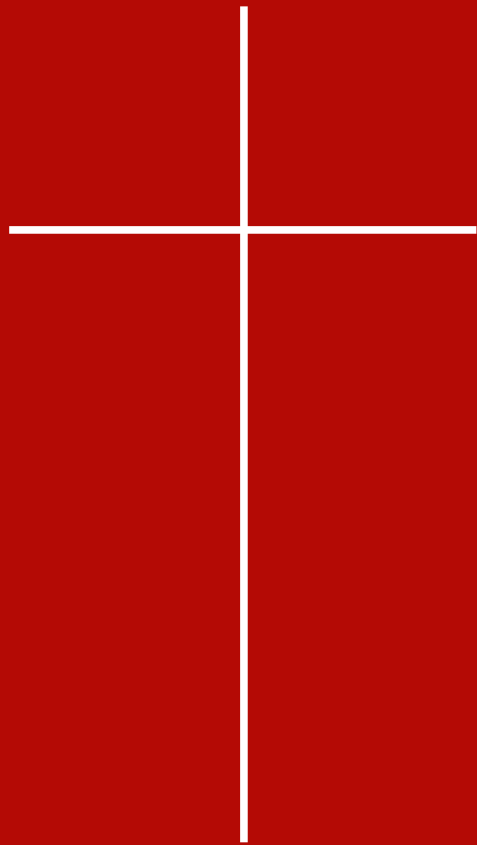


‘Signs of God’



LECTIONARY

Year C

'Signs of God' Lectionary Year C

For clergy, pastoral workers, volunteers, Deaf people and those interested in the world of the signing Catholic community.

‘Signs of God’ Lectionary

For use with the Signing Deaf community
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Manchester, United Kingdom

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Introduction

This complete and revised four volume edition of 'Signs of God' lectionaries includes all the readings for Ordinary Sundays, Proper of Seasons and Feasts/Solemnities (Year A, B, C and Feasts & Solemnities). It has been produced for the Deaf community. The original Lectionary already exists but it is not designed for Deaf signers who have to translate the vernacular (ie English) before they are able to proclaim the Word of God in sign language. The Deaf communities are a linguistic minority and within Great Britain use British Sign Language to communicate in daily living as well as in Christian witness.

British Sign Language is used in Northern Ireland and Irish Sign Language in Eire; however, many Irish Deaf are familiar with both. There is a long history of some Irish signs incorporated into British Sign Language in places such as Glasgow and London creating a mistaken notion of 'Catholic signs' versus 'Protestant signs'. It is similar to people with accents and the way they speak. These lectionaries are written with syntax which enables the signer to sign using their localized sign language to proclaim the Word of God in their own language.

In order to maintain the integrity and content of the Word of God in the Scriptures and to ensure that it is proclaimed appropriately in sign language, it is important not only to bear in mind the theology of the scriptures but also to take into account the cultural and historical background of the Deaf community. This we have tried to do in this revised edition of 'Signs of God' lectionaries.

For signers to present the Word of God in sign language, they need to go through a process of translation which involves a high level of skill, knowledge and competence, both linguistically and theologically. Conveying and proclaiming God's message from the printed word in the Lectionary into sign language needs to be clear, unambiguous, and immediately comprehensible to Deaf people in the congregation so that they do not have to mentally re-interpret what they see.

Inevitably, there will be sentences in which the English will sound a little strange to the ears; this is because of the need to facilitate the 'signability' whilst at the same time remaining faithful to the original meaning as in the Lectionary. Ideally the Lectionary is best captured in a visual form which enables signers to explore and enhance the different ways of

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proclaiming the Word of God (see <https://www.catholicdeaf.org.uk>).

Natural sign language means entering into the Deaf culture. Furthermore, it is almost impossible to understand the signer if s/he does not use the indigenous idiomatic expression which impounds the richness of aspectual information that comes from the visual-spatial characteristics of sign language. Therefore, it is crucially important that the signers understand the contents of the texts that they are to translate and proclaim.

As regards the visual aspect of presenting the Word of God, good liturgy is possible when a 'signer' and a 'voice-over' have practised together. Too often, many people live in a world of 'words'; we have five senses and so we try to encourage 'signers' and 'voice-overs' to be conscious of how they present not only the Word of God but also themselves. The Lectern needs to be at the right height – usually waist height – many lecterns in Church are too high, they reach up almost to the neck, thus obliterating the congregation's view of the Signer apart from the face. The right height maximises the signer's signing space for signing and allows Deaf people in the congregation to see the signs proclaimed better.

There is also the background and environs to consider; it helps to have a simple plain, not crowded or cluttered, backdrop with minimal distractions. It should help the congregation to focus on the person reading, signing, and proclaiming the Word of God. Even the clothes they (Signer and Voice-over) wear are important, as well as being smart, they need to be plain and not distracting (ie texture, colour, pattern), and without such things as dangly ear-rings and dazzling jewellery.

The positioning of the lectern is also important; in some churches the lectern seems to be almost tucked away in the corner which is a pity since the crucial liturgical actions that take place are at the Lectern (Word of God) and at the altar (consecration of the bread and wine). Furthermore, if the lectern is so far off the centre, it means Deaf people, who use their eyes as the main channel for communication, have to strain their neck turned at a certain angle which can be uncomfortable. There must be nothing that blocks the line of sight between the signer and the congregation (ie candles, flowers, wreaths etc).

Finally, perhaps the single overriding aspect is the use of lighting in the Church, especially the light on the

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signer and voice-over. Poor or insufficient lighting is akin to poor use of the PA system for hearing people. Some churches dim or subdue the lights on the sanctuary/nave for dramatic effect especially during the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass, the Easter Vigil, or an evening service for Remembrance Sunday not to mention evening Reconciliation Services. Such minimal lighting can be detrimental to the Deaf or Hard of Hearing persons in the congregation excluding their abilities to follow proceedings thereby denying their full and proper participation. A full and proper spotlight on the lectern and the reader or cantor makes all the difference to aid inclusivity.

From experience, maintaining eye-contact with the congregation enables them to feel involved in the reception of the sacred Word. Hearing people do not realise that they subconsciously 'lip-read' the readers. Hence, advance prayerful preparation of the proclamation of the Word of God is crucial if the proper message is to be conveyed to the congregation. Likewise, there are certain signs, movements, facial expressions and gestures that they can pick up on. We pray not only with our ears but with our whole body – it is a temple in which the spirit of God lives. If the

lectern is structurally fixed in one place, it is surprising how careful forward planning, consultation with the Deaf congregation and flexibility can enhance the visual aspect of the liturgy and help to bring alive the Word of God.

To make better use of this 'Signs of God', Training Days are recommended. The local Deaf community will need to find ways of using appropriate signs as well as liturgical signs, since signs vary from one place to another. People who use other national sign languages such as Irish Sign Language, will need to be flexible and check with the original English Lectionary in conjunction with these 'Signs of God' lectionaries to find an appropriate way of signing the relevant sentence, phrase or words.

As well as the celebration of the Eucharist (Mass), these 'Signs of God' will be useful for personal prayer, Prayer groups, Retreats, Training Days, and other spiritual liturgical services.

Peter McDonough

Explanation

➤ **A READING FROM THE SCROLL □ OF GENESIS**

In a heading such as ‘A reading from the book of Genesis’, we can’t use the sign ‘book’, because the Bible was not printed as a book until the fifteenth century. It is more appropriate, biblically correct and liturgically enriching, to sign ‘scroll’ as in the picture on the right.



Figure 1: Torah scroll

The symbol □ shows the movement of the hands for the action of unrolling a scroll. This is used for all readings from the Old Testament. Hebrew language was used and the writing was from right to left, and new pages were added onto the left of the first one.

➤ **A READING FROM ST PAUL’S LETTER ⇅ TO THE ROMAN**

Neither can we sign the word ‘Epistle’ or ‘letter’. (the word ‘letter’ is printed because for a reader to voice-over ‘scroll’ does not sound right.) The word ‘letter’ is not appropriate to sign because in sign language a signer would use a sign depicting someone licking a stamp and sticking it on an envelope! The symbol ⇅ shows the movement of the hands for the action of unrolling a scroll. This is used for all readings from the New Testament. Greek language was used, and the writing was from top to bottom, left to right, and pages were added onto the bottom of the first page.



Figure 2: vertically rolled scroll

Explanation

➤ *Isaiah 2:1-5*

Any word or heading in italic is not to be signed or spoken at all. They, especially scripture references, are for the reader's information only.

➤ **THANKS TO BE GOD**

Any words printed in coloured bold font means that the congregation joins/copies the reader/signer in signing the words.

➤ Now, Israel, obey the laws and customs (culture) that I teach you today.

In the text of the readings, words in parentheses are for the signer to use, since, as yet, we do not have an appropriate liturgical sign developed for the preceding word. For example, 'customs (culture)', the Signer will sign 'culture' whereas the reader doing the Voice-Over will say 'customs'.

Prayer

God Our Father, You speak to us through your Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Give us your Holy Spirit to help us understand your message. Open our minds and hearts so that we will receive your Holy Words. Help us to understand the teachings of your Son Jesus. Let us read Your Book, God's book, that we will worthily proclaim your message so that all will receive the Good News of Jesus Christ and receive Life. Amen.

We ask Mary, the Mother of the Church, to show us how to 'treasure' the Words of Jesus her Son. Amen.

1st Sunday of Advent

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇔ OF JEREMIAH

Jeremiah 33:14–16

The LORD said, 'Soon I will keep my promise that I made to the people of Israel and Judah:

"At that time I will choose a King to rule with justice. He will be a descendant of David. He will do the things that are good and right for the country. The people of Judah will be saved and Israel will live with confidence. The city will be called 'The LORD is righteous {good}.'"

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalms 24

RESPONSE: **MY SOUL, I LIFT UP TO YOU, LORD.**

MY SOUL, I LIFT UP TO YOU, LORD.

LORD, help me know your ways.
Teach me to walk in your truth.
Because you God are my saviour.
The LORD is always good.

MY SOUL, I LIFT UP TO YOU, LORD.

The LORD God guides the humble in the right path.

To the lost people, He shows the way.

He teaches his way to the poor.

His ways are faithfulness and love.

MY SOUL, I LIFT UP TO YOU, LORD.

A READING FROM ST PAUL'S FIRST SCROLL ⇕ TO THE THESSALONIANS

1 Thessalonians 3:12 – 4:2

Let the Lord be generous, increasing your love and help you love each other and all people the same way as we love you. In this way the Lord will make your hearts holy so that in front of God our Father you will stand without blame until the Lord Jesus Christ comes with all his saints.

My brothers and sisters, you learnt from us how to live the way God wants; this is the life you should have. In the name of the Lord Jesus, we encourage you to live the way God wants, and never stop trying. You have not

1st Sunday of Advent

forgotten the teachings we gave you from the Lord Jesus.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

LORD, let us see your mercy and give us your help.

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 21:25–28, 34–36

Jesus said to his disciples: 'Strange things will happen to the sun, the moon and the stars. The world will be in agony (pain), people will be afraid of the noise of the sea and the waves. People will worry about what will happen to the earth. The powers of heaven will shake. And then they will see the Son of Man coming in a cloud with power and great glory. When these things happen, stand with confidence because your salvation will happen soon.

Watch yourselves, or your hearts will become hard and cold because of selfishness, drunkenness, and the cares, problems, temptations of the world; or that day will happen suddenly like a trap. It will happen to people everywhere on earth. Stay awake, praying all the time for strength. Pray you will be able to stand with confidence in front of the Son of Man.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

2nd Sunday of Advent

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇔ OF BARUCH

Baruch 5:1–9

You Jerusalem, take off sorrow and distress, the same as a dress, and put on the beauty of God's glory for ever. Wrap around you the cloak of God's integrity (goodness). Put on your head the diadem (headband/crown) of God's glory. God will show your splendour (glory) to everyone under heaven. God will give you a name for ever: 'Peace through integrity (goodness) and honour through faithfulness.'

You Jerusalem, arise. Stand on the heights and look to the east. You will see your children from the west and from the east brought together because of the Holy One's command; and you will rejoice because God remembered them.

With their enemies, they left you and they walked away. Now God brings them back to you, they are carried in glory like royal princes. God ordered all high mountains and hills become flat; the valleys

filled up level; so that Israel can walk safely under God's glory. Because of God's command, the trees will give shade to Israel; and God will lead Israel with joy by the light of his glory with mercy and goodness.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 125

RESPONSE: **WE ARE GLAD
BECAUSE GOD'S CREATION
IS MARVELLOUS.**

**WE ARE GLAD BECAUSE GOD'S
CREATION IS MARVELLOUS.**

The LORD helped us and freed us, it seemed like a dream become true!

We rejoiced, we sang and we were happy.

Other people said, 'The LORD did good things for them!

Truly the LORD is wonderful.'

2nd Sunday of Advent

WE ARE GLAD BECAUSE GOD'S CREATION IS MARVELLOUS.

We were prisoners, but the LORD freed us.

The sad people with tears, are now happy.

People go out sowing seeds with tears.

But now, they gather the crops and they come back with joy.

WE ARE GLAD BECAUSE GOD'S CREATION IS MARVELLOUS.

pray that your knowledge will improve and that you will understand better so that you will see the truth and know what is best. This truth and knowledge will help you to become pure and without fault. It will help you to prepare for Christ's coming. Your lives will be filled with the true goodness that Jesus will give - for the glory and praise of God.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ↕ TO THE PHILIPPIANS

Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Every time I remember you I thank God for you. Every time I pray for you all, I pray with joy because you helped me with the Gospel from the first day until now. I am sure God began this good work through you, and He will continue until the work is finished on the Day Christ Jesus comes. God knows I miss you all. I love you the same way that Jesus Christ loves you. I pray you will love each other more and more. I

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. And all people will see the salvation of God.

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 3:1-6

In the fifteenth year of the reign of the Emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judaea, Herod was ruler of

2nd Sunday of Advent

Galilee, his brother Philip ruler of the lands of Ituraea and Trachonitis, Lysanias ruler of the land of Abilene, during the time of Annas and Caiaphas the High priests; in the wilderness John the Baptist received the Word of God. John went through the land near the River Jordan. He told the people to change their lives, to be baptised and receive the forgiveness of God.

In the book of Isaiah, it says:

‘Someone will shout in the desert: "Prepare a way for the Lord, make his paths straight. Every valley will be filled, every mountain and hill will become flat. Rough roads will become smooth. Then all people will see God’s salvation!"’

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

**PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS
CHRIST**

3rd Sunday of Advent

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇔ OF ZEPHANIAH

Zephaniah 3:14–18

Daughter of Zion, shout with joy. Israel, shout aloud! Daughter of Jerusalem, rejoice and celebrate with all your heart. The LORD took away your punishment. Your enemies, God sent away. The LORD, the King of Israel, is with you; fear evil no more. When that day happens, someone will say:

‘Zion, fear no more, do not let your hands be tired or drop.’

The LORD God is with you, He the warrior (soldier) has won. He will rejoice with you; through his love he will make you new again. God will dance with shouts of joy for you as on a festival (celebration) day.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

Isaiah 12:2–6

RESPONSE: **SING WITH JOY
BECAUSE THE LORD IS GREAT.**

**SING WITH JOY BECAUSE THE
LORD IS GREAT.**

Truly, God is my salvation.
I trust God, I will not be afraid.
The LORD gives me strength.
God saves me.

**SING WITH JOY BECAUSE THE
LORD IS GREAT.**

Give thanks to the LORD, praise his name!

Tell all people about his wonderful works.

Tell all people about his name.

Sing and praise the Lord, the Holy One of Israel.

**SING WITH JOY BECAUSE THE
LORD IS GREAT.**

A READING FROM ST PAUL'S SCROLL ⇕ TO THE PHILIPPIANS

Philippians 4:4–7

I want you to be happy, always happy in the Lord. I say it again: I want your happiness. Show your patience to everyone. The Lord is very near. Don't worry about anything but if there is something that you need, pray to God and ask for what you need. Always ask God with prayers and thanksgiving. God's peace is so

3rd Sunday of Advent

great, we can never really understand. God's peace will keep your hearts and minds safe in Christ Jesus.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

The LORD gave me his spirit. He sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 3:10-18

People asked John, 'What must we do?' John answered, 'If you have two shirts, you must share with someone that has none. If you have food, you must also share it with someone that has no food.' Some tax collectors came to be baptized and they asked him, 'What must we do?' John said to them, 'Be honest, and don't charge people to pay too

much tax.' Some soldiers asked him, 'What about us? What must we do?' John said, 'Don't bully anyone. Don't be cruel. Don't force people to pay you. Be satisfied with your wages.'

People began to hope that John the Baptist might be the Christ. So John told them all, 'I baptise you with water, but someone is coming. He is more powerful than I am. I am not good enough to take off his sandals. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He will separate the grain of wheat into his barn, and the straw that is no good he will throw into a fire that will never go out.' In many different ways John preached the Good News to the people and he told them to change their lives.

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

4th Sunday of Advent

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ OF MICAH

Micah 5:1–4

The LORD says:

‘You, Bethlehem Ephrathah, you the least important of the families of Judah, from you will be born someone to rule Israel. His family lived a long way in the past. The LORD will leave his people until the day a woman gives birth to a son. Then his people (family) will come back and join the people of Israel. He will stand and feed his sheep with the power of the LORD and with the glory of God’s name. His people will live safely because all over the earth people will acknowledge his greatness. He will bring peace.’

THE WORD OF THE LORD THANKS BE TO GOD

Psalm 79

RESPONSE: **LORD, LET YOUR
FACE SHINE ON US AND WE
WILL BE SAVED.**

**LORD, LET YOUR FACE SHINE
ON US AND WE WILL BE
SAVED.**

LORD, shepherd of Israel, look at us.

Show your strength, come and help us.

Turn to us, O God!

Look down from heaven and protect your vine.

**LORD, LET YOUR FACE SHINE
ON US AND WE WILL BE
SAVED.**

You have chosen your son.

Give him strength.

We will never leave you again.

Give us life and we will praise your name.

**LORD, LET YOUR FACE SHINE
ON US AND WE WILL BE
SAVED.**

A READING FROM THE SCROLL ⇄ TO THE HEBREWS

Hebrews 10:5–10

When Christ came into the world, he said:

‘You do not want sacrifices or blood from animals, but you prepared a body for me. You do not want animals burnt on the

4th Sunday of Advent

altar, or sacrifices to take away sins.'

Christ said, 'God, I am here. As it is written in the scriptures (Bible), 'I am ready to obey you.'"

Christ first said to God: 'You did not want sacrifices or animals burnt on the altar to take away sins.' Then Christ said to God, 'I am here. I will obey you.'

So the old way of sacrificing animals on the altar is finished. Now Christ replaced the old way with the new way - the new offering (sacrifice) made holy by the body of Jesus Christ. One sacrifice of Jesus is enough for all people forever.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

THANKS BE TO GOD

ALLELUIA, ALLELUIA!

I am the servant of the Lord. I will obey you.

ALLELUIA!

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL OF LUKE

Luke 1:39-44

Mary went quickly to a town in the hill country of Judah to visit Elizabeth. Zechariah lived there. Mary went into the house and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leapt (kicked) in her womb. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and said aloud, 'You, Mary, are the most blessed of all women, and blessed is the baby in your womb. Why did you come to honour me, you, the mother of my Lord? When I heard your greeting, the baby inside me leapt (kicked) with joy. Yes, you are blessed because you believed the Lord's promise would become true.'

THE GOSPEL OF THE LORD

PRAISE TO YOU LORD JESUS CHRIST

ONLY THE FIRST FOUR READINGS ARE
AVAILABLE HERE.

TO ACCESS THE FULL 'SIGNS OF GOD'
LECTIONARY YEAR A,
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IF YOU ARE NOT A MEMBER, YOU CAN JOIN.
PLEASE SEE THE HOME PAGE AND SCROLL
DOWN TO THE BOTTOM. THANK YOU.

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6 th Sunday	Jr 17:5–8	Ps 1	1 Co 15:12, 16–20	Lk 6:17, 20–26
7 th Sunday	1 S 26:2, 7–9, 12–13, 22–23	Ps 102	1 Co 15:45–49	Lk 6:27–38
8 th Sunday	Si 27:4–7	Ps 91	1 Co 15:54–58	Lk 6:39–45
9 th Sunday	1 K 8:41–43	Ps 116	Ga 1:1–2, 6–10	Lk 7:1–10
10 th Sunday	1 K 17:17–24	Ps 29	Ga 1:11–19	Lk 7:11–17
11 th Sunday	2 S 12:7–10, 13	Ps 31	Ga 2:16, 19–21	Lk 7:36 – 8:3
12 th Sunday	Zc 12:10–11; 13:1	Ps 62	Ga 3:26–29	Lk 9:18–24
13 th Sunday	1 K 19:16, 19–21	Ps 15	Ga 5:1, 13–18	Lk 9:51–62
14 th Sunday	Is 66:10–14	Ps 65	Ga 6:14–18	Lk 10:1–12, 17–20
15 th Sunday	Dt 30:10–14	Ps 68	Col 1:15–20	Lk 10:25–37
16 th Sunday	Gn 18:1–10	Ps 14	Col 1:24–28	Lk 10:38–42
17 th Sunday	Gn 18:20–32	Ps 137	Col 2:12–14	Lk 11:1–13
18 th Sunday	Qo 1:2; 2:21–23	Ps 89	Col 3:1–5, 9–11	Lk 12:13–21
19 th Sunday	Ws 18:6–9	Ps 32	Heb 11:1–2, 8–19	Lk 12:32–48
20 th Sunday	Jr 38:4–6, 8–10	Ps 39	Heb 12:1–4	Lk 12:49–53
21 st Sunday	Is 66:18–21	Ps 116	Heb 12:5–7, 11–13	Lk 13:22–30
22 nd Sunday	Si 3:17–20, 28–29	Ps 67	Heb 12:18–19, 22–24	Lk 14:1, 7–14
23 rd Sunday	Ws 9:13–18	Ps 89	Phm 1:9–10, 12–17	Lk 14:25–33
24 th Sunday	Ex 32:7–11, 13–14	Ps 50	1 Tm 1:12–17	Lk 15:1–32
25 th Sunday	Am 8:4–7	Ps 112	1 Tm 2:1–8	Lk 16:1–13

	FIRST READING	PSALM	SECOND READING	GOSPEL
26 th Sunday	Am 6:1, 4-7	Ps 145	1 Tm 6:11-16	Lk 16:19-31
27 th Sunday	Hab 1:2-3; 2:2-4	Ps 94	2 Tm 1:6-8, 13-14	Lk 17:5-10
28 th Sunday	2 K 5:14-17	Ps 97	2 Tm 2:8-13	Lk 17:11-19
29 th Sunday	Ex 17:8-13	Ps 120	2 Tm 3:14 - 4:2	Lk 18:1-8
30 th Sunday	Si 35:12-14, 16-19	Ps 33	2 Tm 4:6-8, 16-18	Lk 18:9-14
31 st Sunday	Ws 11:22 - 12:2	Ps 144	2 Th 1:11 - 2:2	Lk 19:1-10
32 nd Sunday	2 M 7:1-2, 9-14	Ps 16	2 Th 2:16 - 3:5	Lk 20:27-38
33 rd Sunday	MI 3:19-20	Ps 97	2 Th 3:7-12	Lk 21:5-19
Christ the King	2 S 5:1-3	Ps 121	Col 1:12-20	Lk 23:35-43

