

"But He was wounded *for our* transgressions, He was bruised *for our* iniquities: the chastisement of *our* peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed." [Isaiah 53:5]

In Lent we remember that Jesus is the Lamb led to the slaughter, the slaughter that we deserved. Jesus died in our place, for our sins, taking into Himself our sins and our punishment and our death. "God made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that in Him we might become the righteousness of God," [2 Corinthians 5:21].

In fasting, prayers and repentance we humbly thank God for all His gifts of life, salvation and the forgiveness of sins which He has won for us in the death of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Lent is a time to remember the words that Jesus taught us concerning His suffering and death, a time of repentance, prayer and fasting, and a time when we contemplate the all atoning sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ as He goes to Jerusalem to die on the cross, our cross, to redeem us.

The Sundays in Lent

Because Sundays are not officially included in the days of Lent, the Sundays are called the Sundays *in* Lent (not *of* Lent). These Sundays take their Latin names from the first word(s) of the Introit. The names are.

Invocavit... "He shall call upon Me"

Reminiscere... "Remember, O Lord"

Oculi... "Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord"

Laetare... "Rejoice ye with Jerusalem"

Judica... "Judge me, O God"

Palmarum... Palm Sunday

"From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee"

by Martin Luther, 1483-1546

The Lutheran Hymnal # 329 Text: Psalm 130

LENT

1. From depths of woe I cry to Thee,
Lord, hear me, I implore Thee.
Bend down Thy gracious ear to me,
My prayer let come before Thee.
If Thou rememberest each misdeed,
If each should have its rightful meed,
Who may abide Thy presence?

2. Thy love and grace alone avail
To blot out my transgression;
The best and holiest deeds must fail
To break sin's dread oppression.
Before Thee none can boasting stand,
But all must fear Thy strict demand
And live alone by mercy.

3. Therefore my hope is in the Lord
And not in mine own merit;
It rests upon His faithful Word
To them of contrite spirit
That He is merciful and just;
This is my comfort and my trust.
His help I wait with patience.

4. And though it tarry till the night
And till the morning waken,
My heart shall never doubt His might
Nor count itself forsaken.
Do thus, O ye of Israel's seed,
Ye of the Spirit born indeed;
Wait for your God's appearing.

5. Though great our sins and sore our woes,
His grace much more aboundeth;
His helping love no limit knows,
Our utmost need it soundeth.
Our shepherd good and true is He,
Who will at last His Israel free
From all their sin and sorrow. Amen.



· L · E · N · T ·

Now it came to pass, when the time for Him
to be received up, that He steadfastly set His
face to go to Jerusalem.

St. Luke 9:51

Collect for Lent

Merciful and everlasting God, who did not spare Your only Son, but delivered Him up for us all that He might bear our sins upon the cross, grant that our hearts may be so fixed with steadfast faith in Him that we may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Lent is a special time of Christian devotion, a season that centers around the contemplation of our Lord Jesus Christ's suffering and death on the cross. Through the season of Lent we journey with Jesus on the road to Jerusalem, the road to the cross.



"HEAR HIM"

The day before Jesus "set His face to go to Jerusalem" [*St. Luke 9.51*] He took three of His disciples up the mountain and was transfigured before them. His face shone like the sun and a cloud covered the mountain. God's voice said out of the cloud, "This is My beloved Son. Hear Him!" [*St. Luke 9.35*]. The Lord's church delights to heed this command and hear and listen to our Lord's voice.

As we listen to Jesus' teaching we hear about Himself and the meaning of His impending death. "Have you not even read this Scripture. The stone which the builders rejected has become the chief cornerstone. This was the Lord's doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes," [*St. Mark 12.10-11*]. Jesus is the prophesied stone that would be rejected by Israel [*Psalms 118.22-23*], rejected, mocked, whipped, and crucified. "Behold, we are going up to Jerusalem, and the Son of man will be betrayed to the chief priest and to the scribes; and they will condemn Him to death and deliver Him to the Gentiles; and they will mock Him, and scourge Him, and spit on Him, and kill Him. And the third day He will rise again." [*St. Mark 10.33-34*]

Jesus' teaching, like the teaching of the entire Scripture, is centered around His atoning death on the cross. In Lent we hear the Scriptures preach the crucifixion of our Lord: prophesied in the Old Testament, reported by the Gospels, and preached to all nations in the Epistles.



REPENT

Lent is also a time of repentance, fasting and prayer, a season of contrition. Jesus assumes that His followers will fast, "When you fast..." and "When you pray..." [*St. Matthew 6.16,5*]. Seeing the suffering of our Lord before our eyes humbles us and even makes us sad. The severity of Jesus' suffering leaves no doubt concerning mankind's lost condition. Our sinfulness is so deep and profound that it requires the most drastic measures to amend; our debt is so large that it requires the precious and holy blood of Christ to pay. The awareness of our sinfulness is always followed by repentance.

A Christian's life is a life of repentance. In Lent we train ourselves in repentance, coming to the Lord of the universe with our hands soiled with sin, begging His forgiveness, and hearing His word of absolution, "Your sins are forgiven." These are the two parts of repentance: contrition and faith, sorrow over our sin and trust in the promised forgiveness.

FASTING

On the first Sunday in Lent we hear that Jesus "was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to

be tempted by the devil. And when He had fasted forty days and forty nights, afterward He was hungry." [*St. Matthew 4.1,2*] Jesus, by His example, teaches us that "man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God." [*St. Matthew 4.4; Deuteronomy 8.3*] This teaches us what true fasting is, namely, avoiding those things that get in the way of hearing God's Word. The Christian always labors to keep their body in check so that they might rejoice in God's Word, as St. Paul says, "I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified." [*1 Corinthians 9.27*]

In Lent we learn to pray, "Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil," and we rejoice that the Lord was tempted for us, in our place, and now is able to help us in all temptation. "For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted." [*Hebrews 2.18*]



THE CROSS

Lent is not just a time to consider the profundity and depth of our own sin. The gospel always draws us out of ourselves and to Christ. Left to ourselves our sorrow over sin would come to nothing, but because Jesus died on the cross, our tears are turned into joy. The suffering servant song of Isaiah [*53.3-12*] teaches us that the Lord's suffering and death was for us, for our benefit.