Optional Summer Gospel Read

Read and pray a few of these psalms:4, 23, 42, 58, 68, 77, 89, 98, 103, 121, 136, 150.  The psalms are a school of prayer, teaching us to talk with God in a variety of situations and moods.

Read one of the gospels:

MARK: The first gospel to be written (nearly 40 years after the death of Jesus) and shortest of the four. You can read it in one sitting.

LUKE (c. 85): Addressed to a gentile audience, it is notable for its concern with the poor and its spirituality of God’s mercy.

MATTHEW (c. 85): Largely for an audience of Jewish heritage, it quotes a lot of Hebrew scripture and has important teaching of Jesus like the Sermon on the Mount (“Blessed are the poor in spirit . .  .”).

JOHN (90-100) is different. Its brilliant “short stories” where people encounter Jesus and Jesus’ long discourses are the literary creation of the author and do not go back to the “historical” Jesus, yet still give us an authentic “portrait” of Jesus.

Try to read your gospel in just one or two sittings, so you get the arc of the whole story rather than just the short episodes used at worship.
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What translation to use?                                                                                                                                                        Recommended . . .
The NEW INTERNATIONAL VERSION (NIV): an American Protestant translation

The NEW AMERICAN BIBLE (NAB): a Catholic translation

The NEW REVISED STANDARD VERSION (NRSV): often used for university scripture courses