

Forgiveness



Ash Wednesday

Wilmore Free Methodist Church

March 5, 2025

* Please Stand As Able

Prelude

Welcome and Invocation

Who Are We?

Isaiah 59:1-15

Hymnal 208 *Alas, and Did My Savior Bleed*

Who Is God?

Psalms 104:1-32

*Hymnal 25 *Immortal, Invisible*

What Is Our Need?

Isaiah 61:1-3

What Has God Done?

Colossians 2:9-15

Hymnal 746 *O Love Divine, What Hast Thou Done?*

Invitation

Imposition of Ashes

Who Have We Become?

Ephesians 2

Our Position in Christ

Ephesians 1:3-14

*Hymnal 210 *Jesus Paid It All*

Benediction

Tonight's Service Leaders:

Rose Evans, Faye Montgomery, Mark Schell

Pastors Caitlin, Daryl and Dwight

Breanna Bowers, Carson DiFranco, Elyssa Maynard, Liam O'Neal

What is Lent?

Lent is a season of soul-searching and repentance...a season for reflection and taking stock.

Lent originated in the very earliest days of the Church as a preparatory time for Easter, when believers re-dedicated themselves and when new converts to Christ were instructed in the faith and prepared for baptism. By observing the forty days of Lent, the individual Christian imitates Jesus' withdrawal into the wilderness for forty days.

All churches that have a continuous history extending before AD 1500 observe Lent. The ancient church that wrote, collected, canonized, and propagated the New Testament also observed Lent, believing it to be a commandment from the apostles.

The Western Church*

Because Sunday is the day of the Resurrection, the Western church skips Sundays in its calculation of the length of Lent. Therefore, in the Western Church, Lent always begins on Ash Wednesday, the seventh Wednesday before Easter.

In many countries, the last day before Lent (called Mardi Gras, Shrove Tuesday, Carnival, or Fasching) has become a last fling before the solemnity of Lent. For centuries, it was customary to fast by abstaining from meat during Lent, which is why some people call the festival Carnival, which is Latin for "farewell to meat."

But The Word "Lent" Isn't In The Bible!

Well, the word "Bible" isn't in the Bible, either...so what we're really asking is the origin of the name.

Originally, "Lent" was nothing more than the English name of the season between winter and summer, the season when the snow melts and the flowers bloom. German and Dutch have the same word, but with slightly different spelling. In German, "Lenz" is the poetic word for "spring." In Dutch, the word "lente" never changed its meaning; it is still the name of the season between winter and summer, and it is still used with that meaning in everyday life.

The church observance took place during the season of lent. In England, "Lent" came to mean the observance rather than the season, leaving the season without a name. Instead of saying things like "Lent happens during lent," English-speaking people invented the word "spring." Today, instead of calling the seasons winter, lent, and summer, we call them winter, spring, and summer. We use "Lent" instead of "spring" when we refer to the church season.

Special Days

The purpose of the liturgical calendar is to relive the major events in Jesus' life in real time, which is why Lent is forty days long. If Jesus were born on December 25, then His conception—thus also His incarnation—would have been nine months earlier, on about March 25. That is when the angel Gabriel would have announced Jesus' birth to Mary. Thus March 25 is known in the historic church as The Annunciation.

Lent always begins on Ash Wednesday.

*Roughly speaking, the Western Church consists of Protestants, Catholics, and Anglicans.