



LENT

Why observe it?

Why Does Vintage Church Observe Lent?
Isaiah 6:1–8

“I thought Lent was something that only Roman Catholics observe?” That’s a statement you might have thought or heard. But Lent isn’t a Roman Catholic tradition; it’s a Christian tradition. From the Old to the New Testaments, seasons have always been important for the people of God. This season of 40 days often corresponds with Jesus’ fasting in the wilderness for 40 days. Lent has its origins in the 4th century church when people preparing for baptism on Easter Sunday would prepare by fasting and praying. As we prepare to enter into this season of Lent we should want to know why we still observe this ancient season.

Vintage Church observes Lent as an intentional and meaningful season to repent of our sin and experience our holy God.

- As you reflect on the message, what stood out to you? What is something you are still thinking about?
- What is something from the message that challenged you? How are you wrestling with that challenge?
- What question(s) do you have from the message?
- What is at least one practical takeaway from the message?

Isaiah 6:1–8

In the year that King Uzziah died I saw the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up; and the train of his robe filled the temple. **2** Above him stood the seraphim. Each had six wings: with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. **3** And one called to another and said:

“Holy, holy, holy is the Lord of hosts;
the whole earth is full of his glory!”

4 And the foundations of the thresholds shook at the voice of him who called, and the house was filled with smoke. **5** And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; for my eyes have seen the King, the Lord of hosts!”

6 Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a burning coal that he had taken with tongs from the altar. **7** And he touched my mouth and said: “Behold, this has touched your lips; your guilt is taken away, and your sin atoned for.”

8 And I heard the voice of the Lord saying, “Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?” Then I said, “Here I am! Send me.”

- What has been your experience of Lent in the past?
- Isaiah 6 quickly teaches us that God is holy. Why is it important to build Lent upon God’s holiness first and foremost?
- What does Isaiah experience in chapter 6? What does this tell us about God’s holiness?
- How would you define holiness?
- In light of the Lord’s holiness, Isaiah describes himself as “lost” and “a man of unclean lips.” How is his response instructive for us?
- When was the last time your own sin in light of God’s holiness crushed you?
- What do we need to do regularly so that we do not forget or take lightly God’s holiness?
- Why is it important for us to remember that God *always* initiates forgiveness?
- How does it make you feel to know that God always initiates grace and forgiveness?

- Based on Isaiah's repentance, how would you define repentance?
- When you think about repentance, how does it make you feel?
- Why is repentance more than just a one-time action? Why should we regularly repent?
- How do we cultivate a regular posture and practice of repentance before the Lord?
- Since its inception, fasting has always been an important part of Lent. And yet, fasting is one of those spiritual habits few Christians practice. What has been your experience with fasting? How do you feel about fasting this Lent?
- Over the last several weeks we've discussed our upcoming digital fast. Pastor Dustin has challenged us to (1) audit our smartphone apps, (2) eliminate screens for entertainment, and (3) limit digital technology to work apps during work hours on work devices. What is your plan to participate in our corporate digital fast?
- Do you plan to fast from any meals or food, or intentionally practice any other spiritual habits during Lent?