

Archbishop Sione Uluilakepa
Lenten Message
2025



Grace and Peace to you All.

Warm greetings to you all and I pray that we are all looking forward to entering into our Liturgical Season of Lent. Lent points to the most sacred part of our Christian Year.

Originally, Lent was the time of preparation for candidates who were to be baptized, a time for baptismal preparation and teaching and also a time of prayers before their actual baptism during easter vigil, the celebration of the Resurrection of Jesus Christ early on Easter Sunday. The newly baptized are received into the community of faith, and therefore all the community of faith also participated in the preparations. Thus the whole community renews their baptismal vows during the same easter vigil celebration.

During this year's (2025) Lenten season, our Sunday Readings will focus on the Gospel of Saint Luke. Luke's gospel points to the fact that the purpose of God is seen in the life and work of Jesus. Luke understands that the divine purpose of God is bound up with the LOVE and Mercy of God in Jesus Christ. God's Love is seen as a theme that becomes the Heart of Luke's Gospel. It is the Love of God that shines through the parable, sayings, and the story of Jesus. The essence of that LOVE is the longing of God in Jesus Christ for a lifelong Relationship between the beloved of God and their God in Jesus Christ.

The Gospel of Saint Luke Chapter 4 tells the story of how Jesus was led by the Spirit into the desert for forty days where he was tempted by the devil. It was a time and space where our Lord prepared himself to fulfill the will of his Father. Jesus finally entered Jerusalem at the beginning of Holy Week to make his triumphant journey to the Cross where the final victory was won for our Redemption.

Lent for us today, is our time of prayer and preparation for our celebration of Christ's Victory on the cross on Easter, which continues to bring to us Living hope to refocus and deepen our relationship with God. Our Christian tradition and spirituality are challenged by a culture and society that is very secular.

Most Christians marked lent by focusing on penitential prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. In addition, fasting, Christians sometimes commit to giving up certain things and activities. Some are dedicated to almsgiving and helping the poor or certain charities. Some focus on prayer and devotions emphasized during Lenten services. Even though our Lord commends on the discipline of fasting, helping the needy, and other good works, these practices can easily become rituals that we go through during Lent, and after the Lenten Season, we get back to our normal ways. We focus on the inward effect on ourselves rather than outwardly on Christ working in our lives. Lent is not about our giving up certain things to please God. Lent is about what Christ gave up to pay the penalty for the sins of the world. He gave up his own son so that we may have life.



I invite and call upon every baptized Anglican in our Diocese of Polynesia, to use this Lenten season as a time for contemplation, self-examination, and a time of penitence and repentance. Let us have time to focus on our prayer life with our families. Let us all ask God to forgive our failures and our sins and focus on our need for God's grace.

