

## ALTERNATIVE TABLES OF LESSONS CANON 1985

Canon 17, 1985 as amended by  
Canon 15, 1992

### A canon to authorise the use of certain Alternative Tables of Lessons

The General Synod prescribes as follows:

1. This canon may be cited as "Alternative Tables of Lessons Canon 1985".
- 2.<sup>1</sup> The use by this Church of the Table of Lessons set out in the Schedule hereto is hereby authorised until a date to be fixed by canon of General Synod.
  4. Nothing in Section 2 affects the use of Tables in the Book of Common Prayer or in An Australian Prayer Book 1978 or of any other Tables duly authorised at the time when this canon comes into effect.
  5.
    4. The synod of a diocese may by ordinance regulate the use in the diocese of the Table set out in the Schedule.
    5. (1) Subject to this section, the bishop of a diocese may, upon request being submitted to him, authorise deviations from the Table of Lessons set out in the Schedule.
      - (2) The procedures set out in the second and third provisos to section 4 of the Constitution apply to and in relation to the submission of requests to the bishop of a diocese under sub-section (1) in like manner as they apply to and in relation to the submission of requests for deviations from the Book of Common Prayer.
      - (3) Nothing in this section permits a deviation contravening a principle of doctrine or worship referred to in section 4 of the Constitution.
6. This canon affects the order and good government of the Church within a diocese and shall not come into force in any diocese unless and until the diocese by ordinance adopts the canon.

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<sup>1</sup> Amended by Canon 15, 1992.

## SCHEDULE

### Alternative Tables of Lessons

#### Preface

The Three Year Lectionary for use at Holy Communion was introduced to our Church as part of An Australian Prayer Book 1978. It has been welcomed by many because of the ecumenical fellowship it expresses and because of the greater variety of readings provided over a three year period.

However, its good points have not blinded us to its imperfections. On occasions, the verse at which a reading commences or concludes does not work as well in the Revised Standard Version as in the Jerusalem Bible on which this Lectionary was based. Some Old Testament lessons seem inadequate in themselves or unsatisfactory in their connection with the theme of the Gospel. Some selections from the Epistles are also regarded as being inadequate in length and content. We have received numerous submissions to this effect and felt bound to respond by providing a modest revision of the Lectionary.

Although the Commission is convinced that a revision is warranted, it would not want to act unilaterally. A major revision of the Lectionary should be undertaken in consultation with other English speaking churches using the same Lectionary. Such negotiations have been commenced through A.C.O.L. (the Australian Consultation on Liturgy) and also through E.L.L.C. (the English Language Liturgical Consultation) which has been established to continue and expand the work of I.C.E.T. (the International Consultation on English Texts). An ecumenical consultation in North America (the consultation on common texts) has prepared a draft revision which is being field tested in Australia and elsewhere. The results of this pilot scheme will be considered by E.L.L.C. in due time. However, it will be some time before a decision can be made on this revision, and there is no certainty that it will be adopted in its present form. In the meanwhile, the Commission has prepared a modest revision of the Lectionary for the immediate use of our church.

1. The choice of the Gospel is either unaltered or extended. By retaining the Gospel, much of the ecumenical dimension of the Lectionary is maintained.
2. The major changes are demonstrated in the choice of Old Testament lessons to reflect the theme of the Gospel more adequately and to provide a more substantial coverage from the Old Testament.
3. Some in course readings from the epistles have been rearranged so as to achieve a more adequate coverage.

In general, the modifications to the Lectionary make a revision worthwhile but are not so extensive as to alter its basic style or identity.

Whilst the Primary thrust of this revision deals with the Three Year Lectionary, there are also some additional readings offered for use at Morning and Evening Prayer so as to provide alternative Old Testament lessons when a passage from the Apocrypha is offered on its own.

It is the intention of the Commission to use these Tables as the basis for the annual publication of "The Australian Lectionary".

However, those who wish to continue using the Three Year Lectionary as set out in An Australian Prayer Book may continue to do so by recourse to that book. Those who use the Grail version of the psalms may continue to do so, though the appropriate verse numbers are not stated in this revised Lectionary simply for economy of space. Furthermore, those who use printouts of the Lectionary provided by various commercial organisations may continue to do so in so far as they relate to the Three Year Lectionary as printed in An Australian Prayer Book. The Commission offers this revision to help the Church explore more adequately the potential of the Three Year Lectionary. Thus, we might all "continually profit more and more in the knowledge of God and be more inflamed with the love of his true religion".

Alfred Holland  
Bishop of Newcastle  
Chairman of the Liturgical Commission

**READINGS FOR THE HOLY COMMUNION**  
(THREE YEAR SERIES)

*The tables of lessons which form the remainder of the Schedule may be accessed in earlier editions of this book, or in the Proceedings of the 1985 Session of Synod. They may also be obtained from the Liturgical Resources section of the Anglican Church of Australia website through: <http://www.anglican.org.au/governance/commissions/Pages/liturgy.aspx> or by request to the General Synod Office.*

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