



# LENT

Why observe it?

Why Does Vintage Church Observe Lent?

Isaiah 6:1–8

What is Lent

Lent is a 40-day period leading up to Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday (but not including Sundays)

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

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.”

### God is holy; we are not.

- What does it mean for God to be holy?
  - “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” (Isaiah 6:1b–4).
- What does Isaiah experience?
  - “We learn of robes, a throne, attendants—all that fills the mind with a sense of majesty—but the Lord is not described” (Alec Motyer, *The Prophecy of Isaiah*, 76).
  - God is so holy Isaiah can’t describe him.
- What is holiness?
  - “God is *other* than we are. *Holy* is a word that sets something apart. That which is holy is not derived from something we are or have. It cannot be related to something we know. It is ‘other than.’ It comes from outside. God is not a projection of our imagination, not wish fulfillment, not a childish fantasy. God *is* holy” (Eugene Peterson, *As Kingfishers Catch Fire*, 121–122).
- How should we understand our holiness?
  - “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!” (Isaiah 6:5).
  - Who is Isaiah’s standard for his holiness?
  - What crushes Isaiah?
    - “Hanging around the Holy is risky business. Holy ground is dangerous ground. The Holy is never, never something that we can take as if we owned it and use for our own purposes” (Eugene Peterson, *As Kingfishers Catch Fire*, 121).
- Does your sin in light of God’s holiness crush you?

### We repent; God forgives.

- “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’” (Isaiah 6:5–7).

- Who initiates?
  - “Isaiah does not plead for mercy, nor does he make great vows if God will but deliver him. All the evidence makes it appear that he considers his case hopeless. Yet out of the smoke comes a seraph with a purifying coal. God does not reveal himself to destroy us, but rather to redeem us” (John Oswalt, *The Book of Isaiah* Chs. 1–39, 184).
  - God’s forgiveness is always an act of grace.
- So, why do we need to repent?
  - We acknowledge we’re not holy like God.
  - We confess the sin that makes us unholy.
  - We receive the forgiveness that only God can give.
    - “We don’t confess our sins so we can wallow in despair but so we can hear the joyful words of forgiveness” (Eugene Peterson, *As Kingfishers Catch Fire*, 123).
- Will you repent and receive God’s forgiveness?

We observe Lent as an intentional and meaningful season to repent of our sin and experience our holy God.

What do you need to do now to intentionally and meaningfully observe the season of Lent?

Prepare for our digital fast

- Audit smartphone apps
- Eliminate screens for entertainment and enjoyment
- Limit digital technology to work apps during work hours on work devices

How will our digital fast help you observe Lent intentionally and meaningfully?

- Detach from distractions
- Delight in the Lord and his goodness
- Determine your future technology