

LENT AT MT. CALVARY

As many of you may remember, Lent and Easter hit a big bump in the road last year with the onset of the COVID and the lock-downs and restrictions that followed.

But, if you saw the Pastor's Column in our last newsletter, then you know it's time for us to start getting back together in public worship, as long as it is safe, and Lent is a great time to start that.

The origins of our Lent go back at least to the 4th century AD; before that, the evidence is hard to evaluate. The forty days of Lent (which begins on Ash Wednesday and "officially" ends at Maundy Thursday, since Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter are considered the "Triduum") has an obvious connection to Jesus' forty days in the wilderness when He was tempted by the devil. Since He did not eat during that time, one of the early "disciplines" of Lent was fasting. This could be more or less rigorous depending on where you found yourself in Christendom. In some places people eliminated all dairy and meat from their diets for the whole season, while in other places the fast only took place a few times during the week. Fasting was considered a spiritual discipline that helped with keeping the body under control, and which reminded the person fasting to have proper sorrow for her or his sin. Other customs that emerged during the season included giving charitable gifts to the poor and destitute, and engaging in special prayers or devotions. All of this was aimed at preparing one for the joyful celebration of Christ's triumph over sin and death on Easter Sunday.

The curious thing, however, is that Sundays are not included in counting the days of Lent. And if you go with the tradition of letting the Triduum be its own "little" season, then you only get 38 days to Lent - hence it's "forty-ish" rather than a strict forty.

But enough of trivia. We keep the season of Lent as a way to prepare for Easter. And we do that by focusing on what Jesus did to redeem us. You have the opportunity to join us for special services to aid your devotion during the season, and I recommend that you add fasting and charitable giving to your disciplines as well.

The theme for this year's mid-week services is taken from the Old Testament readings assigned for the Sundays of the season, and is called "Images of the New Covenant." It seems odd to think of the New Covenant being established already in the Old, but if you listen to the readings that are assigned each week, you'll see that even in the Old Covenant, God is pointing forward to a day when His people again dwell with Him in peace and joy. And, of course, that Day comes with the work and person of Christ. So, we will hear of Abraham and Isaac and God's provision; we'll hear of the new names God gave Abraham and Sarah and reflect on the new name we are given; we'll hear the Ten Commandments and hear how God gives us life; we'll hear of the bronze serpent set up on a pole and see how God redeems His people; and finally, we'll hear of the New Covenant in Jeremiah and know that God forgives.

So, please make time to join us for these services if your schedule allows – it is a great opportunity to grow in understanding.

Two Notes: Sadly, while we're still needing to be careful with contact and social distances, we still won't be able to offer any meals in conjunction with our services.

While Wednesday, Thursday, and Sunday services are listed here, please check out Sign-Up Genius for the full list of opportunities to join in worship.

LENT

Ash Wednesday: February 17, 2021

Imposition of Ashes & Holy Communion offered at 11:15 a.m. & 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, Quinquagesima (*the week of the "50th day" before Easter*): February 18, 2021

Spoken Divine Service, 6:00 p.m.

1st Sunday in Lent: February 21, 2021

Services at 8:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 11:45 a.m.

Wednesday, 1st Week of Lent: February 24, 2021

"God Provides...." Genesis 22:1-18

Mid-Day Prayer - 11:15 a.m.

Vespers - 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, 1st Week of Lent: February 25, 2021

Spoken Divine Service, 6:00 p.m.

2nd Sunday in Lent: February 28, 2021

Services at 8:00a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 11:45 a.m.

Wednesday, 2nd Week of Lent: March 3, 2021

"God Names..." Genesis 17:1-7, 15-16

Mid-Day Prayer - 11:15 a.m.

Vespers Prayer - 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, 2nd Week of Lent: March 4, 2021

Spoken Divine Service, 6:00 p.m.

3rd Sunday in Lent: March 7, 2021

Services at 8:00a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 11:45 a.m.

Wednesday, 3rd Week of Lent: March 10, 2021

"God Gives Life...." Exodus 20:1-17

Mid-Day Prayer - 11:15 a.m.

Vespers - 6:30 p.m.



Thursday, 3rd Week of Lent: March 11, 2021
Spoken Divine Service, 6:00 p.m.

4th Sunday in Lent: March 14, 2021
Services at 8:00a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 11:45 a.m.

Wednesday, 4th Week of Lent: March 17, 2021
"God Redeems....." Numbers 21:4-9
Mid-Day Prayer - 11:15 a.m.
Vespers - 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, 4th Week of Lent: March 18, 2021
Spoken Divine Service, 6:00 p.m.

5th Sunday in Lent: March 21, 2021
Services at 8:00a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 11:45 a.m.

Wednesday, 5th Week of Lent: March 24, 2021
"God Forgives..." Jeremiah 31:31-34
Mid-Day Prayer - 11:15 a.m.
Vespers - 6:30 p.m.

Thursday, 5th Week of Lent: March 25, 2021
Spoken Divine Service, 6:00 p.m.
Full on Annunciation!

Palm/Passion Sunday: March 28, 2021
Procession & Blessing of the Palms (all services),
Reading of the Passion according to St. Mark (9:00 a.m.)
Services at 8:00a.m., 9:00 a.m. & 11:45 a.m.





The Triduum: The celebrations of Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, and Easter were the first regular festivals in the Church's calendar - dating back as far as around 150 AD. In fact, together, they were seen as one great "service" of worship - with the congregation simply dispersing between the various parts of the liturgy, but never really ceasing the receiving of God's gifts in Christ or their worship - hence the ancient name for these services is *the Triduum*, "the Three Days." We earnestly entreat you to join us for the "Three Days" at Mt. Calvary as we again celebrate Christ's great work by which our redemption is accomplished.

Maundy Thursday: April 1, 2021

Holy Communion - 11:15 a.m.

Holy Communion & the Stripping of the Altar - 6:30 p.m.

Good Friday: April 2, 2021

Noon Prayer & Commemoration of the Cross - 12:00 p.m.

Tenebrae - 6:30 p.m.

Easter Sunday: April 4, 2021

Holy Communion & the Easter Proclamation - 8:00 a.m.

Abbreviated Services - 10:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

