

Daily Bible Readings for February

Two things stick out to us as we look at our readings list for this month. First, the predominant Gospel reading is from Mark's Gospel. That's not peculiar to this month, but rather indicative that we are in Year B of the lectionary cycle. The lectionary (you may remember) has three years: A, B & C. They focus on Matthew, Mark and Luke, respectively. John is used in all three years. This year is Year B and so we see the prevalence of Mark's version of the Gospel. What makes Mark's Gospel unique? I'm glad you asked! Mark is focused on the cross. Everything in Mark's Gospel speaks of the urgency of the Cross in God's plan of salvation. For this reason, Mark records no Birth stories and has a very brief resurrection narrative. The importance on Christ was his sacrificial death. And there is *urgency* to this message. The word "immediately" appears more in Mark's gospel than in any other. The second thing we notice this month is the appearance of the Genesis story, the covenant between God and Abraham. As we begin the Lenten Journey, the readings point us to the very foundation of our faith: Covenant. We are a covenant people. God is a God whose covenant will not be broken. Even when we rebel and turn away, God will remain faithful, even to the point of giving His Son.

Our readings list comes from the Revised Common Lectionary recommended for use by the United Church of Christ and by many other Christian denominations in North America. The daily Bible readings are clustered into weeks with Sunday being the center of each week. The readings for Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of each week orient our prayer and preparation for the Sunday lessons; the readings for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday reflect on Sunday's lessons.

In the worship of Grace Church we normally read only two lessons. However, many Sundays the Psalm for the day is also incorporated into the service as a Call to Worship or prayer.

Jan 28	<i>Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany</i> Deuteronomy 18:15-20 Psalm 111 1 Corinthians 8:1-13 Mark 1:21-28	Feb 3	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c Isaiah 46:1-13 Matthew 12:9-14
Jan 29	Psalm 35:1-10 Numbers 22:1-21 Acts 21:17-26	Feb 4	<i>Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany</i> Isaiah 40:21-31 Psalm 147:1-11, 20c 1 Corinthians 9:16-23 Mark 1:29-39
Jan 30	Psalm 35:1-10 Numbers 22:22-28 1 Corinthians 7:32-40	Feb 5	Psalm 102:12-28 2 Kings 4:8-17, 32-37 Acts 14:1-7
Jan 31	Psalm 35:1-10 Jeremiah 29:1-14 Mark 5:1-20	Feb 6	Psalm 102:12-28 2 Kings 8:1-6 Acts 15:36-41
Fifth Week after the Epiphany		Feb 7	Psalm 102:12-28 Job 6:1-13 Mark 3:7-12
Feb 1	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c Proverbs 12:10-21 Galatians 5:2-15		
Feb 2	Psalm 147:1-11, 20c Job 36:1-23 1 Corinthians 9:1-16	Transfiguration Feb 8	Psalm 50:1-6 1 Kings 11:26-40 2 Corinthians 2:12-17

Feb 9	Psalm 50:1-6 1 Kings 14:1-18 1 Timothy 1:12-20	Feb 19	Psalm 77 Job 4:1-21 Ephesians 2:1-10
Feb 10	Psalm 50:1-6 1 Kings 16:1-7 Luke 19:41-44	Feb 20	Psalm 77 Job 5:8-27 1 Peter 3:8-18a
Feb 11	<i>Transfiguration of the Lord</i> 2 Kings 2:1-12 Psalm 50:1-6 2 Corinthians 4:3-6 Mark 9:2-9	Feb 21	Psalm 77 Proverbs 30:1-9 Matthew 4:1-11
		Second Week of Lent	
Feb 12	Psalm 110:1-4 Exodus 19:7-25 Hebrews 2:1-4	Feb 22	Psalm 22:23-31 Genesis 15:1-6, 12-18 Romans 3:21-31
Feb 13	Psalm 110:1-4 Job 19:23-27 1 Timothy 3:14-16	Feb 23	Psalm 22:23-31 Genesis 16:1-6 Romans 4:1-12
	First Week of Lent	Feb 24	Psalm 22:23-31 Genesis 16:7-15 Mark 8:27-30
Feb 14	<i>Ash Wednesday</i> Joel 2:1-2, 12-17 or Isaiah 58:1-12 Psalm 51:1-17 2 Corinthians 5:20b—6:10 Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21	Feb 25	<i>Second Sunday in Lent</i> Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16 Psalm 22:23-31 Romans 4:13-25 Mark 8:31-38 or Mark 9:2-9
Feb 15	Psalm 25:1-10 Daniel 9:1-14 1 John 1:3-10	Feb 26	Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45 Genesis 21:1-7 Hebrews 1:8-12
Feb 16	Psalm 25:1-10 Daniel 9:15-25a 2 Timothy 4:1-5	Feb 27	Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45 Genesis 22:1-19 Hebrews 11:1-3, 13-19
Feb 17	Psalm 25:1-10 Psalm 32 Matthew 9:2-13	Feb 28	Psalm 105:1-11, 37-45 Jeremiah 30:12-22 John 12:36-43
Feb 18	<i>First Sunday in Lent</i> Genesis 9:8-17 Psalm 25:1-10 1 Peter 3:18-22 Mark 1:9-15		