

Ecclesiastical Glossary → Churchspeak

A lot of the words we use in worship are alien; we do not use them anywhere else, carryovers from a day long gone. For seekers who may come to our church with no worship background, they are not helpful. Consider using some newer words that are simpler and more descriptive:

Hymn → Song

(sometimes we use descriptive words for the hymns; is this ever necessary? Words such as *Processional*, *Recessional*, or *Of...commitment, service, response*)

Doxology → Song, or Song of Praise

Introit → Entrance song

Invocation → Opening prayer

Prayer of Approach → Opening prayer

Responsory → Responsive reading (although often, if you have “one” and “all” or similar people will figure out that it’s responsive)

Offertory → Offering

Antiphonally → old word meaning “side to side” – better to outline it “Left” and “Right” or similar

Sermon → this is a church-only word, although most people know what it means. Sadly, many of the options are just as confusing: *homily*, *meditation* or just puzzling: *Encounter with the Word*, for example

Creed → Statement of Faith

Benediction → Blessing, or Sending out

Lectionary = series of scripture readings for use in worship

Torah = Hebrew word meaning “the way” but often translated as “the law.” Used also to describe the first 5 books of the Hebrew Scriptures

Prophet = someone who speaks for God, **not** someone who predicts the future

Gospel = good news. Usually refers to first 4 books of the New Testament

Synoptic Gospels = Matthew, Mark, and Luke, called “synoptic” because they tell roughly the same story

Church seasons:

Advent – four Sunday *prior to* December 25 (note: sometimes December 24 is the 4th Sunday of Advent, because Christmas Eve is an Eve, meaning evening.

Christmas – begins at midnight December 24, and runs for 12 days.

Epiphany – from Greek meaning “appearance” – from January 6 until Lent

Lent – 40 days, *plus* Sundays, before Easter. Begins with Ash Wednesday

Easter – 50-day season that celebrate the resurrection; date chosen is the first Sunday after the first full-moon after March 21...)

Pentecost – Last day of the Easter Season, always 50 days after Easter (“Pentecost” comes from the Greek word for 50)

Ordinary time – meaning “designated by ordinal numbers” and refers to the non-festival days (mostly the seasons AFTER Pentecost and AFTER the Epiphany)

Creation – some churches observe this on the first 4 Sundays of September (see www.seasonofcreation.com for more information)

Some helpful websites:

Music: there are 3 main copyright clearance services:

- www.ccli.com – more evangelical, praise music – popular in more conservative churches
- www.licensingonline.org – more “mainstream” and UCC-oriented
- www.onelicense.net – larger publishers

Please note: unless you have permission, it is illegal to copy something that is copyright. Period. Any hymns, songs, choruses, used in your worship service...if you copy them in your bulletin, project them, or record them for distribution, you need permission. A copyright clearance service can make it a lot easier.

www.worshipdesignstudio.com – a wonderful site filled with ideas for all churches – large, small, wealthy, not-so-wealthy – to design powerful worship services that speak to multiple senses

www.hymnsight.ca – a great site of free pictures that you can use in Powerpoint presentations; they are designed primarily to be backgrounds for hymn lyrics; includes also great introductions on ways to use Powerpoint in your church, and information about copyright

www.textweek.com – a gazillion resources for each week, based on the Revised Common Lectionary

www.seasonsonline.ca – *Seasons of the Spirit* is a church resource, again based on the lectionary, that provides worship resources and multi-age learning activities for each week, in ways that tend to engage more senses and involve all ages

www.wholepeopleofgod.com – One of the most popular Christian education curricula is available as an online resource; includes intergenerational worship resources as well as Sunday School material for all ages; cost is based on your average attendance

www.seasonofcreation.com – for those interested in observing the Season of Creation in the month of September, this has lectionary readings, Bible study, and worship resources for the three years of the season

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Let us know if you have questions, or comments, or thoughts, or ponderings. We'd also love to come and spend a day (or at least a morning) sharing worship ideas in your church