

# Ordinary Time for Ordinary People



That's so boring! Look at this amazing thing that I can do! That's so awesome! You can be whatever you want to be! I didn't get anything out of that experience!

Much of life is peppered with hyperbole. Perhaps we humans have always been enticed by the "shining new object of the day." I enjoy posting a good "selfie" on Facebook as much as anyone. But, has this gotten out of hand? Has our hunger for newness, novelty,

coolness rendered us a slave to vanity? Do we only notice the spectacular sunset? Do we only look up at the sky when the Northern Lights are dancing? Do we only feel we have worshipped God when the preacher has delivered a soul-turning sermon? Do we only praise the first-place winner? We generally don't like reading from Ecclesiastes, "Vanity of vanities. All is vanity."

In Western Christendom, the liturgical season, which is the longest, is considered Ordinary Time. Depending on how you count it—33 or 34 weeks. For us Lutherans, the long season of Pentecost can also be called Ordinary Time. The color of day is always Green.

Is there praise to be found in the "Ordinary?" So much of living is about the ordinary. We usually eat at the same time. We usually sleep at the same time. Our commuting routes usually are so routine that our smart phones tell us how far away we are from the office even before we start out.

But ordinary doesn't have to mean insignificant. Ordinary doesn't have to mean unimportant. Sleeping is a very ordinary thing to do, but it is crucial to our health and wellbeing. The ordinary, "Thank You," and "You are Welcome," exchanged between people might not solve world hunger, but it does matter.

So much of the ordinary in the world goes unnoticed. So much of the ordinary might not make the evening news. But ordinary matters.

Ordinary time doesn't have to leave us in a sedated stupor. Ordinary time doesn't have to leave us bored. Take a look around you. Notice all those people and things that "ordinarily" surround you! They all help make you who you are. Give thanks to God for the ordinary in your life.

Love, grace, mercy, spirit, death, resurrection, Jesus, rest, food, nature, music, gardens, pets, work, family, friends. These all make up my ordinary life. May we in all things give praise to the Lord who gives us everything!

In paraphrasing and expanding on I Corinthians 10:31, “Whether you are eating or drinking, laughing or daydreaming, sleeping or singing, cleaning or making messes, listening or speaking, fishing or dreaming about fishing, sewing or reaping, may we recognize God’s presence in all aspects of our lives and give God praise for all things ordinary!”

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