

FLASHES

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A Season of Reflection & Action

Pastor's Pen by Richard Lapehn

In 2022, Easter Sunday will be **April 17th**. Please worship with us on that holy day.

The period of forty days preceding Easter, not counting Sundays, is called *Lent*. The word originally came from the Anglo-Saxon *lencten*, meaning Spring (literally, "to lengthen" the days).

In the centuries following the resurrection of Christ, the season of Lent has been a time to reflect on the suffering of Christ and his ultimate victory over the grave. Many followers of Christ choose this season to engage in periods of fasting (showing dominion over our bodies and briefly sacrificing the pleasure of good foods) and prayer (taking the time out of a busy day to pause and communicate more intentionally with our Lord God). Lent is also a season to take inventory of our spiritual lives. For example, **how** do my priorities – the way I choose to spend my time, money, and energy – reflect my faith? **Would** a dear friend of mine or a co-worker know that faith plays a critical role in my life? **Do** I lovingly and kindly encourage others to walk with the Lord and enhance their spiritual lives on a regular basis?

There is no better time than today to pursue a better relationship with the Lord. For God is available today, ready and waiting to hear from you.

Draw closer to God during these days of Lent. Take the time to consider the message of the cross, Jesus' suffering on our behalf, and the new life offered to each and every one through the blood of Christ.

In the words of what was likely a melodic hymn in the early church, the apostle Paul points us to the supremacy of Christ:

*Have this mind among yourselves,
Which is yours in Christ Jesus,
Who, though he was in the form of God,
Did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped,
But emptied himself, taking the form of a servant,
Being born in the likeness of humankind.
And being found in human form
He humbled himself and became obedient unto death,
Even death on a cross.
Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him
The name which is above every name,
That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,
In heaven and on earth and under the earth,
And every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,
To the glory of God the Father. (Philippians 2:5-11)*

Walking with you through Lent to the joy of Easter,
Rich Lapehn