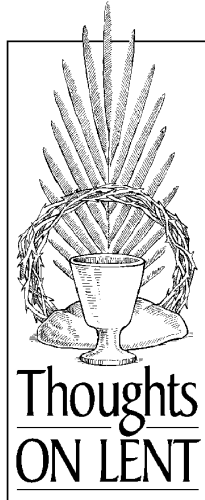


INSIGHT FROM GOD'S WORD:

“Lent”-- the Word and the Season

“Lent” comes from the Anglo-Saxon word *lencten* meaning “spring” which comes from the Anglo-Saxon “long” indicating that the days of spring are getting longer.



Beginning on Ash Wednesday (the ashes are an Old Testament sign of grief and sorrow over our sins), the Season of Lent consists of the forty penitential days preceding Easter, pointing back to our Lord Jesus fasting for forty days in the wilderness, as He was being tempted by the devil (Matthew 4:2). The forty-day period does not include the six Sundays, which are Sundays in Lent, not of Lent, and concludes on the day before Easter.

Lent approaches its climax in its closing days, as the passion (suffering) of Christ becomes more vivid in the consciousness of the Christian during the week leading up to Good Friday. Easter began as a season rather than a single day, including the remembrance of the death of Christ, as well as the celebration of His resurrection. The death and resurrection of Jesus assures us, as believers in Him, of the forgiveness of all our sins and our own resurrection to eternal life!

Lent is more than remembrance; it is preparation for our fuller appreciation of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and our faithfulness to Him, empowered by our baptism into Him (Romans 6:3—8). The goal of our Lenten preparation is that the Holy Spirit may lead us to reflect on Christ's suffering and death for the sins of the world, and our sins, and to rejoice in Christ's victory for us through the cross, especially at Easter and also every day of our lives. Pastor Brechbuhl

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