

**The Pentecost season** is the longest season of the Church Year.

It can be as long as 27 weeks, depending on the date of Easter. The liturgical color of the Pentecost season is green, denoting the growth of the branches as we are sustained and fed by the Vine.

As one considers the Gospel readings appointed for the Sundays after Pentecost, three major theological themes emerge. The first theme, uniting the seven Sundays after the Feast of the Most Holy Trinity, is that of the miracles of Jesus interspersed with His

teachings about the true Church. In these we see the great wonders performed by our Lord as evidence of His Divinity, and His will to continue His miraculous works as He comes to us now in His Means of Grace, strengthening and growing His Church.

In the ninth through the 19th Sundays after Pentecost, we see the miracles of our Lord interspersed with His teachings regarding the Kingdom of God. Here we learn that the Kingdom of God is not like the Kingdom of the World, and we are shown the signs of both - the Kingdom of the World is marked by false prophets, unjust stewards, Pharisees and lepers; the Kingdom of God is marked by true Prophets, by repentance and faith, by healing and humility, and by love for God and neighbor.

Beginning with Michaelmass, on September 29th, the Gospel readings for the remaining Sundays of the Church year turn our attention to the end times, the final judgment, and the coming in glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Cover Art** – *The Archangel Michael Slays the Dragon*

Josse Lieferinx, 1493-1505 A. ✠ D. Musée de Petit Palais, Avignon, France.

Josse Lieferinx was a south Netherlandish painter of the Provençal school of the late 15th and early 16th centuries.

He was formerly identified by the pseudonym “Master of the St. Sebastian”.

# The Sundays



# After Michaelmass