

## ***Book of Common Prayer (BCP) Basics***

### **The Daily Office** | pages 11–65

These pages outline the prayers that accompany each of the 4 traditional periods of prayer throughout the day: Morning Prayer, Midday Prayer, Evening Prayer, and Compline (end of day). The readings for Scripture for Morning and Evening Prayer are found in the Daily Office Lectionary. (See below.)

### **Family Prayer** | pages 66–74

These are shorter versions of the 4 periods of prayer in the Daily Office.

### **The Psalter** | pages 268–467

“The Coverdale Psalter of 1535 (employed with every Prayer Book from the mid-16th century to the mid-20th centuries) is one of the timeless treasures of the *Book of Common Prayer*. It has been renewed for contemporary use” (pg. 268). This is the version we read together on Sunday mornings. (Fun fact: C. S. Lewis and T. S. Eliot worked on a version of the Coverdale Psalter that influenced the text in this edition.)

### **Holy Eucharist: Renewed Ancient Text** | pages 123–143

We use this text on Sundays and other services that include Eucharist. Specific parts of the liturgy change depending on the current liturgical season.

### **Occasional Prayers** | pages 642–683

This section is a treasure trove of prayers (collects) for many circumstances we encounter in life. Examples include: “For Rain,” “For the Peace of the World,” “For those Who Travel,” “For the Recovery of a Sick Person,” “For the Care of Children,” and “For Union with Christ.”

### **Sunday Lectionary** | pages 716–729

This is the lectionary that states which readings are assigned for each Sunday during the year. The readings rotate on a 3 year schedule (Year A, Year B, and Year C). Year A begins with Advent Sunday in those years evenly divisible by 3. (E.g. 2025 will be Year A.) Each cycle pairs with one of the synoptic Gospels (Year A: Matthew; Year B: Mark; Year C: Luke). You can particularly see this during the seasons of Epiphany and Ordinary Time. John gets a lot of air time during Eastertide and pops up on other Sundays throughout the year too, particularly in Year A during Lent.

### **Daily Office Lectionary** | pages 734–763

This lectionary outlines the readings that take place during Morning and Evening Prayer each day of the year. The Psalms may be read in 1 or 2 month cycles. Generally, each section of the day includes psalms, an Old Testament Passage, and a New Testament passage. If you daily read all of the Scriptures for both Morning and Evening Prayer, you will usually read 2–5 psalms, 2 readings from the Old Testament, 1 epistle reading, and 1 Gospel reading. Particularly toward the end of the year, readings from the Apocrypha take the place of one of the Old Testament readings. The Apocrypha is not considered to be Scripture. The sixth of the 39 Articles of Religion (a foundational Anglican document from 1571) states that these books “the Church doth read for example of life and instruction of manners; but yet doth it not apply them to establish any doctrine.”