

Liturgical Year = Church Year = Christian Year

The Christian year contains two cycles: the Christmas Cycle (Advent-Christmas-Epiphany) and the Easter Cycle (Lent-Easter-Pentecost). Within each cycle are a preparatory season symbolized by the color purple or blue and a festival season symbolized by the color white. After each cycle there is an ordinary time of growth symbolized by the color green. Thus there is a sequence of seasons using purple [or blue in Advent], white, and green in that order twice each year.¹

Advent Preparation for Christ's Coming (the four Sundays before Christmas)

Christmas Season

Nativity of the Lord Celebration of the birth of Jesus

Epiphany The "showing forth" of God's presence;
the magi worship the new-born king (January 6)

Season after Epiphany

Ordinary Time (Season after Epiphany)

Transfiguration Sunday (last Sunday after epiphany)

Lent Preparation for baptism & baptismal renewal;

a time for catechesis--thinking about Christian discipleship

Ash Wednesday The beginning of Lent

Holy Week Remembering the last week of Jesus' life

Palm Sunday Jesus arrives in Jerusalem

The Triduum (the three holy days)

Holy Thursday Last Supper and washing of the disciples' feet

Good Friday The death of Jesus

Holy Saturday The "Great Sabbath"

Easter Celebration of the resurrection of Jesus

The Great Fifty Days (from Easter to Pentecost—a time for mystagogy)

Ascension Jesus returns to his Father in heaven

Pentecost The coming of the Holy Spirit to the disciples

Ordinary Time (or Kingdومتide)

Trinity Sunday

All Saints (November 1)

Reign of Christ Sunday (last Sunday after Pentecost)

© 2006, Dwight and Linda Vogel. May be reproduced for teaching and learning by including this line.

¹ *The United Methodist Book of Worship*, 1992, 224-226.