Vision*, has identified certain concerns and questions regarding the lectionary readings for the Easter Season. 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 the Easter Season is presented here.

## **First Sunday of Easter (Easter Sunday)**

### **Year A – Hebrew Scriptures**

Love of God (Deuteronomy 6:1-9)

### **Year A – Acts of the Apostles**

Philip baptizes the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:26-40)

### **Year A – Gospel**

The empty tomb (John 20:1-10)

### **Year B – Hebrew Scriptures**

Joseph is saved from death (Genesis 37:12-28)

### **Year B – Acts of the Apostles**

Ananias laid hands on Paul, and Paul was baptized (Acts 9:10-19)

### **Year B – Gospel**

The empty tomb and angelic reassurance (Matthew 28:1-10 or Mark 16:1-8)

### **Year C – Hebrew Scriptures**

Wisdom brings her people out of Egypt (Wisdom 10:15-21; 11:1-5)

The one who knows all things knows her (Baruch 3:9-15, 29–4:4)

### **Year C – Acts of the Apostles**

Lydia hears the good news from Paul and is baptized (Acts 16:11-15)

### **Year C – Gospel**

The empty tomb and angelic reassurance (Luke 24:1-12)

## **Second Sunday of Easter**

### **Year A – Hebrew Scriptures**

Love of neighbor (Leviticus 19:1-4, 9-18)

### **Year A – Acts of the Apostles**

Those who were witnesses to the resurrection, were commissioned to preach and testify  
(Acts 10:34-39a, 40-43)

Philip preaches and heals; Peter and John laid hands on them (Acts 8:4-8, [9-13], 14-17)

### **Year A – Gospel**

Jesus and the two on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24:13-27)

### **Year B – Hebrew Scriptures**

Moses is saved from death (Exodus 1:15–2:10)

### **Year B – Acts of the Apostles**

Paul preaches to the Athenians, and some became believers (Acts 17:22-34)

### **Year B – Gospel**

Mary speaks with the risen Christ (John 20:11-18)

### **Year C – Hebrew Scriptures**

Wisdom makes her dwelling (Sirach 24:1-12)

Prize wisdom (Proverbs 4:5-13)

### **Year C – Acts of the Apostles**

Paul preaches in Rome (Acts 28:15-16, 23-24, 30-31)

### **Year C – Gospel**

Jesus appears twice: doubting Thomas (John 20:19-29)

## **Third Sunday of Easter**

### **Year A – Hebrew Scriptures**

Having enough and some left over (Ruth 2:14-18)

### **Year A – Acts of the Apostles**

Famine and mutual help; imprisonment and mutual prayer (Acts 11:27–12:5)

### **Year A – Gospel**

They recognized Jesus in the breaking of bread (Luke 24:28-35)

### **Year B – Hebrew Scriptures**

The widow's son is restored to life (1 Kings 17:17-24)

### **Year B – Acts of the Apostles**

Peter miraculously escapes from prison and takes refuge with Mary and Rhoda  
(Acts 12:6-17)

### **Year B – Gospel**

Jesus appears to the disciples (Luke 24:36-48)

### **Year C – Hebrew Scriptures**

Wisdom makes herself known (Wisdom 6:12-16)

Marvel at the wisdom of creation (Job 38:22-41; 39:1-2, 19-20, 26-27)

### **Year C – Acts of the Apostles**

Paul heals a slave girl and is imprisoned; the jailer is baptized (Acts 16:16-40)

### **Year C – Gospel**

Jesus appears to the disciples (John 21:1-19)

## **Fourth Sunday of Easter**

### **Year A – Hebrew Scriptures**

Rest for creation (Leviticus 25:1-7)

### **Year A – Acts of the Apostles**

Tabitha, devoted to good works and acts of charity, is restored to life (Acts 9:36-42)

### **Year A – Gospel**

I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly (John 10:1-10)

### **Year B – Hebrew Scriptures**

Susanna's life is saved (Susanna / Daniel 13:15-49, 63)

### **Year B – Acts of the Apostles**

Seven are chosen to care for the widows (Acts 6:1-6)

### **Year B – Gospel**

I know my own and my own know me (John 10:11-18)

### **Year C – Hebrew Scriptures**

Wisdom teaches her children (Sirach 4:11-18)

### **Year C – Acts of the Apostles**

Everything they owned was held in common, and there was not a needy person among them (Acts 4:32-37)

### **Year C – Gospel**

I give them eternal life, and they will never perish (John 10:27-30)

## **Fifth Sunday of Easter**

### **Year A – Hebrew Scriptures**

Would that all were prophets (Numbers 1:24-30)

### **Year A – Acts of the Apostles**

Peter tells how he was led to baptize gentiles (Acts 10:44-48; 11:1-18)

### **Year A – Gospel**

I am the way, the truth and the life (John 14:1-14)

### **Year B – Hebrew Scriptures**

Jonah is saved from the whale (Jonah 1:17–2:10)

### **Year B – Acts of the Apostles**

Debate at the council of Jerusalem; James favors the baptism of gentiles (Acts 15:1-21)

### **Year B – Gospel**

Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit (John 15:1-8)

### **Year C – Hebrew Scriptures**

Come to wisdom (Sirach 6:18-31)

### **Year C – Acts of the Apostles**

Priscilla and Aquila are friends of Paul and teachers of Apollos (Acts 18:1-3, 18-19a)

### **Year C – Gospel**

Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you (John 14:23-29)

## **Sixth Sunday of Easter**

### **Year A – Hebrew Scriptures**

The sweetness of mutual love (Song of Solomon 2:8-17; 4:1, 10-16)

### **Year A – Acts of the Apostles**

Four women prophets (Acts 21:7-14)

### **Year A – Gospel**

Everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have care for one another (John 13:31-34a, 34-35) ??????????????

### **Year B – Hebrew Scriptures**

The three youth are saved from death (Daniel 3:13-20, 24-26)

Daniel is saved from death (Daniel 6:7, 13-23)

### **Year B – Acts of the Apostles**

Many prophets and teachers (Acts 13:1-5)

### **Year B – Gospel**

If you love me, you will keep my commandments (John 14:15-21)

### **Year C – Hebrew Scriptures**

Live according to wisdom (Sirach 51:13-21)

### **Year C – Acts of the Apostles**

Barnabas and others preach and teach at Antioch (Acts 11:19-26)

Paul and Barnabas strengthen and encourage (Acts 14:21-28)

### **Year C – Gospel**

You are my friends if you do what I command you (John 15:9-17)

## **Ascension**

### **Year A – Hebrew Scriptures**

The joys of wisdom (Proverbs 3:13-18)

### **Year A – Acts of the Apostles**

The ascension (Acts 1:1-11)

### **Year A – Gospel**

All power is given to Christ (Matthew 28:16-20)

### **Year B – Hebrew Scriptures**

In praise of wisdom (Wisdom 7:21-30)

### **Year B – Acts of the Apostles**

The ascension (Acts 1:1-11)

### **Year B – Gospel**

Christ is exalted to the Father's side (Mark 16:15-20)

### **Year C – Hebrew Scriptures**

The mystery of wisdom (Sirach 1:1-10)

### **Year C – Acts of the Apostles**

The ascension (Acts 1:1-11)

### **Year C – Gospel**

Christ was taken up to heaven (Luke 24:44-53)



## **Seventh Sunday of Easter**

### **Year A – Hebrew Scriptures**

Making just laws (Numbers 27:1-8)

### **Year A – Acts of the Apostles**

Breaking bread at Troas; Paul preaches and Eutychus falls asleep (Acts 20:-12)

### **Year A – Gospel**

Eternal life is to know the only true God, and Jesus Christ (John 17:1-11a)

### **Year B – Hebrew Scriptures**

The widow and Elijah are saved from death (1 Kings 17:1-16)

### **Year B – Acts of the Apostles**

The eleven, together with Mary and other women, devote themselves to prayer  
(Acts 1:12-14)

### **Year B – Gospel**

Sanctify them in the truth (John 17:11b-19)

### **Year C – Hebrew Scriptures**

Eat and drink of wisdom (Sirach 24:13-21)

### **Year C – Acts of the Apostles**

Teaching and fellowship, the breaking of bread and the prayers (Acts 2:41-47)

### **Year C – Gospel**

That they may be one (John 17:20-26)

# Pentecost

## Year A – Hebrew Scriptures

The breath of life (Genesis 2:4b-10, 18, 21-25)

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

God descended on Mount Sinai (Exodus 19:3-8a, 16-20)

## Year A – Acts of the Apostles

The Holy Spirit descends (Acts 2:1-11)

## Year A – Gospel

Receive the Spirit (John 20:19-23)

## Year B – Hebrew Scriptures

New breath in dry bones (Ezekiel 37:1-14)

A new covenant (Jeremiah 31:31-34)

Sons and daughters shall prophesy (Joel 2:28-32)

## Year B – Acts of the Apostles

The Holy Spirit descends (Acts 2:1-11)

## Year B – Gospel

The Spirit of truth will testify (John 15:26-27; 16:12-15)

## Year C – Hebrew Scriptures

Wisdom and the holy spirit (Wisdom 9:9-18)

Wisdom beside God at creation (Proverbs 8:22-31)

## Year C – Acts of the Apostles

The Holy Spirit descends (Acts 2:1-11)

## Year C – Gospel

The Holy Spirit will teach you everything (John 14:15-16, 23b-26)