



Beulah Grove Baptist Church Lent 2026

What is Lent?

40-day period leads to Resurrection Sunday that begins on Ash Wednesday ending on Holy Saturday. There are many 40-day references within scripture and most notable is Jesus 40 days and nights in the wilderness of fasting. This is a time of spiritual renewal and growth which looks to the death, suffering and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Where the tradition of Lent does not have its history in the Baptist Tradition, it has been observed and is presently an experience within our faith. This time of intentional time of reflection and remembrance is set aside for our continued maturity as followers of Christ. It offers a time of spiritual renewal and preparation which is not about achievement of a practice, but a posture availing us to God experiencing the present work of the Holy Spirit. Where God is present, let us be present to God who is faithfully present to us and with us.

What is Ash Wednesday?

This day marks the beginning of the Lenten season. On this day there is a coming together in worship which at the conclusion of it a symbolic expression of ashes being placed on the forehead in the shape of a Cross. This evidences an entering into a time of looking to the Cross and seeking God wholeheartedly. The ashes which are used in this practice are from the Palms from the previous year which are burned. As each believer receives the ashes during the Ash Wednesday worship, a decision of which practice will be undertaken is determined. To enable our growth in this practice there is a resource that gives guidance for each week. This is to be used as we come together in faith and faithfulness drawing nearer to the Lord our God.

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Dates of Practiced Observance: February 18th-April 4th

Days of Observance: Monday-Saturday Weekly (Sunday(s) break-fast)

Observance Schedule: Follow the weekly schedule giving time daily to reading scriptures, praying putting the disciplines into practice. Be strategic and plan your time each week in order to be intentional.

Theme: NEARER (*Draw near unto God, and He will draw near unto you.~ James 4:8*)

Nearer through His promise

February 18-21 Scripture for Reflection: James 4:1-10

Discipline: Meditation 20 minutes in silent reflection

Practice: Journal- Write reflections from time of Meditation

Reflection: The faithfulness of God gives us reassurance so that we do not have to be given to our passions which mislead and misguide. Therefore, with confident trust in God's promise to draw near to us, we should draw near to Him.

Nearer through Repentance

February 23-28 Scripture for Reflection: Psalm 51

Discipline: Fast-A giving up to avail self to God and to know His presence.

Practice: Sacrifice-Consider days each week you either eat out or purchase something you enjoy and give what you would have spent as a sacrificial offering

****Determine a fast from meats, sweets, or other regularly enjoyed foods, and do not eat out. (*Ensure you prayerfully and within recommended healthcare guidelines determine your fast.*)**

Reflection: When we have gone astray, grace offers us the opportunity to turn again to God. Our aim then in this should not just be what our repentance does for us but how we then are able to make known to others God's goodness by which we are blessed to again live faithfully unto Him beyond our faults, and failures, and falling short.

Nearer through Surrender

March 2-7 Scripture for Reflection: Psalm 139

Discipline: Solitude-Alone time with God should be intentional leading to inward discovery.

Practice: Service- Give of your time in service to others intentionally beyond Social Organizations, or of those Supported by Employers. (e.g. go ask a neighbor how you can serve them, seek a shelter or some other agency and help care for others)

Reflection: It is good news to know that God knows us best. Beyond how much you know or others may learn of you, God lacks nothing in the knowledge of us as His people. Therefore, we do well to come to Him and yield ourselves to Him trusting that He will without fail graciously make known to us what we need to be aware of so that we can more fully be who He has made us to be.

Nearer in Trust Not Earthly Treasures

March 9-14 Scripture for Reflection: Matthew 6:19-24, 25-34; Ephesian 1:3-14

Discipline: Simplicity-Reflecting upon life not being in the abundance of things.

Practice: Refrain from purchasing anything that is not of necessity for self. Make a purchase of necessary items for others and donate them to our Resource Center guiding you to draw nearer in knowing all that you have in Christ.

Reflection: The worries of this world and the cares of it can carry hearts far away from trusting in the Lord. Our behaviors become desperate pursuits after treasures now believing that this is all the life we have to live. Jesus teaches us otherwise. He calls us to lay down such things and to align our hearts with the true treasures of heaven that are eternal.

Nearer through the Word of God

March 16-21 Scripture for Reflection: Psalm 119:12-16,33-36, 57-60,68, 105-107; Matthew 4:1-11, *focus v. 3-4*; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 2:15

Discipline: Study-Time Given to Intentionally Read & Reflect Upon the Word of God

Practice: Give up social media and other media (games and activities) Take the time from media to intentionally read and study one of the given passages for growing in the understanding of the need for God's word.

Reflection: Life today can become so busy that time in His word goes lacking. Even more the turn to His word is like it is an emergency escape that is only turned to when things are at their worst. The word of God is much more than that. For it is eternal and it shall not come back to God void of its fulfillment. To make time in and for His word is to know God when things fall apart but to know that He keeps you together when they do.

Nearer through Witness

March 23-28 Scripture for Reflection: Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 8:26-33; Romans 1:16-18

Discipline: Evangelism-Is an intentionally practiced privilege of sharing Jesus with others.

Practice: Seek one or more persons with whom you can share your faith prayerfully leading them to Christ. Praying and trusting the Holy Spirit gives you present awareness of those to whom their faith becomes evident for them.

Reflection: Evangelism gets a bad rap sometimes. That is because some see it about numbers rather than about the joyful privilege of telling someone else about Jesus. Your witness then is more than just a task, it is an intentional, exciting, and Spirit-filled opportunity to tell others about the Lord and how He has changed your life. It is our privilege then to tell others about the One who came from heaven to earth!

Nearer: Journey to the Cross

March 30-April 4 Scripture for Reflection: Matthew 21:1-11; John 12:1-11; Matthew 21:23-24:36; Matthew 26:20-75; Mark 15:35-44; Luke 23:55,56; John 20:1-18 **Discipline:** Celebration-A thoughtful expression of gratitude to God for salvation.

Practice: Fast with anticipation, looking towards what Jesus suffered as the assurance of faith. ***Determine your fast from meats, sweets, and other regularly enjoyed foods, do not eat out! (Ensure you prayerfully and within recommended healthcare guidelines determine your fast.)*

Reflection: We live in the shadow of the Cross now fulfilled. Our daily life cannot escape for as the redeemed we walk in the way of death that leads to life. I pray your journey will be prayer-filled reflection that leads to a deeper yearning for the life of Christ in you by the Spirit of Christ. Let us journey together toward Him.