

# A Christ-centered Year

**Readings & Hymns presenting  
Jesus as the focus of  
the Christian Year**

for  
Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Holy Week,  
Easter, Ascension Day, Pentecost, Trinity Sunday,  
Ordinary Time, All Saints Day, and Christ the King Sunday

**Ken Bible**

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## **A Christ-centered Year**

During Advent, Jesus is the Promise of the Father.

During Christmas, He is the Gift of the Father. He is all the fullness of God embodied in a human infant.

During Epiphany, Jesus is the Light of the Father, drawing all people to Himself.

During Lent, He is the Father's Servant, leading us on the path of obedience and trust.

During Holy Week, Jesus is the Love of the Father, humbly submitting to death on the cross.

During Easter, He is the Life of the Father, overcoming death and sin forever.

On Ascension Day, Jesus is at the Father's right hand, reigning as Sovereign Lord and King.

On Pentecost, He pours out the Promise of the Father, baptizing every believer in the Holy Spirit of God.

On Trinity Sunday, Jesus ushers us into the full unity, love, and fellowship of the Father, Son, and Spirit.

During Ordinary Time, Jesus helps us order our lives by His teaching and example. He gives us His Spirit as a down-payment while we eagerly await His promised Advent.

On All Saints Day, Jesus unites us with all God's children of all nations and all ages.

On Christ the King Sunday, we rise up together and crown Jesus King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

Brothers and sisters, let's constantly celebrate all God has done for us in Jesus Christ! Let's make this a Christ-centered year.

Hymn: [Discover Jesus Christ](#)

## The Christ of Advent

During Advent, Jesus is the Promise of the Father.

*No matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ.*  
(2 Corinthians 1:20, NIV)

Think of our God, unlimited by time and place,  
all-seeing,  
ever-present.

Everywhere and all eternity are the domain in which He dwells.

He is complete and perfect, so He does not change.

His Word is sovereign. All reality responds to His will. He speaks, and it is so.

For this God, His eternal purposes are certain and complete.

They are not future possibilities.

They are present reality.

But we are small and fearful, bound by time, creatures of the now.

We see only ourselves and our tiny sliver of all that is.

God's greatest blessings are too vast, too broad in time.

We cannot trace His love and all its magnificent ways.

But our loving Father longs to wrap us in the beautiful certainty of  
all He is and all He does.

So He makes promises that let us glimpse His love beyond our now.

His promises assure us of unchanging truth, that

God will always be who He has always been;

He will always do what He has always done; and

He will complete all He has started.

God's promises are not empty words, rosy wishes, or mere intention.

God's promises describe eternal reality.

And now, God's promises are a Person, a living, human, divine Person  
who embodies all God has done and all He is doing for His children.

During Advent, look to Jesus. He is the Promise of the Father.

As He is, we will be.

Hymn: [The Promise](#)

## The Christ of Christmas

During Christmas, Jesus is the Gift of the Father.  
He is all the fullness of God embodied in a human infant.

*A child will be born to us, a son will be given to us...  
And His name will be called  
Wonderful Counselor,  
Mighty God,  
Eternal Father,  
Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6, NASB)*

Christmas is the unveiling of  
God's greatest promise,  
His greatest miracle,  
His greatest gift:

His own incarnation.

All He is,  
all His purity and perfection,  
all His transcendent beauty,  
became a human being.

The limitless God became the poorest, most helpless of all human creatures:  
the newborn infant of an unmarried peasant girl.

Look! Here is the gift of Christmas.  
Here is the wonder of Christmas.  
Here are all the most precious treasures,  
poured out on all who will receive them.  
Here are holiness, wisdom, and boundless joy,  
wholeness, harmony, and complete well-being.  
Here are unity and individuality,  
eternal belonging and a glorious destiny.

During Christmas, receive  
the Gift of the Father,  
the life of the Father, and  
the love of the Father.

Receive Jesus Christ by simple faith.

Hymn: [Love Has Come!](#)

## The Christ of Epiphany

*The people walking in darkness have seen a great light; on those living in the land of deep darkness a light has dawned. (Isaiah 9:2, NIV)*

During Epiphany, Jesus is the Light of the Father, drawing all people to Himself.

*Arise, shine; for your light has come,  
And the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.  
For behold, darkness will cover the earth  
And deep darkness the peoples;  
But the Lord will rise upon you  
And His glory will appear upon you.  
Nations will come to your light,  
And kings to the brightness of your rising. (Isaiah 60:1-3, NASB)*

Among the very first people to be told of Messiah's coming,  
among His very first worshipers,  
were visitors from a far away land and a different religion.  
Jesus did not come as just the Jewish Messiah or the Christian Savior,  
but as the Light of the World.

*I will also make You a light of the nations  
So that My salvation may reach to the end of the earth. (Isaiah 49:6, NASB)*

Jesus is the knowledge of our universal God shining out to  
every people and culture, to  
every individual, for  
every human need.

He is understanding in our profound ignorance.  
He is wisdom in our foolishness.  
He is God's glory in our darkness and shame.  
He is pure, beautiful, living truth.

During Epiphany, Jesus is the Light of the Father.  
Come to the Light.  
Walk in the Light.  
Lift the light so that  
all can see Him for all He is.

Hymn: [Light of Every Nation](#)

## The Christ of Lent

During Lent, Jesus is the Father's Servant,  
leading us on the path of obedience and trust.

*"If anyone wishes to come after Me, he must deny himself, and take up his cross and follow Me." (Matthew 16:24, NASB)*

When we take the truth to a dark and rebellious world,  
we meet fierce opposition from the Evil One.  
We are going against the strong current of our culture.  
As we do, we are called to disregard all personal costs,  
to let our entire life fall to the ground like a seed and die,  
in order that eternal fruit will grow.

But Jesus does not drive us out into such self-sacrifice.  
He leads us.  
He goes with us.  
He goes before us.  
He demonstrates that such a life is  
abundantly joyful,  
permeated with  
peace,  
love, and  
constant sufficiency.

During Lent, Jesus is the Father's Servant,  
leading us on the beautiful path of obedience and trust.  
Let all who are looking for the very best of life  
respond to His personal call, "Follow Me".

Hymn: [Come and Follow Me](#)

## The Christ of Holy Week

*This is love: not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins. (1 John 4:10, NIV)*

During Holy Week, Jesus is the Love of the Father,  
humbly submitting to death on the cross.

Watch as Jesus burns with zeal for His Father's house and  
cleanses the temple.

Listen as He urges His disciples to  
pray boldly,  
patiently endure persecution, and  
remain faithful.

Breathe the alabaster fragrance of a woman's lavish worship  
in preparation for Jesus' burial.

Be humbled as He bows to  
model servanthood and  
washes your feet.

Stand helplessly as He is arrested and led away.

Hear His silence in the face of brutal injustice.

Sense His deep loneliness.

See His agony.

Watch Him die.

Feel the awful stillness as a huge stone seals in His lifeless body.

This is the measure of Jesus' love for the Father.

This is the measure of His love for us.

This is the new standard for our love for each other:

*"A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another, even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:34-35, NASB)*

Hymn: [Here Is Love](#)

## The Christ of Easter

*By his power God raised the Lord from the dead, and he will raise us also.*  
(1 Corinthians 6:14, NIV)

During Easter, Jesus is the Life of the Father,  
overcoming death and sin forever.

Consider the power of His Life in your life.  
He became a helpless infant,  
    so He doesn't recoil at your weakness.  
He wrapped Himself in shame, rejection, and homelessness,  
    so He isn't offended by your lowliness.  
He poured Himself out in teaching and healing,  
    so He warmly embraces you in your ignorance and need.  
He begged forgiveness for His torturers.  
    so He will not abandon you in your sin.  
He silently accepted all the abuse His enemies could dish out,  
    so He will not be frightened away by anything you might do.

The Life that spoke all life into existence  
could not be defeated by death—  
    not in Christ and  
    not in you.  
This Life took the worst that evil could give and  
emerged the Conqueror.

You have absolutely nothing to fear.  
Not now.  
Not ever.  
The unconquerable Life is now your life.

*"Your life is now hidden with Christ in God."* (Colossians 3:3, NIV)

*"Death has been swallowed up in victory."* (1 Corinthians 15:54, NIV)

Hymn:        [Christ Is Alive! We Live in Him!](#)

## The Ascended Christ

*God put this power to work in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the age to come. (Ephesians 1:20-21, NRSV)*

On Ascension Day, Jesus is at the Father's right hand,  
reigning as Sovereign Lord and King.

His work is completed.  
The perfect human life has been lived.  
The Sacrifice has been offered and accepted.  
Atonement has been made.  
Humanity and holiness are rejoined.  
Sin and death are conquered.  
Peace reigns.  
Life reigns.  
Love reigns forever.

Jesus is once again where He belongs:  
in the bosom of the Father,  
on the seat of power and honor,  
bathed in eternal glory.

He is soon to signal His heavenly arrival by  
lavishly pouring out God's own Spirit  
on every child of God.

In the meantime, two angels have made His departure  
a promise of His return:

*"Men of Galilee, why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you into heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11, NASB)*

Hymn: [The Glorified Christ](#)

## The Christ of Pentecost

*“You will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8, NIV)*

On Pentecost, Jesus pours out the Promise of the Father,  
baptizing every believer in the Holy Spirit of God.

The Holy Spirit is the life of God in motion.  
He is the wind of God, the breath of God, the power of God.  
In the Old Testament, the gift of the Spirit was limited.  
It was given only to specific individuals  
for specific times and specific tasks.

But Messiah came filled with the Spirit from birth, in unlimited measure.  
The Holy Spirit of God conceived Jesus,  
testified to who He was, and  
empowered Him throughout His life.  
Jesus lived in the Spirit, spoke in the Spirit,  
did the mighty works of God in the Spirit, and  
died and rose in the Spirit.

Then, as the culmination of His ministry, after returning to the Father,  
Jesus poured out this Spirit on all believers,  
not for a specific task or season, but completely and forever.

The Spirit is the life of the Father and Son—  
their presence and power dwelling among and within all believers.  
What an incredible Gift!  
And the Gift arrived just as Jesus had promised,  
accompanied by undeniable sights and sounds.  
This dramatic event proved that Jesus was Christ and Lord,  
that He had died according to the scriptures,  
had risen according to the scriptures, and  
now He reigned at the right hand of God Almighty.

On Pentecost, Jesus poured out the Promise of the Father,  
immersing His people in the living, loving Spirit of Almighty God.

Hymn: [Pentecost Hymn](#)

## The Christ of Trinity Sunday

*"I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may be with you forever...the Spirit of truth.*

*"If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and We will come to him and make Our abode with him."* (John 14:16-17, 23, NASB)

On Trinity Sunday, Jesus ushers us into  
the full unity, love, and fellowship of  
Father, Son, and Spirit.

God is our Father, who lavishly, joyfully shares  
His life and existence with us.

God is the Son, our Brother,  
who fully became one of us,  
reuniting us with the Father.

God is the Spirit, who breathes the Son  
among us and within us.

God is Father, Son, and Spirit,  
One God,  
One undivided being,  
One self-giving love,

yet three distinct persons.

Each envelops us in God in unique ways and at the same time,  
enables our union with all the Others.

Their complete oneness, their unbroken sharing,  
is the heaven of peace and wholeness  
into which all believers are being drawn.

This oneness gave Jesus the  
holy,  
peaceful,  
completely sufficient life He enjoyed,  
even while wrapped in poverty and suffering.

On Trinity Sunday, Jesus ushers us into  
this full unity, love, and fellowship in the  
Father, Son, and Spirit.

Hymn: [Trinity Hymn](#)

## The Christ of Ordinary Time

*Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.*  
(2 Peter 3:18, NASB)

During Ordinary Time, Jesus helps us order our lives by His teaching and example.  
He gives us His Spirit as a down-payment  
while we eagerly await His promised Advent.

Ordinary time is like the days Jesus spent with His disciples.  
Together they walked long, dusty roads.  
They talked,  
taught,  
healed, and  
suffered together.

Our ordinary time is much the same.  
It is time spent being disciplined by Christ, our personal companion.

We learn by watching Him, by drinking in His example.  
We learn from His Words, by hearing Him teach.  
We learn by doing, by serving as He served and  
obeying the Father as He obeyed.

We find that as Jesus proclaims His Kingdom within us,  
He is like the teacher He described in Matthew 13:52:  
*Every scribe who has become a disciple of the kingdom of heaven is like a head  
of a household, who brings out of his treasure things new and old.* (NASB)  
Jesus sheds new light on timeless treasures from  
the law, the psalms, and the prophets.  
He also gives us new wine in new wineskins.

During Ordinary Time, Jesus helps us order our lives by His teaching and example.  
He gives us His Spirit as a down-payment  
while we eagerly await His promised Advent.

Hymn: [See All That Human Can Be](#)

## The Christ of All Saints Day

*You are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints, and are of God's household, having been built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the corner stone, in whom the whole building...is growing into a holy temple in the Lord. (Ephesians 2:19-21, NASB)*

On All Saints Day, Jesus unites us with all God's children of all nations and all ages. He was speaking of us when He said,

*"I have other sheep, which are not of this fold; I must bring them also, and they will hear My voice; and they will become one flock with one shepherd."*  
(John 10:16, NASB)

In His final evening before His arrest, as He talked to His Father, He prayed for us:

*"I do not ask on behalf of these [disciples] alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me."* (John 17:20-21, NASB)

He longed to make us all one with Himself,  
one with the Father, Son, and Spirit.

To express this oneness, He speaks of us and thinks of us as  
His friends, His family,  
His temple, His body, His bride.

It seems that no one image could fully express His desire to be  
together with us in the fullest possible sense.

In Christ, we are united with all believers of every time, every nation,  
every language and culture, every situation and personality.

The lives and examples of all who have gone before us  
are like a great cloud of witnesses,  
watching, encouraging, and cheering us on.

In Jesus Christ we share with them the same Spirit,  
the same love, and the same purpose.

Together we are being prepared as the holy, beautiful, glorious bride of Christ.

On All Saints Day, Jesus unites us with all God's children and  
points us toward our shared destiny in Him.

Hymn: [Christ and His Bride](#)

## Christ the King

On Christ the King Sunday, we rise up together and crown Jesus  
King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

He has redeemed us by His blood.  
He has freed us from death and from the guilt and power of sin.  
He is our Savior, our Shepherd,  
our Sacrifice, our Priest,  
our Teacher, our Advocate, our Prince.

Now His procession approaches, and we hear the cry,  
*Lift up your heads, O gates,  
And lift them up, O ancient doors,  
That the King of glory may come in!  
Who is this King of glory?  
The Lord of hosts, He is the King of glory.* (Psalm 24:9-10, NASB)

The numberless throng all around us is shouting wildly,  
*"Hosanna to the Son of David!"  
"Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord!"  
"Hosanna in the highest!"* (Matthew 21:9, NASB)

Every eye is fixed on Him as He enters and approaches the throne.  
*God has ascended with a shout,  
The Lord, with the sound of a trumpet.  
Sing praises to God, sing praises;  
Sing praises to our King, sing praises.  
For God is the King of all the earth...  
God reigns over the nations.* (Psalm 47:5-8, NASB)

Then loud voices from heaven announce,  
*The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of His Christ;  
and He will reign forever and ever.*" (Revelation 11:15, NASB)

On Christ the King Sunday, we rise up together and crown Jesus  
King of Kings and Lord of Lords.

This is the culmination, not only of each year, but of all history.  
Come, Lord Jesus!

Hymn: [Enthronement Hymn](#)

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