

Season of Pentecost

Crafting the Liturgy — Seasonal Planning Page

The autumn half of Pentecost is a busy time in the church year as Sunday school begins again, followed by budgets for the new year and stewardship campaigns. But it is also a time of continued spiritual growth in the lives of disciples. The lessons for the season point us to how to live in Christian community, to listen for Christ's voice in our lives, and to serve our Lord with great passion and zeal. We await the imminent return of the Lord and continue in his mission until we see him face to face.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE SEASON

The following are some ideas for helping to make the season distinct and memorable. Congregations are free to adapt these suggestions, or follow the local customs of the congregation.

Preparing the Worship Space

For the autumn months, consider using fall plants and foliage to adorn the worship space.

Liturgical Color

The liturgical color for Ordinary Time is Green. The color for Reformation Day is red, signifying movement of the Holy Spirit. The color is white for All Saints Sunday and Christ the King Sunday.

The Gathering

Use the alternate liturgical prayers on the Seasonal Page of SOWeR for the gathering rite and other portions of the liturgy.

It is customary to use either the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise during Ordinary Time.

The Creed

Use the Apostles' Creed on green Sundays, the Nicene Creed on red and white Sundays.

The Proclamation of the Word

Consider using "Thy Word" by Amy Grant and Michael W. Smith for the Gospel acclamation this fall. Another option is "Open Our Eyes," by Bob Cull.

Children's Sermons

Children's sermons are available on the SOWeR site for each Sunday. Simply click on the link located on the right-hand side of the weekly worship page assigned to each Sunday.

IDEAS FOR FAMILIES THIS SEASON

- ✦ Include teachers and students in your prayers as school begins again. Offer a blessing to all students and teachers by placing a note of encouragement in their backpacks or laptop bags. One can be found on the Pentecost Autumn Seasonal Page.
- ✦ Check out the Holy Families website for parents and children at www.holyfamilytime.com. You will find many resources to inspire families to spend time in the Word of God and the formation of faith in their children. If you have to miss worship on Sunday, use these devotions as a family!

REMINDERS FOR THE SEASON

- ✦ As Sunday school begins for the school year, use the "Installation of Education Leaders" prayers found under the Liturgies and Services tab on the SOWeR site.
- ✦ If your congregation does an Affirmation of Baptism on Reformation Sunday, there is a printed service for the Rite of Confirmation under the Liturgies and Services tab on the SOWeR site.
- ✦ Remember to collect names of those who died in the past year for the All Saints Day commemoration. If you have a church bell, ring that bell one time as the name is read aloud. If you use votive candles as part of this commemoration, remember to check your supply.
- ✦ If you will be doing a stewardship emphasis in worship this fall, check out Sola's free stewardship resources on the website, found in the Free Resources, located under the Home tab.
- ✦ There is a Thanksgiving service based on hymns that can easily be used for your congregation's Thanksgiving celebration. This can be found on the Autumn Pentecost Seasonal page of SOWeR.

COMMEMORATIONS

September 3: Gregory the Great, pastor (c. 530 – March 12, 604 A.D.)

September 18: Dag Hammarskjöld, peace-maker (July 29, 1905 – September 18, 1961)

October 6: William Tyndale, translator, martyr (c. 1494 – c. October 6, 1536)

October 25: Dorcas (Tabitha), Lydia, and Phoebe, faithful disciples*

November 8: Johannes von Staupitz, Luther's Father confessor (c. 1460 – December 28, 1524)

November 23: Clement of Rome, pastor (c. 35 – 99 A.D.)

LESSER FESTIVALS

September 14: Holy Cross Day

September 21: St. Matthew, apostle and evangelist

September 29: St. Michael and all angels

October 28: St. Simon and St. Jude, apostles

October 31: Reformation Day

November 1: All Saints' Day*

November 30: St. Andrew, apostle

* Falls on a Sunday this church year.