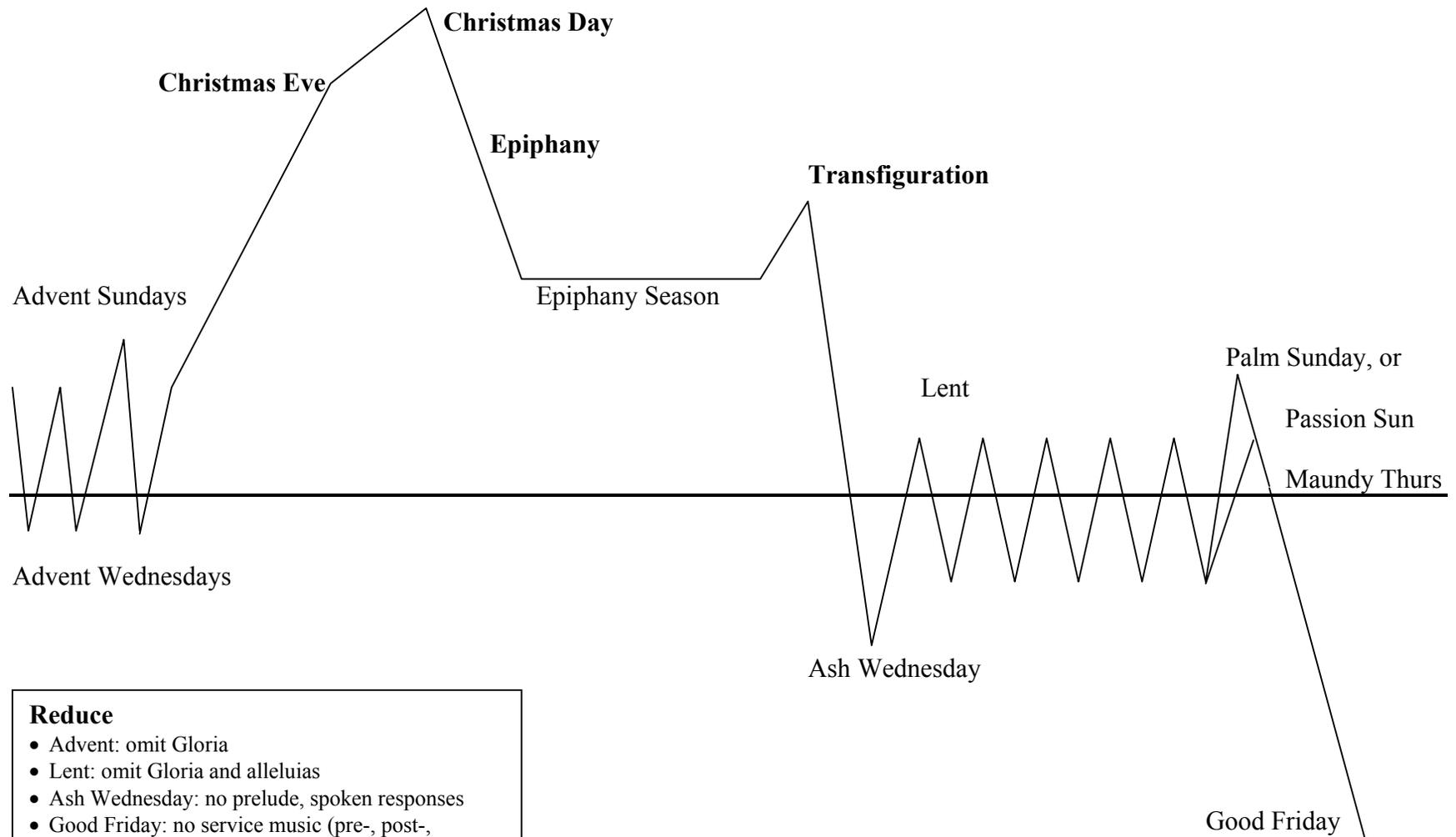


# A Dynamic Church Year – Variety for the Ordinary

See page 3 for definitions and explanations.

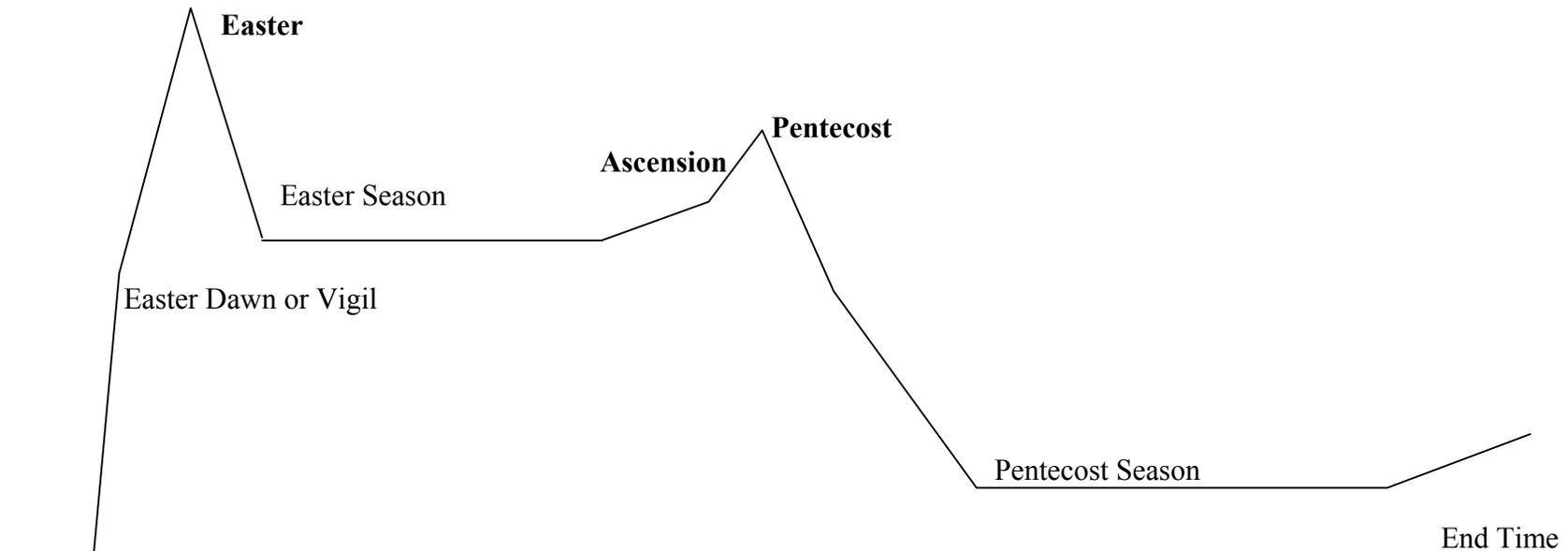


## Reduce

- Advent: omit Gloria
- Lent: omit Gloria and alleluias
- Ash Wednesday: no prelude, spoken responses
- Good Friday: no service music (pre-, post-, offering), spoken responses, leave in silence

## Substitute

- Advent or Lent Sundays: Gathering Rites like "Advent Gathering Song" and "Remember Your Love" – replaces first hymn to Prayer of the Day.
- Every Sunday of Easter: "This Is the Feast" (CW 265, or other settings; fits well also for End Time 3&4) or "Melodic Gloria."
- "O Lord, We Praise You" (CW 317) replaces "Thank the Lord" (SWS) or "Nunc dimittis" (CS) after communion for several communion Sundays in a row.
- New settings of the Common Service (NPH, 2002): use for an entire season with or without alternating piano and organ settings.



**Expand**

- *Service of Word and Sacrament: Festival Setting* (NPH 28N6037; [electronic] keyboard "reduction" for parishes without brass, or MIDI) – use in whole or part for *all* festivals. (Don't forget Pentecost!)
- "Melodic Gloria" or "This Is the Feast" with full instruments on Easter, then organ only or organ and one trumpet for rest of Easter season. Various choirs and/or soloists sing "cantor" part on Sundays.
- In Service of the Word use same Easter substitute in place of "Oh, Taste and See."
- *CW: Altar Book* provides musical lines for presiding minister – use in whole or part for festivals.
- Easter season: begin every Sunday with "**M:** Alleluia! Christ is risen. / **C:** He is risen indeed. Alleluia!"; use a bigger Verse of the Day arrangement for every Sunday (CPH, Schalk; GIA, The Irish Alleluia, O'Carroll); Paschal Candle lighted every Sunday until Ascension.

Be creative *and* careful: not too much, too fast. Know the people you serve.

Create patterns that can be repeated (e.g., every Advent, every other Lent).

Strive for:

- Variety *and* Continuity
- Familiar *and* Fresh
- Comfort *and* Stretch

Many other ideas; these are just a sampling. No church can do every idea; most can benefit from some.

## A Dynamic Church Year

A graphic depiction shows the ebb and flow of the church year, low points and high points, as we journey with our Savior in worship. This depiction can assist worship planning, providing a visual map for the year.

Clearly, Easter is different than Lent, but it's also different than the long Pentecost Season (or better "Time of the Church" in contrast to the "Time of Christ"). What are the relative high and low points throughout the year? The graphic chart shows some key points.

1. The three highest days, in this order, are: Easter, Christmas, Pentecost. Ascension and Epiphany are not far behind.
2. Christmas Eve is lower than Christmas Day and the main festivals. This may reflect more an ideal rather than actual practice or piety, but it's worth noting.
3. Seasons also show rankings, in this order: Easter, Epiphany, Advent, Lent. Wednesday services in Advent are "higher" than Wednesdays of Lent.

For a fuller discussion of the church year, see *Christian Worship: Manual*, chapter 24. For discussion of the Ordinary and Proper, see pages 41-43, 147-152, 274-278, 378.

The options labeled "Reduce, Substitute, Expand" are only illustrative. Many other resources or customs can contribute to the goal of a dynamic church year. Additional ideas are at: [www.wels.net/worship/clearinghouse.html](http://www.wels.net/worship/clearinghouse.html)

## Variety for the Ordinary

One way to enhance a sense of church year rhythm and seasonal character is through treatment of the Ordinary – the common repeating songs of the service.

According to some traditions, the Song of Praise (*Gloria in excelsis*) is omitted during Advent and Lent.

The "Substitute" box suggests alternates for various seasons. Variety and seasonal character are achieved either by omission or by substitution. A substitution reinforces the character of the season, for example a stronger penitential mode in Lent or a more celebrative mode during the entire season of Easter.

The "Melodic Gloria" (James Chepponis, GIA G-2955) has been used in many WELS parishes. A partial sample of the score and audio file are available at: [www.wels.net/worship/cms-index.html](http://www.wels.net/worship/cms-index.html) Many other alternate canticles are available in a variety of appropriate musical styles. Parishes might consider adding some of these to their regular recurring variety. Another example at the website above is "Lamb of God" (Kenneth Kosche, AMSI: #660).

The "Expand" box suggests a variety of ideas to help a festival stand above other services, including services within the same season.

(This information is provided as a planning aid for parishes using *Christian Worship: A Lutheran Hymnal*, Northwestern Publishing House, 1993.)