

**KNOW YOUR FAITH - X**  
**Liturgical Colors/Seasons**

The ancient church over time, especially after 313 C.E., when Constantine issued the Edict of Milan/Edict of Toleration which made it legal to be a Christian, began to add many layers of ways to communicate the Christian story in art, architecture, music, literature, etc.

The gospel was communicated to auditory senses but also visual senses. On altar furniture, paraments were added along with stoles for clergy and deacons. Liturgical churches use these colors to this day.

**Blue** Came more to the surface in the liturgical revivals of the 1960's. Used during Advent instead of Purple which was formerly used. Blue is the Scandinavian color for Hope, a major theme of longing for God to come and be among us.

**White** Used at Christmas and other festivals of Christ such as Epiphany, Baptism of our Lord, Transfiguration, Easter Season, and Christ the King. **Gold** may be an alternative for Easter Sunday.

**Green** Used for seasons of growth in faith: Epiphany and Pentecost seasons.

**Purple** Used for passion season- Lent. Passion means full of great emotions.

**Scarlet** Used during Holy Week instead of purple for those churches who can afford this extra color. Like **Blue**, this is relatively new.

**Red** Used for festivals of the church. Red stands for fire of the Holy Spirit and/or the blood of the martyrs. Reformation, Pentecost, and used to be for All Saints (Now White).

**Black or Bare** Used on Good Friday. Sadness, death, absence. Jesus is not with us. It is the only day the Eucharist is not to be offered. The stripping of the altar takes place the night before on Maundy Thursday.

**Stained Glass, Banners, Bulletin Covers, Stations of the Cross, Wood & Stone Carvings** all contributed and still contribute to our imagining of the story of salvation.