

Outline of the Christian Year

Christmas Cycle

Season/Day	Time	Theme	Color
Advent	Four Sundays before Christmas	Preparation for the coming of the Lord	Purple or Royal blue
Christmastide	December 25 through January 5 (12 Days of Christmas)	The Nativity, the Word made flesh	White
Epiphany	January 6 (usually celebrate on closest Sunday)	Visit of the Magi	White
Ordinary Time	January 7 through Ash Wednesday	Life, teaching, and ministry of Jesus	Green
Baptism of Jesus	First Sunday after Epiphany	Baptism of Jesus	White
Transfiguration	Last Sunday before Lent before Ash Wednesday	Transfiguration of Jesus	White

Easter Cycle

Season/Day	Time	Theme	Color
Lent	Ash Wednesday until Easter	Reflection on the Passion of Christ	Purple
Ash Wednesday	40th day before Easter (not counting Sundays)	Self-examination	Purple
Holy Week	Palm Sunday (Sunday before Easter), Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday	Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem; Events leading to the Crucifixion; Last Supper; Crucifixion and death of Christ	Purple (Black - following Maundy Thursday)
Easter tide	Easter Day until Pentecost	Christ's victory over sin and death	White
Ascension	40th day after Easter (celebrated on the following Sunday)	Jesus ascends to heaven	White
Pentecost	7th Sunday after Easter	The coming of the Holy Spirit to empower the church	Red
Ordinary Time	Day after Pentecost until the first Sunday of Advent	The work of the church	Green
Trinity Sunday	First Sunday after Pentecost	Celebration of the Holy Trinity	White
Reign of Christ	Last Sunday before Advent	All-embracing authority of Christ	White