

The Church Calendar

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Terms for Time

- *Chronos*
 - People's time
- *Kairos*
 - God's time

The Church Calendar

- **Basic Components**
 - The seven principle feasts of the church year
 - Christmas
 - Epiphany
 - Easter
 - Ascension
 - Pentecost
 - Trinity Sunday
 - All Saint's Day
 - Sundays
 - Lesser Feasts or Holy Days
 - Commemorations and Other Special Days

The Solar and Lunar Cycles

- **Solar Cycle**
 - The date of the birthday of Christ (Christmas), Epiphany (January 6), and All Saint's Day (November 1) occur on the same days each year.
- **The Lunar Cycle**
 - Easter Sunday is the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the Spring Equinox (March 21) (BCP page 15).
- Since the solar and the lunar cycles do not start or end on the same calendar days of the year, how does the church calendar work?

The Principle Feasts

Easter

Ascension

Pentecost
Trinity Sunday

Christmas

Epiphany

All Saint's Day

Variable Days

Sundays

- All Sundays are feasts of our Lord Jesus Christ.
- Other specific feasts may be observed on, or be transferred to, a Sunday (see the web page for details).
- All other Feasts of our Lord, and all other Major Feasts appointed on fixed days in the Calendar, when they occur on a Sunday, are normally transferred to the first convenient open day within the week.
- Note that Sundays are not counted as part of that the 40 days of Lent.

The Lesser Feasts - 1

The following special holy days have precedence over other special observances:

- The Holy Name
- Saint John the Baptist
- The Presentation
- The Transfiguration
- The Annunciation
- Holy Cross Day
- The Visitation

The Lesser Feasts - 2

(A) Other Feasts

- All feasts of Apostles
- All feasts of Evangelists
- Saint Stephen
- The Holy Innocents
- Saint Joseph

The Lesser Feasts - 3

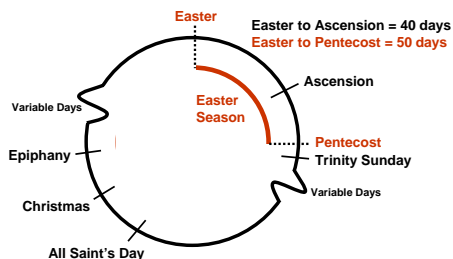
(B) Other Feasts (continued)

- Saint Mary Magdalene
- Saint Mary the Virgin
- Saint Michael and All Angels
- Saint James of Jerusalem
- Independence Day
- Thanksgiving Day

Commemorations and Other Special Days

- Ash Wednesday
- Weekdays of Lent
- Holy Week
- Good Friday
- Feasts from *Lesser Feasts and Fasts*
- Feasts from *Lectionary Texts: Various Occasions and Occasional Services*

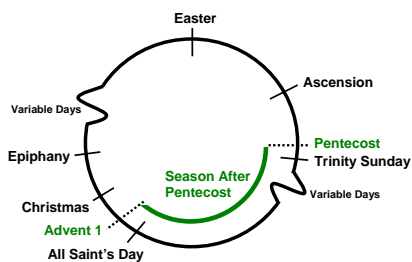
The Seasons of the Church - 1



Easter

Easter is the feast of Jesus' resurrection. The word probably derives from the Anglo-Saxon spring goddess "Eostre." Christians in England applied the word to the paschal feast. The date of Easter places Spring against the backdrop of lessons about creation and deliverance and the proclamations of the living Christ. The date of Easter always falls between Mar 22 and April 25 inclusive. We follow the Jewish custom of beginning our celebration of Easter at Sundown on the preceding Saturday with the Great Vigil of Easter.

The Seasons of the Church - 2



Pentecost Sunday

In recognition of the descending of the Holy Spirit that appeared as tongues of flame upon the heads of the gathered disciples, Pentecost Sunday is commemorated by the use of red. Pentecost Sunday occurs on the Seventh Sunday after Easter. It recognizes that the church is understood to be the body of Christ, drawn together and given life by the Holy Spirit.

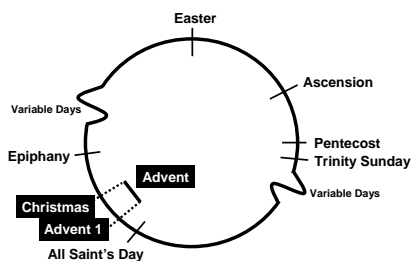
Vestments During Pentecost



The Season of Pentecost

This is the longest season of the church year, spanning the period from approximately May/June through November (ending on the Saturday before the first Sunday of Advent).

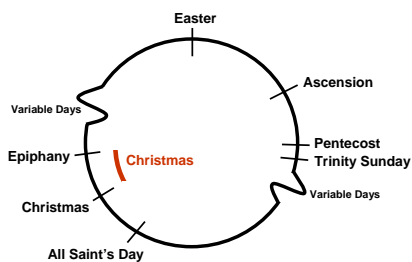
The Seasons of the Church - 3



Advent

The first season of the church year, beginning with the 4th Sunday before Christmas and continuing through the day before Christmas. The name is derived from the Latin meaning "coming." It is a season of preparation and expectation of the celebration of Jesus' nativity, and for the final coming of Christ in power and glory.

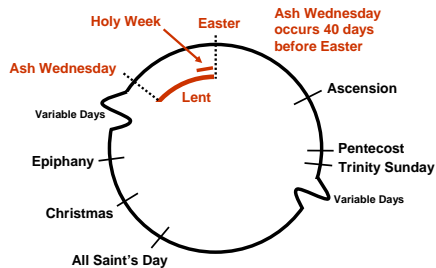
The Seasons of the Church - 4



Christmas

- The nativity of our Lord, December 25. It was first celebrated about 336.
- The date of December 25 as Jesus' birthday has no connection to anything historical.
- The date was probably chosen to oppose the feast of the Sun God (Saturn).

The Seasons of the Church - 5



Holy Week

- Holy Week evolved from the period when many Christians made pilgrimages to the Holy Land to venerate the places where Christ suffered during his final days with us.
- The rites we observe on Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and the Vigil all evolved from these pilgrim experiences.
- There are special readings, and other special services and acts of devotion that take place during Holy Week. Holy Week ends at sundown on Holy Saturday (the Saturday before Easter Sunday).

Liturgical Clothing

- Clergy in the Episcopal Church wear a vast array of clothing for different liturgical settings.
- Over the years, the clothing worn for specific kinds of services has changed.
- More information about this is on the web site.

Vestments During Holy Week



Other Vestments - 1



Other Vestments - 2



Other Vestments - 3



Other Vestments - 3

