Altar Paraments: Easter to Pentecost to Trinity to Ordinary Times

White

White is the color of purity and completeness, and the joy of resurrection. The theme reminds us of the message that "though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be white as snow." Christ's triumph from the grave on Resurrection Day leaves us rejoicing.

White is the appointed color for such festive Sundays as Christmas and its twelve days; Epiphany (Jan. 6) and the first Sunday following it, observed as the Baptism of Our Lord;



the Last Sunday after the Epiphany, also known as Transfiguration Sunday; Holy Trinity Sunday (June 15th this year; All Saints Day (the 1st Sunday in November); Christ the King (the end of the church year); and twenty-one minor festivals and occasions listed on the church year calendar in *ELW*. The reverse side of our white paraments depicts a manager scene used only at Christmas and through Epiphany.

Red



Red as the color of fire is used on Pentecost when we remember the tongues of fire that descended on the crowd in Jerusalem. The color red communicates the motif of strength and power the Holy Spirit gives in order for God's people to call on the name of Jesus Christ

The *ELW* recommends red as the appropriate color for sixteen martyrs as their red blood was shed in defense of the Gospel. Additional uses of red are Reformation Sunday (end of October); Holy Cross Day (Sept. 14th); Peter and Paul Apostles Sunday (June 29th); on such festive occasions as dedications, anniversaries of a congregation and its physical structure; festive days celebrating the office of the public ministry, such as ordination and installation.

Green

Green is the recommended color for the Sundays after Pentecost also called Ordinary Times as it is the color of life and growth and is used to indicate our growth in faith as we follow the teachings and ministry of Christ. Grapes and shafts of wheat are symbols of Holy Communion. The Gospel lessons during the time after Pentecost focus on the



teachings of Christ and offers the opportunity and hope to stir up our faith, to allow our spirits to rise and to grow in our spiritual life. This year Ordinary Times lasts for 20 Sundays until the observance St Luke the Evangelist Sunday on October 19th followed by the Reformation on the Last Sunday in October. Green is also used on Sundays in November until Christ the King Sunday, the last Sunday of the church year.

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