

Sermon by Reverend Ken Kvistad March 10th 2019

NEC 10 March Sermon Questions:

- **We're in the LENT period. What exactly is this "Lent"?**
 - **Definition:** *noun* (in the Christian religion) an annual season of fasting and penitence in preparation for Easter, beginning on Ash Wednesday and lasting 40 weekdays to Easter, observed by Roman Catholic, Anglican, and certain other churches.
 - **Origin of Lent before 1000;** Middle English *lente(n)*, Old English *lencten, lengten* spring, Lent, literally, lengthening (of daylight hours); cognate with Dutch *lente*, German *Lenz* spring; see [Lenten](#)
 - **For some it is an excuse for a party time of sowing our wild oats. Like *Mardi Gras and Carnival, Fasching or Fasnacht*. For some it is an Easter Egg hunt and Chocolate Bunnies.**
 - **For some it is a time for extreme asceticism, fasting and even self-flagellation?**
 - **For some it is a time of introspection and reflection**
- **In Anglican Tradition it is a time to pause and reflect, to study and see how we stand up to God's word.**
- **Why a time of reflection?**
- **The OT reading from Deut 26 shows us the picture of what grace and love, care and forgiveness God has given us. But it also shows how we can return our love and thankfulness for this: 10 So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that**

you, O Lord, have given me.' You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God.

○ This return of our First Fruit the gift from God commemorating what he has given in bringing us out of SLAVERY in Egypt and to a land flowing with milk and honey parallizes what CHRIST did for us bringing us out of a state of darkness and bondage to the absence of God in our lives and to new Life, a day of light and sunshine and new beginnings.

● **The Psalm 91 Responsive reading is prophetic of Christ and his relationship to God the Father.** v9 Because you have made the Lord your refuge •and the Most High our stronghold,

● v10 says There shall no evil happen to you, It likewise is good news for us as Christians and followers of Christ...

● **The Gospel Reading from Luke 4 shows us exactly what Christ did to prepare himself for his “Easter” Passion and what we can do to prepare ourselves for our own Challenges in a often hostile environment to our life in Christ. But it shows us the way Christ took and hence we have a roadmap. It is in effect our Model for our Lenten preparation and for life.**

● **The Letter to the Romans Ch10 reminds us that Christ’s Truth—and--I believe even more HE personally is near. The text says: “The word is near us it is on our lips and in our hearts.” Christ is with us and we can be assured He will lead us if we**

allow...He has gained all authority in Heaven and Earth and is leading as promised to the ends of the Earth..

- **Following and Believing results in this, in the words of Romans 10** ‘No one who believes in him will be put to shame.’ ...‘Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.’

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- **Other CS Quotes:**

- *God can't give us peace and happiness apart from Himself because there is no such thing.*

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- *“A woman's heart should be so close to God that a man should have to chase Him to find her.”*

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- *“Affliction is often that thing which prepares an ordinary person for some sort of an extraordinary destiny.”*

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- *“Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is watching.”*

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- *“No man knows how bad he is till he has tried very hard to be good.”*

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- *“Don't shine so others can see you. Shine so that through you others can see Him.”*

- *In response to what Christ has done in your life, what will you give up to Christ for what he has done?*