

Paul Turner

A Long Look at the Lectionary for Mass

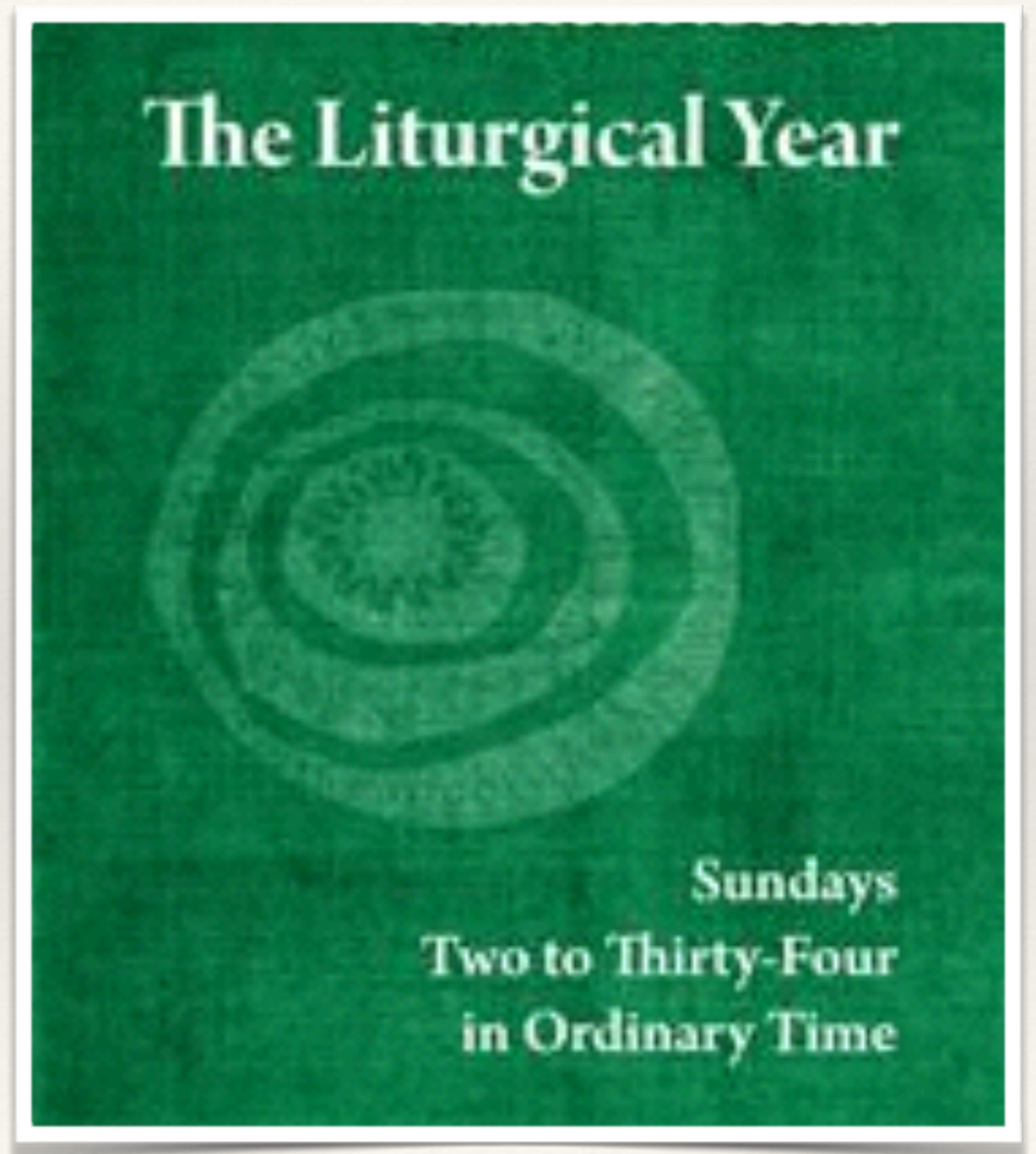
Presbyteral Assembly 2014
Diocese of Worcester

Overview

- ❖ The organization of the readings
- ❖ Samples of responsorial psalms
- ❖ Bibliography

The organization of the readings

- ❖ [See Introduction to the Lectionary for Mass 92-110]
- ❖ Adrien Nocent, *The Liturgical Year*, 3 vols., Introduced, Emended, and Annotated by Paul Turner (Collegeville: Liturgical Press, 2013-2014)



Ordinary Time Sunday Gospels

- ❖ Week 2: manifestation of the Lord at Cana (C), other passages from John's gospel
- ❖ Week 3 begins a semicontinuous reading from Matthew, Mark or Luke, starting with public ministry and ending with sayings about the second coming
 - ❖ Year C includes the intro to Luke on Week 3
- ❖ Year B after the 16th Sunday come five from John 6

Ordinary Time Sunday 1st Readings

- ❖ Chosen to correspond with Gospel and show unity between Old and New Testaments
- ❖ Principal passages from the Old Testament are represented on Sundays

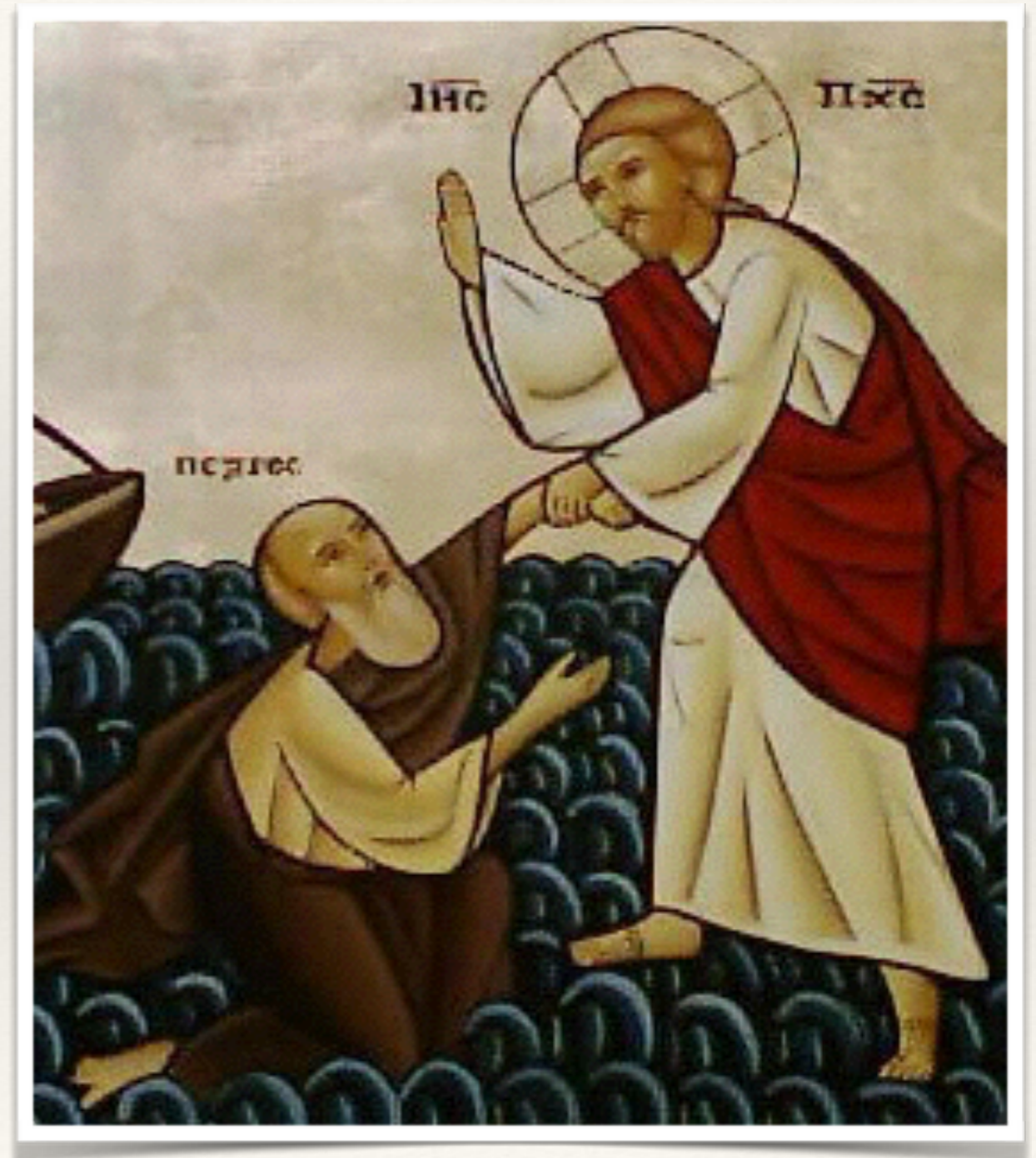


Ordinary Time Sunday 2nd Readings

- ❖ Semicontinuous readings from letters of Paul and James
 - ❖ [they do not necessarily fit the other readings]
- ❖ 1st Corinthians is spread over 3 years at beginning of Ordinary Time
- ❖ Hebrews divided into years B and C
- ❖ In general these readings are “short and readily grasped”

Ordinary Time Weekday Gospels

- ❖ Mark weeks 1-9, Matthew 10-21, Luke 22-34
- ❖ all of Mark 1-12 except for two places in 6 read around the Epiphany
- ❖ multiplying the loaves & Jesus walking on the water



Ordinary Time Weekday Gospels

- ❖ Passages from Matthew and Luke with material not in Mark
 - ❖ but those presented distinctively or needed for progression appear more than once
- ❖ Jesus' entire final discourse from Luke concludes year



Ordinary Time Weekday 1st Reading

- ❖ Readings alternate each Testament every few weeks
- ❖ Large sections of NT books give the substance of the letters
- ❖ Old Testament historical books give a history of salvation
 - ❖ A wisdom passage may give a prologue or conclusion
- ❖ Daniel and Revelation come at the end of the year
- ❖ Omitted: Obadiah, Zephaniah, Song of Songs, Esther, Judith

Advent Sundays

- ❖ Gospels: Lord's coming at the end of time (1st Sunday), John the Baptist (2nd and 3rd), events preparing for the Lord's birth (4th)
- ❖ OT readings are prophecies about the Messiah, especially from Isaiah
- ❖ 2nd readings are exhortations and proclamations in keeping with the season



Advent Weekdays

- ❖ Starts with a semicontinuous reading of Isaiah - The Gospel is chosen with the first reading in mind
- ❖ From Thursday of the second week the Gospels concern John the Baptist - the first reading either continues Isaiah or is inspired by the Gospel
- ❖ From December 17 the Gospels are events leading to the birth of Christ from Matthew and Luke - The first reading is a prophecy chosen in light of the day's gospel

Christmas Solemnities & Feasts

- ❖ Readings of 4 Christmas masses are from the tradition
- ❖ Holy Family about childhood of Jesus and family life
- ❖ Mary, Mother of God - about Mary and the Holy Name
- ❖ Epiphany first reading and gospel are from the tradition, the second reading is about calling nations to salvation
- ❖ Baptism of the Lord - readings concern this mystery

Christmas Weekdays

- ❖ The First Letter of John in its entirety
- ❖ The Gospels relate manifestations of the Lord
 - ❖ December 29-30 childhood of Jesus from Luke
 - ❖ Dec 31 - Jan 5 passages from John 1
 - ❖ January 7-12 manifestations of the Lord from the four Gospels

Lent Sunday Gospels

- ❖ 1st and 2nd Sundays: Temptation and Transfiguration
- ❖ 3rd, 4th and 5th Year A: Samaritan woman, Man born blind, Raising of Lazarus
- ❖ Year B: John on the glorification of Christ through Cross and Resurrection (Temple, Nicodemus, wheat)
- ❖ Year C: Luke / John on conversion (Fig tree, Prodigal Son, adulterous woman)



Lent Sunday Readings

- ❖ OT History of Salvation - proper to the catechesis of Lent
- ❖ 2nd readings provide a connection with others when possible
 - ❖ A: creation and sin, call of Abraham, thirst in the desert, David as king, Ezekiel opening the graves
 - ❖ A: Rom: sin v grace, 2 Tim: appearance of Christ, Rom: God's love poured into our hearts, Eph: Christ will give light, Rom: the one who raised Christ will give you life

- ❖ OT B: Noah, sacrifice of Abraham, commandments, exile and liberation, Jeremiah's new covenant
 - ❖ NT B: 1 Peter: Flood prefigures baptism, Rom: God did not spare his son, 1 Cor: proclaim Christ crucified, Eph: saved by grace, Heb: Christ suffered
- ❖ OT C: confession of faith, God's covenant with Abraham, burning bush, Joshua enters the Promised Land, Isaiah: God's brings life to the desert
 - ❖ OT C: Rom: confess and believe to be saved, Phil: changing our mortal bodies, 1 Cor: the rock was Christ, 1 Cor: be reconciled to God, Phil: what lies ahead

Palm Sunday of the Lord's Passion

- ❖ Gospel on Lord's Solemn Entry (Year B option of John)
- ❖ Passion from the synoptics
- ❖ 1st reading: Song of Suffering Servant
- ❖ 2nd reading: Philippians



Lent Weekdays

- ❖ Gospels and Old Testament readings are related to each other, usually concerning Lent disciplines
- ❖ Fourth Week begins semicontinuous reading of John
- ❖ The Samaritan woman, man born blind and raising of Lazarus may be read on weekdays during weeks 3, 4 and 5
- ❖ First days of Holy Week concern the Passion

Sacred Triduum

- ❖ Holy Thursday: first passover meal, Paul's account of Last Supper and John's washing of the feet
- ❖ Good Friday: Passion of John, servant of Isaiah, high priest
- ❖ Vigil: salvation history, Paul on baptism, and the gospel of the resurrection
- ❖ Easter: Acts; Paul on the paschal mystery; John's empty tomb, or Vigil or Emmaus

Sundays of Easter Time

- ❖ Gospels on Sundays 1-3: appearances of the risen Christ
 - ❖ 4: Good Shepherd
 - ❖ 5-7: the Lord's discourse and prayer at the Last Supper
- ❖ First readings from Acts of the Apostles
- ❖ A: 1 Peter, B: 1 John, C: Revelation
- ❖ Ascension and Pentecost - readings pertaining to the day

Easter Weekdays

- ❖ 1st reading is semicontinuous from Acts of the Apostles
- ❖ Gospels of Octave are appearances of the risen Lord
 - ❖ then a semicontinuous reading of John, largely the final discourse and prayer



Pentecost Sunday

Psalm 104:1, 24, 29-30, 31, 34

(cf. 30) Lord, send out your Spirit,
and renew the face of the earth.

or:

Alleluia.

Bless the LORD, O my soul! O
LORD, my God, you are great
indeed! How manifold are your
works, O Lord! the earth is full of
your creatures;

May the glory of the LORD
endure forever; may the LORD be
glad in his works! Pleasing to him
be my theme; I will be glad in the
LORD.

If you take away their breath,
they perish and return to their
dust. When you send forth your
spirit, they are created, and you
renew the face of the earth.

Most Holy Trinity (A)

Dn 3:52, 53, 54, 55, 56

(52b) Glory and praise for ever!

Blessed are you, O Lord, the God of our fathers, praiseworthy and exalted above all forever; And blessed is your holy and glorious name, praiseworthy and exalted above all for all ages.

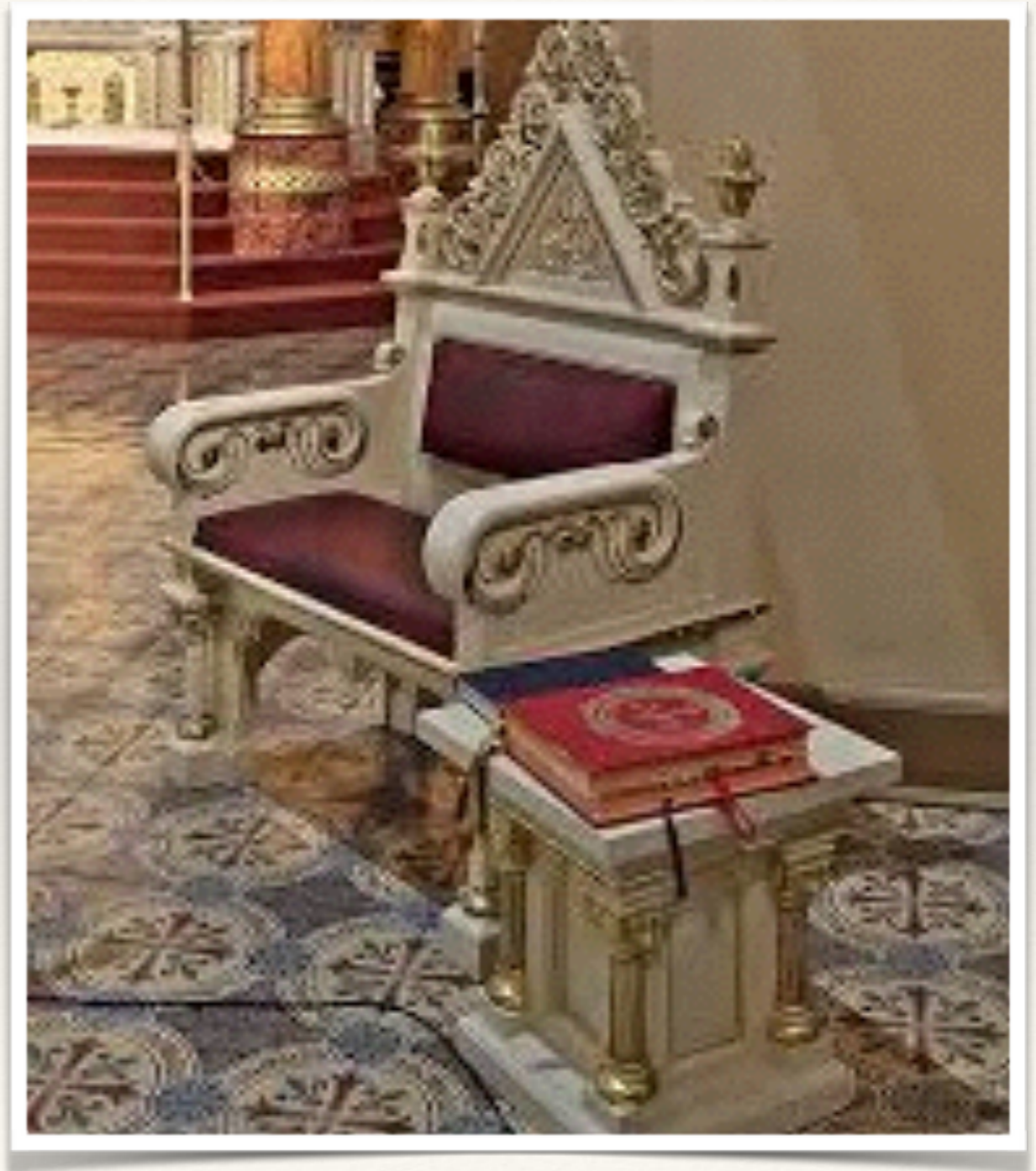
Blessed are you in the temple of your holy glory, praiseworthy and glorious above all forever.

Blessed are you on the throne of your kingdom, praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.

Blessed are you who look into the depths from your throne upon the cherubim, praiseworthy and exalted above all forever.

Universal Prayer - LM43

- ❖ The priest's introduction and concluding prayer may draw on scriptures of the day and the homily



Pentecost Sunday

O God, who by the mystery of
today's great feast
sanctify your whole Church in
every people and nation,
pour out, we pray, the gifts of
the Holy Spirit
across the face of the earth
and, with the divine grace that
was at work

when the Gospel was first
proclaimed,
fill now once more the hearts
of believers.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son.....

[based on a Pentecost prayer
from the Gelasian, new to the
post-Vatican II missal]

Most Holy Trinity

God our Father, who by
sending into the world
the Word of truth and the
Spirit of sanctification
made known to the human
race your wondrous mystery,
grant us, we pray, that in
professing the true faith,

we may acknowledge the
Trinity of eternal glory
and adore your Unity,
powerful in majesty.

Through our Lord Jesus
Christ, your Son....

[based on an older Roman
prayer, new to post-Vatican
II missal]

Most Holy Trinity Antiphons

- ❖ **Entrance:** Blest be God the Father, and the Only Begotten Son of God, and also the Holy Spirit, for he has shown us his merciful love.
- ❖ [inspired by Tobit 12:6, similar to preconciliar missal]
- ❖ **Communion:** Since you are children of God, God has sent into your hearts the Spirit of his Son, the Spirit who cries out: Abba, Father.
- ❖ [Gal 4:6, replacing antiphon from preconciliar missal]

Preface: The Mystery of the Most Holy Trinity

It is truly right and just...

For with your Only Begotten Son
and the Holy Spirit

you are one God, one Lord:

not in the unity of a single
person,

but in a Trinity of one substance.

For what you have revealed to us
of your glory

we believe equally of your Son

and of the Holy Spirit,

so that, in the confessing of the
true and eternal Godhead,

you might be adored in what is
proper to each Person,

their unity in substance,

and their equality in majesty.

For this is praised by Angels....

Prayer over the Offerings

May receiving this Sacrament, O
Lord our God,

bring us health of body and
soul,

as we confess your eternal holy
Trinity and undivided Unity.

Through Christ our Lord.

[new to post-Vatican II missal,
based on earlier Roman prayers]

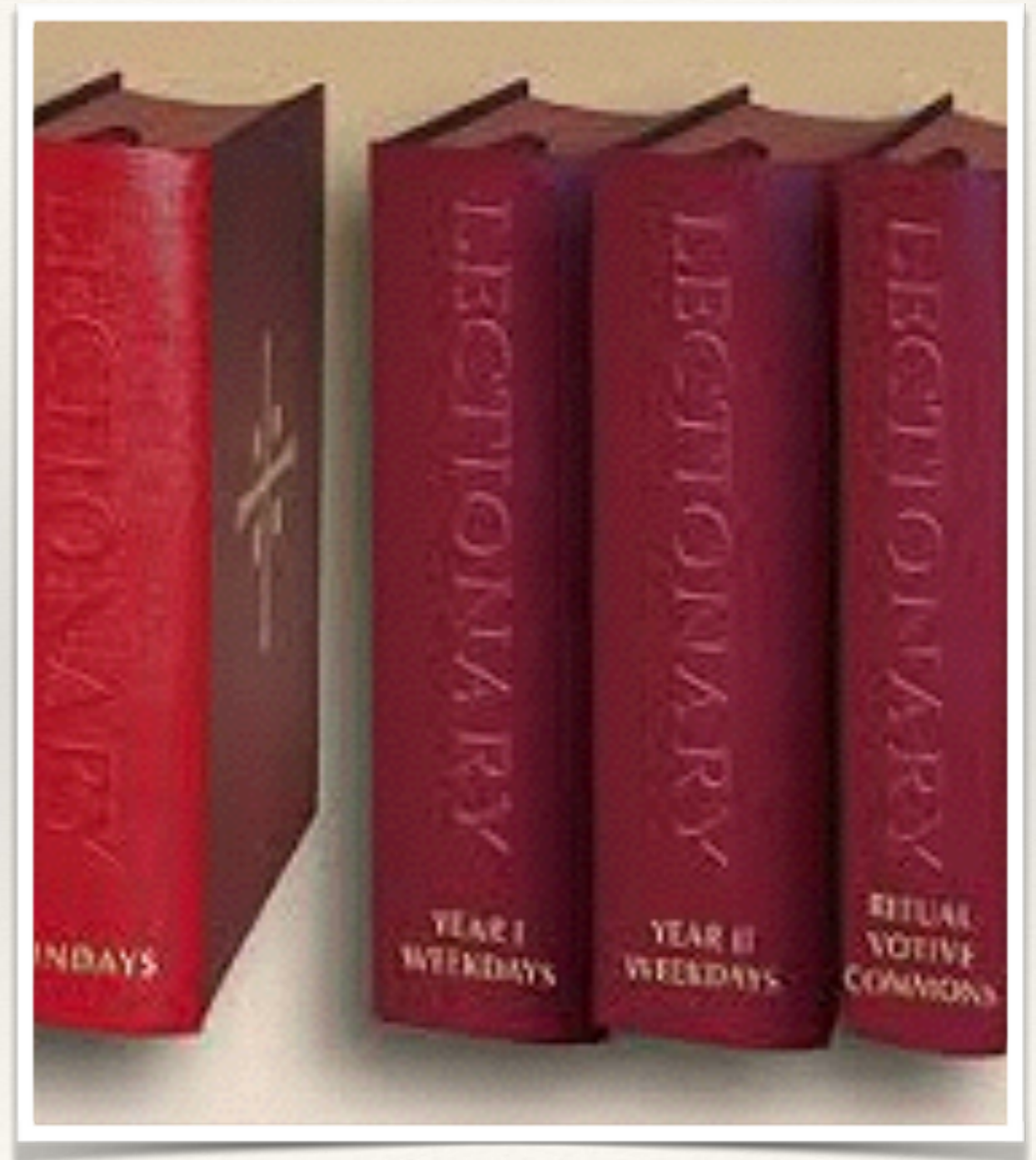


Concluding points

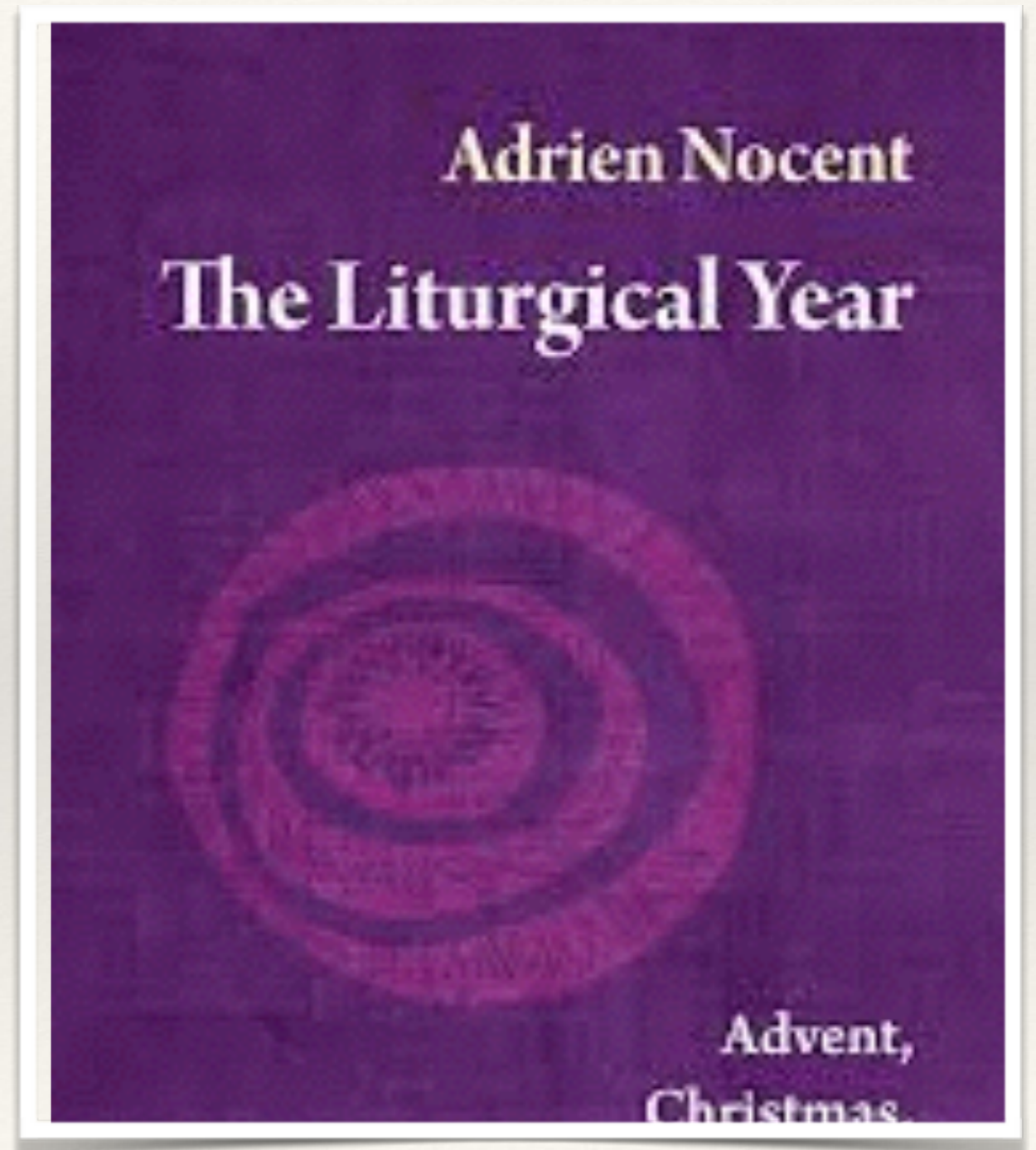
- ❖ The Lectionary for Mass is one of the most successful liturgical forms of the Second Vatican Council
- ❖ Knowing the context helps one make a liturgical reading, not just a biblical reading
- ❖ Other liturgical sources also have value

Bibliography

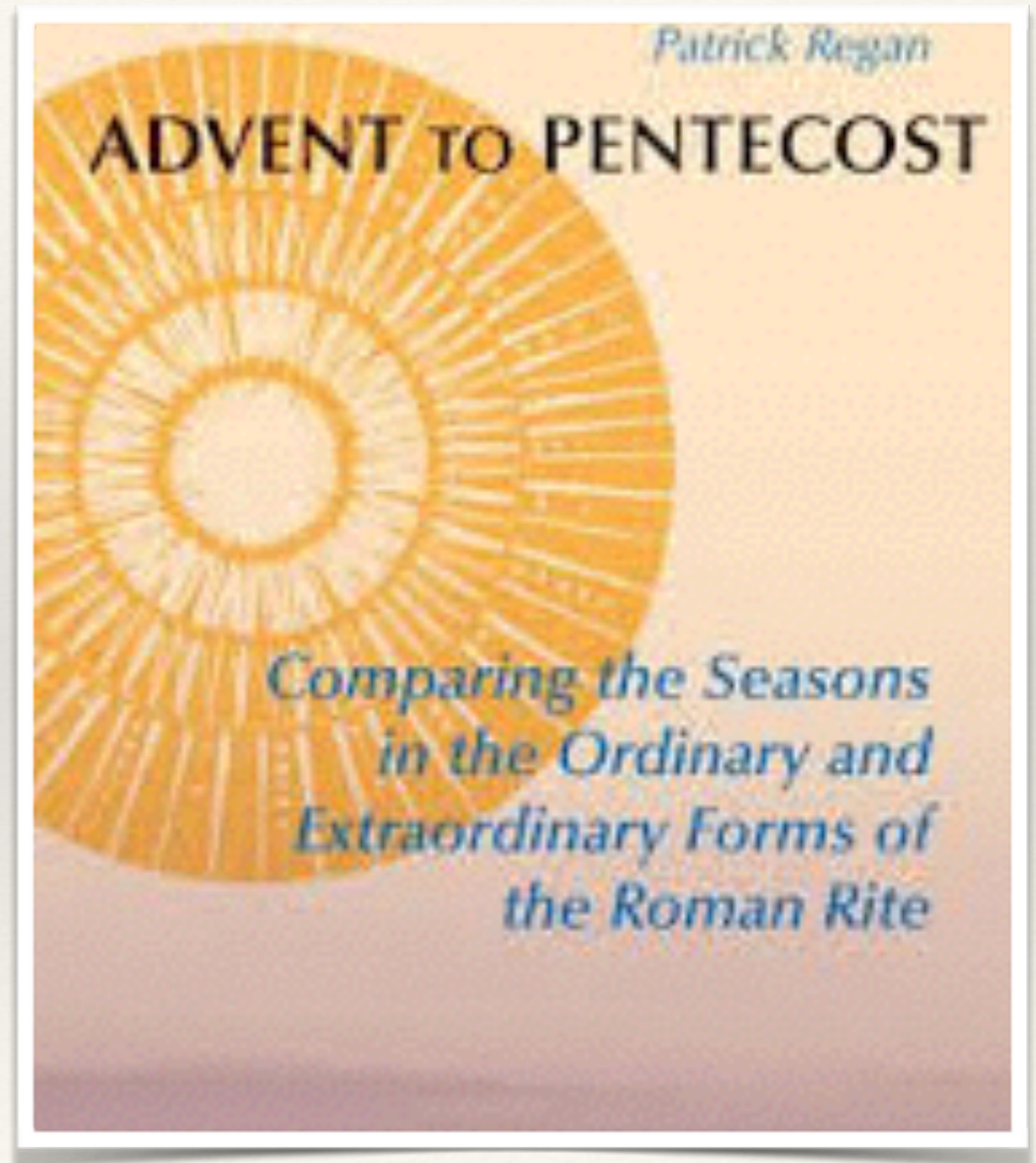
- ❖ Introduction to the Lectionary for Mass



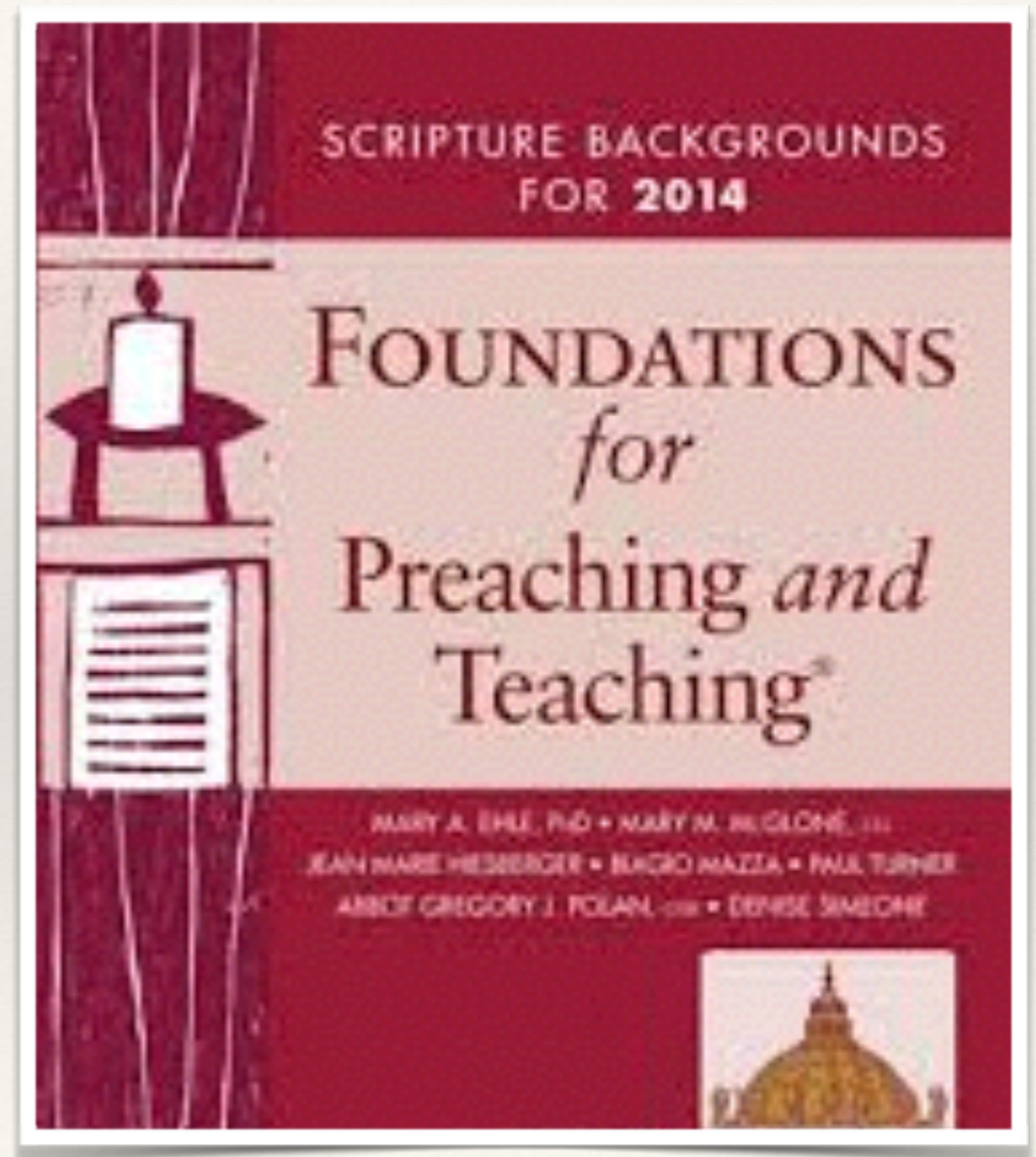
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