How to Change a Continuous Text Manuscript into a Lectionary Text

William J. Elliott

It can be noted in many continuous text manuscripts that there are lectionary titles inserted, which are mostly ignored by modern readers. These titles must have been placed there for a purpose. Minuscule ms 543 (Ann Arbor Ms. 15) will show you what that purpose was, namely the ability to be able to read the text in accordance with Gospel Lections, without having to rewrite the ms.

So taking St. John’s Gospel only for ms 543 can be found recorded the following in the Synaxarion Readings (Plus two Menologion Readings):

At 1,1 (in margin) is inserted:
κε(φαλαιον) α.

At 1,18 (In margin) is inserted:
αρχ(η) τ(ης) β—(Monday of Easter Week) (J 1, 18–28).

At 1,35 is inserted:
τη δ τ(ης) διακινησ(ιμου)—(Wednesday of Easter Week) (J 1,35–52).

At 1,43 is inserted:
του απο(στολου) ανδρε(ου) (Nov 30th)(J 1,35–42)(M).

At 1,44 there is no insertion.

At 2,1 (in margin) is inserted a κεφαλαιον but no lectionary title:
περι του εγκα γαμος.

At 2,12 (in margin) is inserted a κεφαλαιον but no lectionary title:
πε(ρι) των εκβληθεντ(ων) εκ τ(ου) ιερου.

3,1–15 is lacunose.

3,16–21 is lacunose.

3,22–33 is lacunose.
4.5–6 (7–42) is lacunose.

At 4.46 (in margin) is inserted a κεφαλαία but no lectionary title πε(ρι) του βασιλ(ι)κου.

5.1–15 is lacunose.

5.17–24 is lacunose.

5.17–42 (43–6.2) is lacunose.

5.24–30 is lacunose.

5.30–42 (43–6.2) is lacunose.

At 6.5 (in margin) is inserted:
τη δ τ(ης) ε εβδ(οματος)—(Wednesday of the fourth week after Easter) (J 6,5–14).

At 6.14 is inserted:
τω σα(ββατω) τ(ης) β εβδ(οματος)—(Saturday of the First Week after Easter) (J 6,14–27).

At 6.27 there is no insertion.

At 6.35 there is no insertion.

At 6.40 is inserted:
τη γ τ(ης) γ εβδ(οματος) (Should read τη ε της γ)—(Thursday of the Second Week after Easter) (J 6,40–44).

At 6.48 is inserted:
τη σ της γ εβδ(οματος)—(Friday of the Second Week after Easter) (J 6,48–54).

At 6.56 there is no insertion.

At 7.1 (in margin) is inserted:
τη γ τ(ης) δ εβδ(οματος)—(Wednesday of the Third Week after Easter) (J 7,1–13).