

THE CHRISTIAN YEAR AT JERUSALEM

| Season or Festival | Sundays | Basic Theme | Color |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|
| Advent | 4 Sundays | The Church waits for Jesus' coming with patience and hope | Blue |
| Christmas | 1 or 2 Sundays | The Church celebrates that God became man in Jesus Christ for our salvation | White |
| Epiphany | 4 to 9 Sundays | The Church sees Jesus revealed as the world's only Savior | White, Green |
| Ash Wednesday | | The Church humbly confesses our utter sinfulness to our merciful God | Black |
| Lent, including Palm Sunday | 6 Sundays | The Church sees Jesus Christ overcome our spiritual enemies: sin, death and the devil | Purple |
| Maundy Thursday | | The Church commemorates Jesus' institution of Holy Communion | Green |
| Good Friday | | The Church commemorates the death of our Savior | Black |
| Easter | 7 Sundays | The Church exults in Jesus' victory over all death, physical and eternal | White |
| Ascension | (40 th Day of Easter) | The Church celebrates that Jesus, the God-man, takes his rightful place in heaven | White |
| Pentecost Sunday | (50 th day of Easter) | The Church celebrates God's gift of the Holy Spirit | Red |
| Holy Trinity | | The Church contemplates the mysteries of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son & Holy Spirit | White |
| Sundays after Pentecost | Up to 19 Sundays | The Church grows in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ | Green |
| Michaelmas Sunday | (September 23-29) | The Church is reminded of the God-given ministry of the holy angels | Red |
| Sundays after Michaelmas | 5 or 6 Sundays | The Church recognizes her need for God's help against the dark forces of this world | Red |
| End Time | 3 Sundays | The Church contemplates the Last Judgment, Saints Triumphant, & Christ the King | Red, White |

- ✘ Christmas (December 25) and Epiphany (January 6) are the only fixed date festivals of the Christian Year at Jerusalem
- ✘ The rest of the Christian year revolves around the date of Easter, which always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon in spring (see *Christian Worship*, p. 162)

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LITURGICAL COLORS

BLUE is the color of the sky and reflects the spirit of anticipation and hope as we eagerly await the return of Savior from heaven. It is the color of Advent and other festivals relating to the coming of Jesus.

GREEN is the color of growth and life. It reflects the new life of the Spirit in believers and their necessary, ongoing growth in Christian faith. It is mainly used during the seasons of Epiphany and Pentecost.

PURPLE is the color of royalty but also repentance. It reminds us not only of our Savior's servant-king status but also his call to us to repent of our sin. It is used during the season of Lent.

WHITE is the color of eternity, purity, light and joy and reflects our Savior's perfect work of salvation. It is the color of Christmas, Epiphany and Easter, as well as other festivals of our Lord.

BLACK is the color of mourning, humiliation and death. It reminds of the great sacrifice our Savior has made for all sin. Its use is limited to the days of Ash Wednesday and Good Friday.

RED is the color of fire and blood. It reminds us of the Spirit's work in and through the Church, even as it reminds us of the bloody sacrifice so many Christians have made for their faith. It is used on Pentecost Sunday, for Michaelmas, and on other Church-related festivals.