



Lent 2025

Week 5

March 31- April 4, 2025



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From Ashes to the Cross: An Invitation to a Holy Lent

At the heart of the Christian faith is our relationship with Jesus Christ. We proclaim Jesus' life, ministry suffering, death, resurrection, and ascension. Through Jesus Christ, God saves us from sin to righteousness, from death to life, from slavery to freedom, and from oppression to liberation. God in Jesus Christ brings life in deathly situations, hope in despairing situations, and opportunity in desperate situations.

Lent is a time for us to participate in the life, ministry, suffering, and death of Jesus and to prepare for the celebration of Jesus' resurrection, which is Easter.* Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the forty weekdays of preparation for Easter. Ash Wednesday calls for us to return to the Lord. We recall our mortality and wait upon the Lord to renew us. This is a time for putting aside our sins and failures in light of who we are yet to become by the grace of God through Jesus suffering on the cross.

Traditionally, the church has observed Lent as a time of penitence, fasting and prayers. This season of forty days provided a time in which converts were prepared for baptism into the body of Christ. It was also a time when persons who had committed sins and had been separated from the community were reconciled by penitence and forgiveness and restored to the fellowship of the church. Thus, these acts—preparation of persons for baptism and restoration of persons—reminded the church of its work of forgiveness.

As a mark of our mortality and as a need for the grace of God through Jesus Christ, let us go forth, with the aid of the Holy Spirit, to observe Lent by meditating on God's word, examining ourselves, fasting, almsgiving, and praying.

** Sundays are not a part of the forty days of Lent. They are in Lent but not of Lent. Every Sunday of the year is considered to be a "little Easter", a celebration of Jesus' resurrection. Therefore, Easter is a day of the week, a day of the year, and a season of the church year.*

The Season of Lent

Jesus and [John the Baptist](#) each spent time fasting (going without eating) in the desert before entering into ministry.

Fasting is one way Christians prepare to serve [God](#). The season of Lent is a time of preparation for the death and resurrection of [Jesus Christ](#) on [Easter Sunday](#). Lent begins on Ash Wednesday, when pastors mark the foreheads of [Christians](#) with ashes as a reminder that all Christians are created from dust and to dust they shall return.

Lent follows Jesus from his adult ministry through his suffering during [Holy Week](#) to his crucifixion and death on Good Friday. The [Psalms](#) foretold what would happen during that week.

Holy Week begins with [Palm Sunday](#), also called the Sunday of the Passion, and continues through Holy Thursday (when [Holy Communion](#) was instituted at the Last Supper) and Good Friday, when [Jesus](#) was tried, crucified, and buried.

Because the Last Supper was celebrated during the Feast of the Passover, which is calculated on the phases of the moon, Easter is called a movable feast. Lent is scheduled backward from [Easter](#). Easter falls on the first Sunday after the full moon after the spring equinox. The forty days of fasting and penitence during Lent do not include Sundays. Christians always celebrate Sunday as the day Jesus rose from the dead, so it is never a day of fasting.

Many Northern Europeans celebrate the day before Ash Wednesday, mardi gras (French for Fat Tuesday, also called Shrove Tuesday), by eating up everything good in the house that medieval Christians believed was inappropriate to eat during Lent (eggs, milk, butter, cream, meat). This celebration has expanded into all sorts of festivals all over the world.

Most modern Christians do eat some - or all - of those foods during Lent, following a modified fast. Lent is a time of stripping down to essentials, as each Christian focuses on his or her individual relationship with God. No one asks another person to do without or to suffer during Lent - the

sacrificial observance is private and personal. No Christian uses Lent as an excuse for self-righteousness. The focus of Lent is to study more deeply, to pray more sincerely, and to show greater kindness.

During Lent Christians remember their [baptisms](#), when Jesus washed away all sins, giving newness of life to celebrate the triumph of [Palm Sunday](#) and the glory of Easter. Many early Christians were baptized on Easter Sunday, so Lent became a special time of study and prayer in preparation for their baptisms.

Later entire congregations joined in the study and prayer as they looked forward to the anniversaries of their baptisms on Easter.

Because Lent is a time of letting go of the [bondage of sin](#), it is also a time of celebrating the freedom from the bondage of [slavery](#). At the Feast of the Passover, all Jews give thanks for their freedom from the captivity of the Egyptians.

They remember [Moses](#), their leader, when they perform [Out of Egypt](#).

And Christians give thanks for the freedom of all slaves in every culture everywhere when they sing Go Down, Moses (With One Voice 670).

"Grains of Wheat (Una Espiga)" from the Libro De Liturgia Y Cantico, published by Augsburg Fortress, is a good communion hymn to teach to children to learn how Jesus brought the sacrament of Holy Communion into everyone's lives.

The color of Lent is purple.

Weekly Times for Reading During Lent Monday–Friday

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Zoom Information

Zoom Meeting ID: 321 127 5799

Password: 135792

9:00 a.m. MAABC Zoom

12:00 MAABC (In Person)
H. O. Freeman Conference Room

6:00 p.m. MAABC (In Person)
H. O. Freeman Conference Room

7:30 p.m. MAABC Zoom

If those times do not work please contact your deacons or the office to let us know and we can set up a time that works for you.

If there are any other groups that are meeting and are reading during this time please let the office know so we can share the information.

**Weekly Times for Reading During Lent
Monday—Friday**

Week of March 31—April 4, 2025

**Monday, March 31, 2025
Luke Chapters 1-3**

**Tuesday, April 1, 2025
Luke Chapters 4-6**

**Wednesday, April 2, 2025
Luke Chapters 7-9**

**Thursday, April 3, 2025
Luke Chapters 10-12**

**Friday, April 4, 2025
Luke Chapters 13 & 14**

Questions to think about while reading the Gospels
Monday, March 31, 2025
Luke Chapters 1-3

What did you hear God say to you through this Chapter?

Why do you think God said this to you/us?

How does God want us to respond to this?

How will we respond to this?

Questions to think about while reading the Gospels
Tuesday, April 1, 2025
Luke Chapters 4-6

What did you hear God say to you through this Chapter?

Why do you think God said this to you/us?

How does God want us to respond to this?

How will we respond to this?

Questions to think about while reading the Gospels
Wednesday, April 2, 2025
Luke 7-9

What did you hear God say to you through this Chapter?

Why do you think God said this to you/us?

How does God want us to respond to this?

How will we respond to this?

Questions to think about while reading the Gospels
Thursday, April 3, 2025
Luke Chapters 10-12

What did you hear God say to you through this Chapter?

Why do you think God said this to you/us?

How does God want us to respond to this?

How will we respond to this?

Questions to think about while reading the Gospels
Friday, April 4, 2025
Luke Chapters 13 & 14

What did you hear God say to you through this Chapter?

Why do you think God said this to you/us?

How does God want us to respond to this?

How will we respond to this?
