

Ordinary Time is Far from Ordinary

In the Episcopal Church, “Ordinary Time” is the name given to the season after Pentecost that runs from the Monday following Pentecost through the Saturday before the First Sunday of Advent. It is the longest season of the Christian year and its color is Green.

“Ordinary” doesn’t mean boring. Far from it! It is a time for us as individuals and corporately as the family of God to grow in our knowledge and love of God through daily prayer and reading and meditating on God’s Word, the Bible. While Advent and Lent call us to prepare for the return of Jesus, and Christmas and Easter call us to celebrate the God’s gifts of grace in the forgiveness of our sins and eternal life. Ordinary Time calls us to go deeper in our walk with Jesus. “Less of me, Lord Jesus, and more of thee in me.” It is a time for us to let the truths of the Good News take deeper root in us, reshaping us to the end that we bear in our lives more and more the fruit of the Spirit: Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Gentleness, Faithfulness, and Self-control. In short, Ordinary Time is a season of quiet focus, steady growth, and faithful living, making it one of the most important periods for sustaining the Christian life year-round.

Here are a few ways to enter into the joy of Ordinary Time.

Read Morning and Evening Prayer daily using the Book of Common Prayer,

OR follow the Daily Office on the internet. Check out these 2 sites:

The Daily office From the Book of Common Prayer from the Episcopal Church of the Holy Apostles, Hoover, Alabama. www.holyapostleshover.org

The Daily Office Chanted facebook.com/dailyofficechanted

Read through the Gospels slowly. Then read the rest of the New Testament slowly. One or two chapters per day – no rush. Reading and meditating on God’s Word will change your life.

Identify one person you’re called to care for during this season. Someone who is not attending church and/or doesn’t identify as a Christian. Pray for them. Invite them to church, pick them up and bring them with you.

And finally, ENJOY the gift and depth that Ordinary Time brings! You’ll be glad you did.