

An Invitation to a Holy Lent

Dear People of God: From the early days of our faith, Christians have observed the remembrance of Christ's passion and resurrection with great reverence.

It became the custom to prepare for that observance by a season of prayer and fasting, and the reconciliation of those who had been separated from the community of faith.

By keeping the season of Lent, we take to heart God's call to repentance and the assurance of forgiveness proclaimed in the gospel, and practice in our daily lives the work of reconciliation. I invite you, therefore, to the observance of a holy Lent, by self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, and self-denial; and by reading and meditating on God's holy Word.

To make a right beginning to this season it is appropriate to receive the mark of ashes as a reminder of our mortal nature and of God's invitation to receive Christ's redeeming work.

Holy Week Services

Palm Sunday, March 24

The Lutheran Church of St. Mark: 9:00 am
St. Luke's Episcopal Church: 9:00 am
St. James' Episcopal Church: 11:00 am

Monday-Wednesday, March 25-27

Compline via zoom: 7:00 pm
Contact St. James' or St. Luke's.

Maundy Thursday, March 28

Service of Holy Communion
St. Luke's Episcopal Church: 7:00 pm
The Lutheran Church of St. Mark: 7:00 pm

Good Friday, March 29

St. James' Episcopal Church: 7:00 pm
The Lutheran Church of St. Mark: 7:00 pm

Holy Saturday, March 30

Morning Service: 9:00 am
St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Easter Sunday, March 31

Sunrise Service: 6:30 am
Riverview Farm
593 Tryon Street, South Glastonbury

St. Luke's Episcopal Church: 9:00 am
915 Main Street, South Glastonbury
860-633-7175

The Lutheran Church of St. Mark: 9:00 am
75 Griswold Street, Glastonbury
860-633-1188

St. James' Episcopal Church: 11:00 am
2584 Main Street, Glastonbury
860-633-8333

Why "Ashes to Go"?

Ashes are an ancient sign of penitence. From the Middle Ages it became the custom to begin Lent by being marked in ash with the sign of the cross. The reminder that we are dust turns our attention to the creative power of God, and God's ability to heal the brokenness in our lives when we offer that brokenness to God. That turning to God is the work of Lent, preparation for the celebration of Easter.

We are offering ashes on the street corner today because that reminder of need, humility, and healing should not be confined to a church building. We probably need it more when we are in the middle of our daily business! The ashes we receive here are to remind us throughout the day of our need for God, and of God's call to us.

There is much more to the beginning of Lent than ashes alone, and we encourage you to make time for worship with a community of faith, for the support of others and of the great traditions of faith in our work of repentance and renewal. Yet God meets us not just in worship, but also in the midst of life, and we offer the opportunity to remember our faith to those whose schedules make it hard to stop and pray with others today.

Prayers for Keeping Lent

These prayers are good for daily devotional practices during Lent. If you would like to delve deeper into a spiritual journey of reflection and repentance, seek out the leaders of your faith community.

O God, whose glory it is always to have mercy: be gracious to all who have gone astray from your ways and bring us again, with penitent hearts and steadfast faith to embrace and hold fast the unchangeable truth of your word, Jesus Christ your son. Amen.

Almighty God, you know that we have no power in ourselves to help ourselves: keep us both outwardly in our bodies and inwardly in our souls, that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul; through Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

God our Creator, the strength of all who put their trust in you, mercifully accept our prayers; and because, in our weakness, we can do nothing good without you, grant us the help of your grace, that in keeping your commandments we may please you, both in will and deed; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Forgiving God, create in me a clean heart, and put a new and right spirit within me, cast me not away from your presence and take not your Holy Spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation and sustain in me a willing spirit. (Psalm 51)



Lenten Services

Ash Wednesday Services - Today

Noon: St. Luke's Episcopal Church
7:00 pm: St. James' Episcopal Church
7:00 pm: The Lutheran Church of St. Mark

Tuesdays during Lent

Starting February 20
9:00 am: Morning Prayer via zoom see: saintmarkglastonbury.org for link.

Wednesdays during Lent

Starting February 21
5:45 pm: Soup and bread supper
6:30 Evening Prayer
The Lutheran Church of St. Mark (Also available via zoom.)

Thursdays during Lent

Starting February 15
10:00 am: Bible Study, in person: Wandering Heart – figuring out faith with Peter
Lutheran Church of St. Mark, Fellowship Hall.

Starting February 22

7:00 pm: via zoom, "*Life of the Beloved: Spiritual Living in a Secular World*" by Henri Nouwen. Contact St. James' or St. Luke's.

Sunday Services

St. Luke's Episcopal Church: 9:00 am
915 Main St., South Glastonbury
www.stlukesglastonbury.church

Lutheran Church of St. Mark: 9:00 am
75 Griswold St, Glastonbury
www.saintmarkglastonbury.org

St. James' Episcopal Church: 10:15 am
2584 Main St., Glastonbury
www.stjamesglastonbury.org