

Lent

- Focus on prayer, fasting, and generosity. Intentional recognition of our need for forgiveness, taking a posture of repentance, and receiving God's mercy and love.
- The 40 days considers Jesus' preparation and temptation in the wilderness and the anticipation of His sacrifice on the cross.
- The intent is to prepare ourselves for the practice and celebration of Resurrection weekend with more than going to church on Sunday but every day of the week up to that weekend.

The Lamb before

- *and all who dwell on Earth will worship it, everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb Who was slain. (Revelation 13:8)*
- Those names written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb Who was slain
- Jesus' act of atonement—reconciliation between man and God through Jesus Christ—was, before the foundation of the world, the only plan for fellowship and family.

The Lamb in time

- *He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; like a lamb that is led to the slaughter, and like a sheep that before its shearers is silent, so He opened not His mouth. (Isaiah 53:7)*
- *No one takes it from me, but I lay it down of my own accord. I have authority to lay it down, and I have authority to take it up again. This charge I have received from my Father. (John 10:18)*
- He was led as a lamb to the slaughter. While the Jews arrested Him and Rome tried Him, Jesus alone gave His life for our salvation.

The Lamb at the end

- *saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain, to receive power and wealth and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing!" And I heard every creature in Heaven and on Earth and under the earth and in the sea, and all that is in them, saying, "To Him Who sits on the throne and to the Lamb be blessing and honor and glory and might forever and ever!" (Revelation 5:13-13)*
- *Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns. Let us rejoice and exult and give Him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His Bride has made herself ready; it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. And the angel*

said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God." (Revelation 19:6-9)

- Only this slain Lamb is worthy to make all things right and just at the end for all people. And those who've trusted in Him will be at the celebration feast.

Our Lent focus

- Focus our prayer and fasting and generosity on those who are far from God, who don't know Jesus as Savior and King.