

The Liturgical Calendar & Worship

¹“The year is organized to keep the church focused on Christ; it is not shaped by national holidays or particular causes (e.g. Labor Day, Mother’s Day, stewardship).”

The Time of Christmas

Advent Season: Advent-from the Latin for ‘coming’; time of preparation

- 1) Christ’s advent in ‘the fullness of time’, Galatians 4:4-5
- 2) Christ’s advent in Word and sacraments, Matthew 28:19 (see Exodus 20:24; Numbers 6:23-27); 1 Corinthians 10:16; 2 Corinthians 6:2
- 3) Christ’s advent at the end of time, Matthew 24, Mark 13, Luke 21

Four Sundays ‘in’ Advent

Christmas Season:

The Nativity of our Lord, Luke 2
Two Sundays ‘after’ Christmas

Epiphany Season: Epiphany-from the Latin for ‘manifestion’/’appearing’

The Epiphany of Our Lord (Jan 6), Matthew 2 (The Magi)
The Baptism of Our Lord, Matthew 3:13-17; Mark 1:9-11; Luke 3:21-22
Eight Sundays ‘after’ the Epiphany
The Transfiguration of Our Lord, Matthew 17:1-13; Mark 9:2-13; Luke 9:28-36
Last Sunday ‘after’ the Epiphany

The Time of Easter (The center of the Church Year)

Lenten Season: (40 days before Easter); time for penitential reflection

Ash Wednesday, Genesis 3:19; Ecclesiastes 3:20
Five Sundays ‘in’ Lent

Holy Week

Palm Sunday, *Sunday of the Passion*, Matthew 21:1-11; Luke 19:28-38; John 12:12-19
Holy Week (Mon-Wed)
Maundy (Thursday, Matthew 26:17-30; Mark 14:12-26; Luke 22:7-20; John 13:21-30
Good Friday, Matthew 27; Mark 15; Luke 23; John 19

¹ Precht, Fred L. (1993). Lutheran Worship: History and Practice. Concordia Publishing House: St. Louis, MO, p162.

Easter Season (Period of 50 Days)

The Resurrection of Our Lord, Matthew 28; Mark 16; Luke 24; John 20

Five Sundays 'of' Easter

The Ascension of Our Lord, Luke 24; Acts 1

Seventh Sunday 'of' Easter

Pentecost; Acts 2

The Time of the Church

The Season 'after' Pentecost: focus on Christ's teaching and its application in the life of the church

The Holy Trinity, *First Sunday after Pentecost*

Second through Twenty-seventh Sunday after Pentecost

Sunday of the Fulfillment, *Last Sunday after Pentecost*

Liturgical Colors

²“a teaching device and a way of marking days and seasons”

<u>Color</u>	<u>Meaning</u>	<u>When used</u>
White	joy, celebration, purity	Christmas, Epiphany, Easter and its season
Green	growth, life	Season after Pentecost, Sundays during the Epiphany season
Red	fire, blood	Pentecost
Purple	royal color; penitence	Lent
Blue	hope, anticipation	Advent
Black	mourning, death	Good Friday
Scarlet	royalty	The Passion of Our Lord, Holy Week (Sunday through Thursday)
Gold	riches & kingly attire	Easter

² Precht, Fred L. (1993). Lutheran Worship: History and Practice. Concordia Publishing House: St. Louis, MO, p164.