

Liturgical Seasons or Cycles

The church calendar is very systematically arranged through the year. With the feast of Khoodosh-Eetho, our church enters a new year. If October 30 or 31 happens to be a Sunday, Khoodosh-Eetho, or the first Sunday of the Liturgical year, is observed on that particular Sunday. If not, the coming Sunday is observed as the first Sunday of the Liturgical year. This is the rule followed by our church.

The first Sunday is the **Feast of Sanctification**, and the second Sunday is the **Feast of Dedication**. These two feasts are considered as the **Season for Preparation** before entering the liturgical year. The rest of the year is divided into 7 seasons, with each season consisting of 7 weeks.

After the Feast of Sanctification and Feast of Dedication has been observed, the cycles come in the following order:

- 1. Suboro or The Season of Annunciation**
- 2. Eldho - Danaha Season (or Thirujanana kaalam), Udhaya kaalam (Season of Nativity or Epiphany)**
- 3. Valiya Nombu or Season of Great Lent**
- 4. Kyamta Kaalam or Season of Resurrection**
- 5. Pentacosta Kaalam or Season of Pentecost**
- 6. Sleeha Kaalam or Season of Apostles**
- 7. Sleeba Kaalam or Season of Cross**

The Purpose of the Liturgical Season

Each liturgical season enables us to experience what God has arranged for us which is beyond the limitations of the world and also teaches us how to live accordingly. It is an attempt through which the mysteries of God can be revealed to us through a prayerful, spiritually disciplined and a sacrificial holy life, which we are otherwise unable to understand through only our human intelligence and power. Let us pray that we are blessed to live through each season as we take inspiration into our lives from those holy fathers we remember in each season who experienced the abundant grace of God and challenge ourselves to attempt to live in the presence of God.

What we can do?

1. Prepare ourselves with fasting and spiritual discipline before worship.

'Redeem the time, because the days are evil.' Ephesians 5:16

The ringing of the church bell when the first kauma starts is a reminder for prayer time. It was considered a grave sin to be coming late to church, by our forefathers. While we try to reach everywhere else on time, it is to be remembered that coming to church on time is also very important.

2. Nourish our life with lent, fasting and prayer.

Lent, fasting and prayer are three most important things in Christian life. As how a human cannot live without food, clothes and shelter, a spiritual life cannot survive without lent, fasting and prayer. Jesus Christ is our role model in this.

3. In our social life, live in humility and submissiveness, with a service oriented mind to do good deeds.

Christian life is not to challenge anybody, but to spread God's love, sacrifice and service to people around us.

4. Understand the inner meaning of the Bible reading portions for each season.

Through our successes and failures, gains and losses, difficulties and happiness, we have to learn to control extreme emotions and instead meditate on the Bible readings for the season and re-arrange our lives accordingly.

In short, the Bible reading portions and the arrangements of the liturgical seasons for the year helps us to live in the presence of God and to grow spiritually with a total submission to the will of God.