

The Lenten Season: 2010

The season of Lent begins with Ash Wednesday and continues for forty days and six Sundays prior to Easter Day. It is a period of discipline but not necessarily of a negative character. As someone has said, "Lent consists in doing something, not in merely doing without something."

The genesis of Lent appears to have been associated with a period of discipline, reflections, and abstinence in imitation of Christ's self-denial and in preparation for the holy celebration of Easter. But since every Sunday was a "little Easter" and every Friday a day of fasting in memory of Calvary, it was comparatively easy to require a longer period of discipline as appropriate provision for Easter Day. By the third century the period was six days. The earliest record of a forty-day period was in the fourth century when Athanasius urged the people of Alexandria to fast, and in a reference in Canon V of the Council of Nicaea (A.D. 325).

By the eighth century **Ash Wednesday** was generally observed as the beginning of Lent. Ash Wednesday gets its name from Old Testament times when "sackcloth and ashes" were symbols of repentance. In Roman Catholic churches, the priest takes the ashes of some of the palm branches consecrated the previous year and marks the forehead of each kneeling penitent at the altar rail and repeats in Latin, *Memento, homo, quia pulvis es et in pulverem reverteris* ("remember, man, that thou art dust; and unto dust thou shalt return."). We begin Lent with our Ash Wednesday service.

Ash Wednesday 7:00 – 7:30 PM Feb.17th church sanctuary

Since Sunday was traditionally a "little Easter," the six Sundays are not counted in the Lenten fast and are therefore separate from the forty days. We say the first or second Sunday *in* Lent. The word "Lent" comes from the Old English *lencten*, meaning "the lengthening" of the days in spring.

First Sunday in Lent TEMPTATION Feb. 21st Psalm 91: 1-2, 9-16 Luke 4: 1-13

Second Sunday in Lent LAMENTATION Feb. 28th Psalm 27 Luke 13: 31-35

Third Sunday in Lent CORRECTION March 7th Psalm 63: 1-8 Luke 13: 1-9

Fourth Sunday in Lent RE-CREATION March 14th Psalm 32 II Corinthians 5: 16-21

Fifth Sunday in Lent SALVATION March 21st Psalm 126 Isaiah 43: 16-21 (Philippians 3: 4b-14)

In the Anglican Church, each Sunday in Lent has its separate designation, but generally in Presbyterian churches, only **Passion/Palm Sunday** are singled out by special themes. The former reminds us of the nearness of the crucifixion and the sorrow of Calvary; the latter celebrates the triumphal entry into Jerusalem and formally opens the observance of Holy Week.

Palm/Passion Sunday March 28th Psalm 118: 1-2, 19-29 Luke 19: 28-40
Easter Egg Hunt followed by Congregational Meal *Reservations Required

(over)

Maundy Thursday takes its name from the new “mandate” or “commandment” Jesus gave to his disciples to “love one another” and from the institution of the Last Supper to be done “in remembrance of me.” The service is one of reflection and examination.

Maundy Thursday 6:30 PM April 1st Service held in Sanctuary and Sacred Garden
**nursery provided*

Special service has marked Good Friday from as early as the fourth century. The origin of the name “Good” Friday is obscure; some scholars conclude that it is a corruption of God’s Friday. It is our focus upon the sacrifice of Christ for our salvation.

Good Friday 7:00 PM April 2nd Church Sanctuary - **nursery provided*

Lent ends officially at noon on Saturday. Easter Day signals the beginning of the festival of the Resurrection which continues for forty days, corresponding to the period Christ was manifest upon earth before the Ascension. Frank Wilson comments: “Easter is the axis on which the Christian Year revolves.” The Greek name for Easter is *Pascha*; the Italian, *Pasqua*; and the English comes from *Eostre*, the name of a Teutonic goddess of Spring. It is a season of joy and triumph; it marks the summit of the Christian Year.

EASTER DAY RESURRECTION April 4th Sacraments of Baptism (11:00)

Easter Gifts

As we look forward to the promise of Easter, it is time to make your plans. If you would like to take part by honoring or remembering your loved ones or special friends there are 5 options.

- I. You may make a contribution to **Haiti** \$ _____
- II. You may make a contribution to **Moore Place**, an Urban Ministry program, \$ _____
- III. You may make a contribution to buy benches for the sacred garden.
Sacred Garden Benches \$ _____
- IV. You may make a contribution to offset the cost of sanctuary flowers for Easter.
Easter flowers for sanctuary \$ _____
- V. You may purchase a **Plaque for the Sacred Garden in memory of a loved one** – sign and you will be contacted _____

Complete form, make checks payable to Avondale Presbyterian Church and send both to Avondale Presbyterian Church, 2821 Park Road, Charlotte, NC 28209. **Deadline is Sunday March 21st**. Names will be published in the Easter bulletin exactly as they are received.

Please print.

In Memory of _____

In Honor of _____

Given by (Name) _____

Day Phone _____

Please Fill Out Form and Place In Collection Plate, Or Bring To Church Office