

## Holidays and Holy Days; Liturgy and Lectionary

- "Liturgy" v. "Lectionary"

- Liturgy: a form or formulary according to which public religious worship is conducted.
- Lectionary: a list or book of portions of the Bible appointed to be read at a church service.
- Lectionaries always fall under liturgy, liturgy (umbrella) is not always lectionary.

- Jewish background of/influence on Christian worship; planned readings in particular
- Development of lectionaries in both Jewish and Christian groups

- Every church has a liturgy, whether or not they know it or admit it.
- Examples of Church of Christ liturgy? Is there a "Church of Christ lectionary"?

Overview of Liturgical Year/Church Calendar (v. "Hallmark calendar")

- All of this varies slightly by group and over time, but has a long-standing history and tradition
- Specific colors, feasts, fasts, etc. to go along with theological meaning in story of Jesus.
- Advent: Starts 4 Sundays before Christmas Eve
  - Anticipates/waits for 3 comings (incarnation, 2nd coming, today in us)
- Christmastide: Christmas Eve- Epiphany (12 days of Christmas)
  - Incarnation of Jesus (the 1st coming Advent waits for)
- Ordinary time (short): After Epiphany until Ash Wednesday (3-8 weeks)
  - Ordinary time, short or long, focuses on Jesus' earthly ministry & other themes not covered
- Lent: Ash Wednesday until Thursday before Easter (40 days)
  - themes echo Israel's and Jesus' time in Wilderness, builds up to Eastertide
- Eastertide: Easter through Pentecost (50 days)
  - Resurrection of Jesus as well as his 40 days post-resurrection + 10 days pre-Pentecost
- Ordinary time (long): About 1/2 the year, includes various, smaller days throughout, like "Christ the King" Sunday, "Trinity" Sunday, etc.

-X's and O's at Lafayette: "Low church" borrowing from "high church" in a very "low church" way

Lectionary Preaching: Potential\*\* Advantages

- Exposes congregations to scriptures their preachers may not normally (or ever) preach on
- Removes some temptation for preaching to be totally based on whims of the preacher
- Makes sermons more "Bible to life" than "Life to Bible"--text-based sermons
- Provides opportunities to create synergy/unity between church groups
- Emphasizes the liturgical year/church calendar, in particular walks through the story of Jesus

Lectionary Preaching: Potential\*\* Disadvantages

- Restricts the preacher to certain texts when the congregation really needs to hear others
- Limits creativity and freedom of the preacher
- Makes preaching sermon series, especially "topical" ones, more challenging
- If same holy days/seasons are preached each year, becomes monotonous