

Holidays and Holy Days – Fall 2019

Week 6: Church Practices

- **Holidays and Holy Days**
 - Part 1: OT Feasts and Holy Days (weeks 1-4 ... handouts for 1-3)
 - Part 2: NT Fulfillment (week 5)
 - **Part 3: Church Practice (Week 6 – TODAY)**
 - Part 4: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany (week 7-9 – Dec. 1,15,22)
- **Spiritual Life Cycles**
 - **Daily** ~ Morning and Evening
 - **Weekly** ~ Work and Rest
 - **Yearly** ~ Feasts
 - **7 / 50 years** ~ Sabbatical / Jubilee



- **In General, How does Christ Fulfill the OT Feasts and Holy Days?**
 - Feasts and Holy Days are a Shadow of Reality, of Christ (Heb. 10:1-4)
 - Specific Fulfillment of Details
 - Fulfillment of Signs, Types and Patterns

- **Early Church – Weekly Cycle**

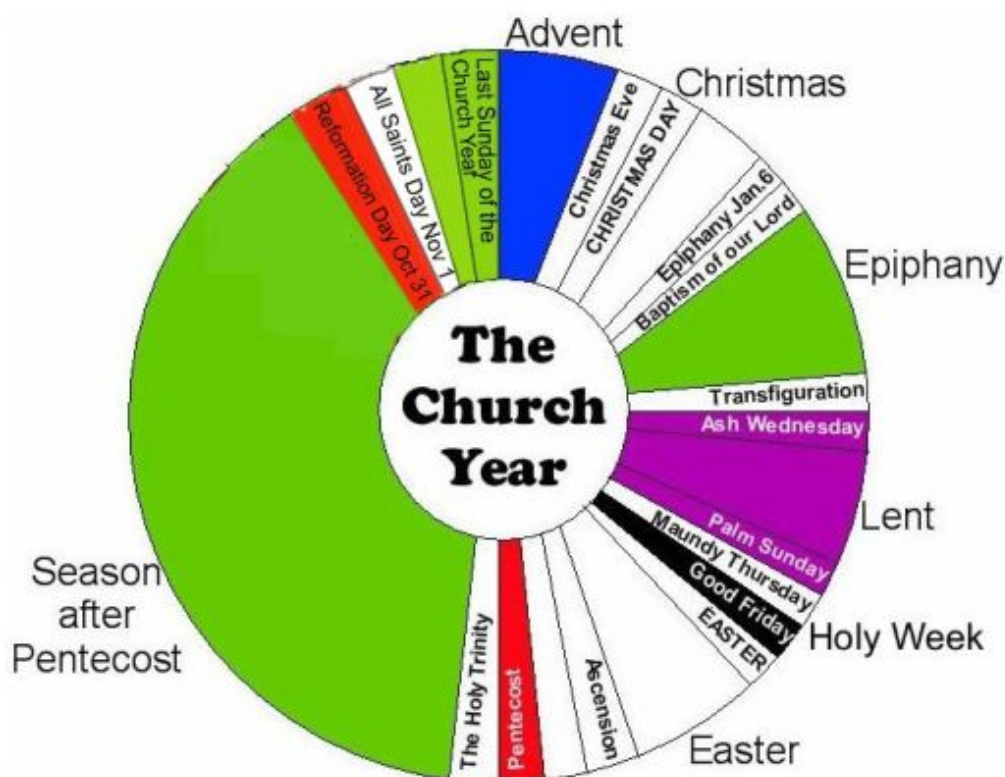
- Moving from Sabbath to Lord’s Day
- Celebrating the Eucharist (Lord’s Supper)

- **Reformation / Puritan – Weekly Cycle**

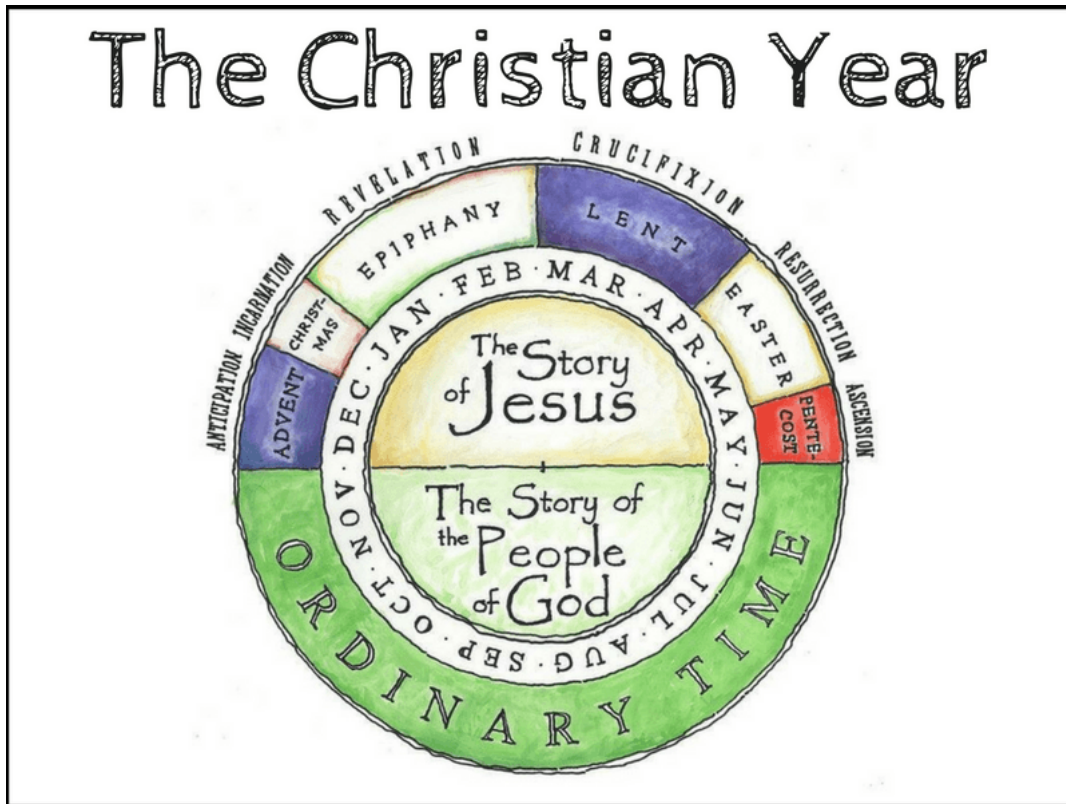
- Sabbatarian Practice of the Lord’s Day
- Changes to the Eucharist (Lord’s Supper)
 - Transubstantiation vs. Remembrance
 - Question of Participants, Frequency and “Fencing the Table”

- **Liturgical Year – Cycle of Yearly Christian Holidays**

- **Key Events in Life of Christ** – (OT Preparation / Anticipation of Coming), Birth, Baptism, Transfiguration, Holy Week, Death, Resurrection, Ascension, Sending Holy Spirit, (Church era), Second Coming
- **Seasons of Fasting and Feasting, Repentance and Faith** - Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter, Pentecost, Ordinary Time
- **Note on other “Feast Days”** – All Hallows Eve / All Saints Day, Day of the Dead / All Souls Days (Treasury of Merit), Feasts for martyrs and saints ... Reformation Day ...



The Christian Year



- **Modern Day Christian Understanding and Practice of Church Seasons**

- **Advent ~ Preparation for Coming of Christ**

- Ancient Practice – time for converts to Christianity to prepare for baptism
- Middle Ages – started Nov. 11, pre-Christmas lent time for prayer and fasting, preparation for the second coming
- Modern – First Sunday after Nov. 30 including 4 Sundays, ending on Christmas Eve, celebration of nativity as well as looking forward to second coming
- Advent wreath (evergreens, 3 purple candles of royalty – Prophet/hope, Bethlehem/faith, Angels/peace, 1 pink candle – Shepherds/joy, 1 white in center as Christ candle ... or 4 blue for night sky before daylight returns ... growing light as get closer to Christmas)
- Advent Calendar / Joshua Tree

- **Christmas ~ Celebration of Christ's Birth**

- Celebration of nativity – Dec. 25 (date fixed in 4th century ... Winter Solstice)
- Christmastide – 12-day feast – ends on 12th night
- Reformation / Puritans – Christmas Catholic / Secular and not celebrated
- Local History – Moravians in Bethlehem first US Christmas tree/ Nativity

- **Epiphany ~ Coming of Magi / Revelation to the Gentiles**
 - January 6 (or in some churches 1st Sunday after Jan. 1)
 - Early Church - Day of Jesus's Baptism
 - Middle Ages / Today – Day the Magi Visit Jesus / Revelation to the Gentiles
 - Beginning of Epiphanytide – from Epiphany until Feast of Presentations / Candlemas on Feb 2 (thus making Christmas + Epiphany 40 days) – alternately until day before Ash Wednesday (celebration of the Transfiguration)

- **Lent ~ Fast of Preparation for Easter**
 - From Ash Wednesday to Holy Saturday (Easter Eve) ... Note: day before has become celebration – Mardi Gras, Carnival, Fat Tuesday, Fasnacht Day ...
 - 40-days, representing the 40-days of Christ's temptation in the wilderness (note: 40 days does not include the Sundays, there is still sabbath in lent!)
 - Traditionally time for prayer, fasting, penance, mortifying the flesh, repentance of sins, almsgiving, and denial of ego
 - Three traditional practices to be taken up with renewed vigor during Lent are prayer (justice towards God), fasting (justice towards self), and almsgiving (justice towards neighbors).
 - Solemn, Holy time of grief and mourning ... some traditions omit "Gloria Deo" and "Alleluia" from services during lent, veil sacred objects

- **Holy Week ~ Crucifixion, Suffering of Christ**
 - Last week before Christ's death - Palm Sunday to Easter Eve ...
 - Triduum – Maundy Thursday ... Good Friday ... Holy Saturday ... Easter
 - Maundy Thursday – Last Supper, Washing of Feet (link to Passover)
 - Good Friday – Passion and Crucifixion of Jesus (traditionally no Eucharist in mass, cross and images veiled) – extinguish lights
 - Holy Saturday – Jesus in the Tomb / descent to hell – traditional service after nightfall and before sunrise, lights restored, bells rung in anticipation of Easter morning

- **Easter ~ Feast of Celebration of Christ's Resurrection, Victory**
 - First Sunday after the first full moon on or after 21 March (spring solstice)
 - Easter Vigil – after midnight Sat ... Easter Sunrise Service – dawn Easter Sunday
 - Easter Sunday also starts Season of Easter which last 7 weeks + 1 day ~50 days, until Pentecost. (alt. Easter as 40 days to ascension, Pentecost as 10)

- **Pentecost ~ Coming of the Holy Spirit, Church and Mission**
 - Whitsunday – 50 days after Easter – same date as Jewish feast of Weeks
 - Often time for baptism (ancient church baptize on Easter and Pentecost)

- **Ordinary Time ~ Time between Easter and Lent**
 - Some add "Kingdomtide" 4 weeks before advent ~ Season of the End Times