



Introduction to the season: Trinity to All Saints (Ordinary Time)

We are now entering the season of Ordinary time, below is an overview of the church Calendar to help us orientate ourselves in the spiral of the church year. It also helpfully makes reference to how the lectionary organises our cycle of readings.

The Liturgical Calendar: Ordinary Time is Extraordinary Time by Jeff Cavins (slightly adapted from Ascension Presents Media)

Roots of the Liturgical Calendar

In the Old Testament, the Israelites celebrated feasts and holy days to enter into the presence of God. These feasts followed an agricultural theme, and they captured the acts of God in the life of Israel. There were seven main feasts commanded by God in Leviticus 23; Passover, Unleavened Bread, First Fruits, Pentecost, Trumpets, Day of Atonement, and Booths (or Tabernacles). These feasts are still observed by the Jewish people today.

Christians also remember the saving actions of God in the life of Jesus. The Church has developed the liturgical calendar so that you can live out the life of Christ in your own life. There is a certain logic to the calendar, it is broken up into seasons which guide us through Christ's life.

The Liturgical Seasons

- Advent – Preparing for the coming of Christ the King
- Christmas – Celebrating the birth of Christ
- Ordinary Time – Learning the teachings of Christ and working to build up the Kingdom
- Lent – Preparing for Christ's Passion.
- Easter – Entering into the Resurrection of Christ
- Ordinary Time (Again... it's that important!)

The Cycle of Readings

The liturgical year is described in the lectionary which is a cycle of readings. The lectionary is so extensive that over a three-year cycle nearly the entire New Testament and the most significant portions of the Old Testament are covered.

- Cycle A – Matthew
- Cycle B – Mark
- Cycle C – Luke
- The Gospel of John is used in all three, especially during Cycle A in Lent

Ordinary Time

In Ordinary Time, we learn the teachings of Christ and work to build up the Kingdom of God!

- Ordinary Time begins on Monday after the Sunday following January 6th, and continues until Tuesday before Ash Wednesday. It begins on the Monday after Pentecost and ends before evening prayer of the First Sunday of Advent.
- Ordinary Time is called "ordinary" not because it is not special or less significant but simply because the weeks of Ordinary Time are numbered. The Latin word ordinalis, which refers to numbers in a series, stems from the Latin word ordo, from which we get the English word order.
- The goal of Ordinary Time is to order our life to Christ's. For a disciple, ordinary time is extraordinary time.