

Season of Pentecost

Crafting the Liturgy — Seasonal Planning Page

The season after Pentecost, often referred to as Ordinary Time because of the (ordinal) numbering of the Sundays, is a time of slow and steady growth in faith. Throughout the season, we hear stories of Jesus' life and ministry and ponder his great teaching parables. Over the course of this summer, the lectionary draws on Paul's letter to the Romans, which is instructive to the Christian faith in very powerful ways.

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

In this late spring and summer season, there are many lovely fresh flowers and plants that could be used to adorn the worship space. Since Ordinary Time is a season of growth and renewal, the visual aspect of living foliage lends itself well to the themes of rejuvenation and rebirth.

Liturgical Color

The color for the season of Ordinary Time is green, except for the days of Pentecost (red) and the Festival of the Holy Trinity (white).

Liturgy

Use the Kyrie OR the Hymn of Praise during Ordinary Time.

For the Gospel Acclamation, consider using a contemporary hymn such as, "Thy Word" (CCLI# 14301), or "Ancient Words" (CCLI# 2986399). If your congregation is used to using a contemporary acclamation, switch to one of the more traditional ones in the LBW. By mixing it up a bit, worshippers tend to pay more attention, rather than going through the liturgy by rote.

The Creed

Use the Apostles' Creed for this season after Pentecost, except for Trinity Sunday when you could use the Athanasian Creed. On the SOWeR page for May 31st, you will find a print-ready copy of the Athanasian Creed, as well as a version of it that is broken into parts and can be said as a litany.

The Proclamation of the Word

Consider preaching a sermon series on Romans beginning on June 7 and ending on September 13.

Consider These Words About the Liturgy

(From Rev. F. H. Knubel, Introduction to "A Manual on Worship" by Paul Zeller Strodtach, 1946, Mullenberg Press, Philadelphia.)

The fellowship of ideal worship is greater than the whole company of Christians now upon earth. We may know ourselves as one in our praise of the Lord with the saints of all the ages. There is unity with those who now worship Him in heaven. This is the powerful thought in the Te Deum: "Heaven and earth are full of the Majesty of Thy Glory. The glorious company of the Apostles praise Thee. The goodly fellowship of the Prophets praise Thee. The noble army of the Martyrs praise Thee. The holy church throughout all the world doth acknowledge Thee."

- Think about how the liturgy has grown through the centuries, handed down from one generation of believers to the next and tested by time.

REMINDERS FOR THE SEASON

- ✘ Mother's Day is May 10th this year. We have so much to be grateful for in terms of the women in our faith lives: mothers, grandmothers, aunts, sisters, mentors, and teachers.
- ✘ Memorial Day in the US is Monday, May 25th. Be sure to remember those who have died in service to our country during worship on May 28th.
- ✘ Pentecost is often the day of Confirmation for many congregations. There is a preformatted Confirmation Rite that can be printed for use on the Liturgies and Services page of SOWeR.
- ✘ If you change the time of summer worship services, be sure to advertise and get the word out early. Communication is key to helping folks remember that the schedule is altered.
- ✘ Consider starting a midweek worship service just for the summer so that those who spend weekends away from home can stay connected to the local congregation.
- ✘ With longer days and school not in session, this is often a time of more relaxed schedules. Take advantage of this shift by offering parishioners additional opportunities for Christian fellowship and growth. This can take place in many ways, so be creative! Consider a post-worship potluck picnic in the park one Sunday, a special monthlong late-evening Bible study just for high school youths, a midsummer water fun event for the church's elementary-age crowd (water balloons, Slip 'n' Slides, etc.), hosting a community ice cream social followed by a hymn sing, etc. Plan easy-to-commit-to events, and encourage all participants to invite a friend or two.

COMMEMORATIONS

May 24: Esther (c. 486 - 465 BC), Queen of Persia and Medes

June 14: Elisha (c. 910 BC - c. 800 BC), Prophet

June 28: Irenaeus of Lyons (c. 130 AD - c. 202 AD), Pastor

July 30: Dr. Robert Barnes (1495 - July 30, 1540), confessor and martyr

August 20: Samuel (c. 1070 BC - c. 1012 BC)

August 27: Monica (332 - 387 AD), mother of St. Augustine of Hippo

LESSER FESTIVALS

June 11: St. Barnabas, apostle

July 2: The Visitation