

Remembering Lent

Lent begins 46 days before Easter. When Lent begins depends upon the date of Easter. In 325 A.D., the church decided that Easter would fall on the first Sunday after the full moon which occurs on or after March 21st.

As Wednesday is the first day of Lent. The name "Ash Wednesday" was given by Pope Urban II in 1099 A.D. Prior to this, the first day of Lent was known as the "Beginning of the Feast." The day was set aside as a special day of repentance and as the opening of the Season of Repentance.

"Shrove Tuesday" is the day before "Ash Wednesday." "Shrove" refers to the shriving or cleansing of your sins by going to confession on this day. On the other hand it is a day of feasting and carnival. The French call it "Mardi Gras." The Germans have "Fasching" or "Fasch Nacht." It is a time to use up their store of fat which is forbidden during Lent. Thus many Germans use up the fat by making doughnuts on "Fat Tuesday."

The Lenten Season is one of the most important seasons of the church year. It is a time of the church year when the passion and death of Jesus comes into focus. It is a season of reflection and renewal. It deepens our awareness and understanding of what Jesus has done for us and how Jesus has called us to a life of faith and devotion. It is a season which beckons us to pick up our cross and follow Jesus. The spiritual discipline of Lent prepares for the celebration of Easter.

You are invited to join us for our midweek Lenten services using Holden Evening Prayer on Thursday evenings at 7:00pm during Lent. (Feb. 25, March 4, 11, 18, 25)

May this truly be a season of spiritual preparation for each of you!

The Peace of the Lord be with you always.

Pastor Eric Olsen