

THE PENTECOST SEASON

Beginning in the month of June, we will enter the Pentecost Season, the longest season of the Christian Church year, which involves the Sundays after Pentecost and lasts about six months.

The 'first half of the Church Year from Advent through Pentecost reviews the life of Christ and his saving work for us. We sometimes call this the "Festival Half" of the Church Year. During the second half, following the Festival of Pentecost, the Scripture readings tend to focus on the teachings of Jesus and the Holy Spirit's work among us. The first Sunday after Pentecost celebrates the Holy Trinity - Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. The remaining Sundays in this season are referred to in three different ways. Some Christians refer to these as the "Sundays after Pentecost." Others refer to all these Sundays as the "Sundays after Trinity" instead. And because we refer to these two dozen or so Sundays by numbers or "ordinals," some Christians refer to them as "Sundays in Ordinary Time."

The Gospel readings for this season show us Jesus in action, teaching us by word and example to follow him. That following can involve such things as faith and worship, prayer and thanksgiving, hearing God's Word and sharing it, exercising compassion, confronting those who oppose the Lord or who disobey him. We see Jesus teaching and preaching, helping and healing, caring and sharing, even stilling storms and raising people from the dead. It is this Lord of might and mercy who calls and equips us to be children of God, and sends us out into the world to be servants of God.

The primary color for the Pentecost Season is green, probably chosen because plants and leaves are green. It is the color of things that are alive, just as the Holy Spirit gives new life to all who are children of God, those who trust in Jesus as their Savior. The Pentecost Season reaches its conclusion as we are taught that this same Lord who came to be our Savior will come again in glory to take us to himself forever.