

Epiphany season

The **Epiphany season**, also known as **Epiphanytide** or the time of **Sundays After Epiphany**, is a liturgical period, celebrated by many Christian Churches, which immediately follows the Christmas season. It begins on Epiphany Day, and ends at various points as defined by those denominations. The typical liturgical color for the day of Epiphany is white, and the typical color for Epiphany season is green.

Popular Epiphanytide customs include Epiphany singing, chalking the door and families inviting their pastor to bless their home.^[1]



The Adoration of the Magi by Edward Burne-Jones (1904)

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Western Christianity

Roman Rite Catholicism

Ordinary Form

The Ordinary Form of the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church regards the time after Epiphany as a subset of the Christmas season. The Christmas season ends on the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, a feast typically celebrated on the Sunday after Epiphany. Although Epiphany is not a distinct season, the Ordinary Form does have specific Mass collects that are used from Epiphany onward.^[2] Because Epiphany is, in many places, transferred to the Sunday from January 2 to 8 inclusive, the period during which the Epiphany texts are used forms a *de facto* octave between the Sunday of Epiphany and the Sunday of the Baptism of the Lord. Christmas season is followed by Ordinary Time.

Extraordinary Form

In traditionalist Catholic communities that use the General Roman Calendar of 1960 as part of the Extraordinary Form authorized by *Summorum Pontificum*, Epiphany is celebrated with a *de facto* octave from January 6 to the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord on January 13, although the octave was nominally removed in the calendar reforms of 1955. The Sundays which follow are designated "Sundays after Epiphany" or "Time after Epiphany" until the start of Shrovetide.^[3]

Ordinariate Use

In 2015, the Catholic Church authorized a Use of the Roman Rite for the three Personal Ordinariates for former Anglicans. The Ordinariate Use explicitly includes a period called Epiphanytide, which runs from the Monday after the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord until the day before Ash Wednesday.^[4]

Moravianism

In the Moravian Church, the Epiphany season runs until the Sunday before Ash Wednesday.^[5] While white is the liturgical colour used for the Feast of the Epiphany itself, the Sundays during the rest of the season use green.^[5]

Lutheranism

In Lutheranism, Epiphanytide runs from Epiphany Day until Septuagesima Sunday—three Sundays before Shrove Tuesday—(as with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Denmark),^[6] or from Epiphany Day until the day before Ash Wednesday (as with the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America).^{[7][8]}

Anglicanism



The Epiphanytide tradition of chalking the door involves writing C+M+B (representing the names of the Three Wise Men as well as the Christian prayer *Christus mansionem benedicat*) with the year flanking both sides on one's door, as seen here on an apartment door in the Midwestern US.

In 2000, the Church of England introduced into its liturgy an optional Epiphany season by approving the Common Worship series of services as an alternative to those in the Book of Common Prayer. This optional season begins with Evening Prayer on the day before the Epiphany (which may be celebrated on January 6 or on the Sunday between January 2 and 8) and ends on the Feast of the Presentation^[9] (which may be celebrated on February 2 or on the Sunday between January 28 and February 3).

Methodism

In Methodism, the Epiphany season runs from Epiphany Day until Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent.^{[10][11]} White is liturgical colour for Epiphany Day itself, as well as for the Baptism of the Lord and the Feast of the Transfiguration, while green is the liturgical colour used for the rest of the season.^[12]

Eastern Christianity

East Syriac Rite

In the East Syriac Rite (used by churches such as the Syro-Malabar Church), this period is called the Season of Epiphany, also known by its Syriac transliteration *Denha*. This season begins on the Sunday between January 2 and 6, or on January 6 itself if no such Sunday exists. The season runs until the first Sunday of Lent, which begins seven weeks before Easter (three days earlier than it does in Western Christianity).

The rite celebrates the following feast days on sequential Fridays during Epiphany season:^[13]

1. St. John the Baptist
2. Sts. Peter and Paul
3. The Evangelists
4. St. Stephen
5. The Greek Fathers
6. The Syriac Fathers
7. The Patron of the Church
8. Commemoration of the Dead

Because the length of the Season of Epiphany is variable, later Friday feasts are sometimes moved to earlier weeks.^[14]

The Three Days' Lent occurs during this season.^[15]

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