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The Trinity Tablet

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* Ash Wednesday, March 2nd

*World Day of Prayer, March 4th

*Daylight Savings Time, March 13th

First Day of Spring, March 20th

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## Everything That We Do Should Lead Us Back to the Cross

(submitted March, 2019)

In ancient Israel, the symbolism of ashes was understood to be a forceful reminder of the pervasiveness of human sin and of the inevitability of human death. Ashes represented that which, in the human experience, was burned out and wasted, that which once was, but is no more. This traditional emblem of grief and mourning has been adopted by the Christian church as a signal of our own sinful mortality. It has also been embraced as muted trumpet to warn us of the coming dark days in Jesus' life: his passion and death. Ash Wednesday causes us to reflect on the redemptive power of God's grace.

As we enter the Lenten Season let us reflect on the things that Christ has done for us.

**Everything that we do in life should lead us back to the Cross.** The meaning of the cross is death. From about the 6th century BC until the 4th century AD, the cross was an instrument of execution that resulted in death by the most torturous and painful of ways. In crucifixion, a person was either tied or nailed to a wooden cross and left to hang until dead. Death would be slow and excruciatingly painful; in fact, the word *excruciating* literally means "out of crucifying." However, because of Christ and His death on the cross, the meaning of the cross today is completely different. The Cross today means Life, Freedom, Grace, Mercy and Love.

**The hymn "Lead Me to Calvary" is a reminder for us to never to forget what Christ did for us when He died on the Cross:**

- o Lest I forget Gethsemane,
- o Lest I forget Thine agony
- o Lest I forget Thy love for me,
- o Lead me to Calvary.

Ash Wednesday through the Lenten Season is just a reminder of what Christ has done for us.

**Everything that we do should lead us back to the cross.**

**Pastor**

*References: Got Question, AME Hymnal, A Lectionary Commentary*

## A Prayer for Lent



This year, Ash Wednesday, the first day of Lent, falls on March 2. During worship services that day, pastors in many Christian churches dip a finger in ashes (often made by burning branches from the previous Palm Sunday) and make a cross on parishioners' foreheads.

Why ashes? Traditionally, they're a sign of mourning, humiliation and penitence. Ashes also represent the frailty and temporary nature of human life ("You are dust, and to dust you shall return," Genesis 3:19). Christians are pained because our sins led to Jesus' death. With repentant hearts, we begin the season of Lent, knowing that it leads to Jesus' resurrection on Easter Sunday.

For Ash Wednesday — and throughout the 40 days of Lent — ponder this prayer from an Italian sacramentary, or liturgical book: "O God, you know how fragile is our human nature, wounded as it is by sin. Help your people to enter upon the Lenten journey strengthened by the power of your word, so that we may be victorious over the seduction of the Evil One and reach the paschal feast in the joy of the Holy Spirit."

## Our Stain Remover

From sanitizers and soaps to solutions and sprays, many products promise to eliminate germs and grime. Unfortunately, they often fall short. Just think how many items in your closet or kitchen have been ruined by stubborn stains.

What if we were that concerned about ridding our lives and hearts of sin? What if we spent as much time confessing and repenting as scrubbing and laundering? The good news is that with one "application" (the cross), Jesus makes us "whiter than snow" (Psalm 51:7). Praise be to our unblemished Lamb, the perfect stain remover!

## Hands-on Reflection

*While preparing props for a church photo shoot, I had to make a crown of thorns. In the woods, I found a long, wild, prickly plant that seemed promising. Just cutting a bit to bring home proved difficult, making me quickly question my decision to do this project sans gloves.*

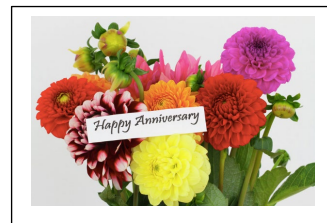
*Once home, I worked the vines so they'd be flexible and not break when curved into a circle. That required finding multiple spots to grasp. Again, numerous finger pricks ensued. It wasn't until I formed the vines into a crown, however, that thorns started sinking into my skin and taking hold. Each shock of pain was an accident, but my focus remained intentional: I numbly tackled this endeavor bare-handed to glimpse what Jesus suffered on my behalf. The torn*



3/1 Cameron Ward  
3/3 Alonzo Lewis, Sr.  
3/4 Zipporah Harris-Bryant  
3/4 Nneoma Achuko  
3/4 Vianna Robbins  
3/5 Beverly Moore  
3/7 Joy Foster  
3/8 Evelyn Miller  
3/12 Lanetra Robinson  
3/13 Jim Neal  
3/13 Ugonna Achuko  
3/14 Pam Nieto  
3/15 Doris Morgan  
3/15 Elaine Stancil  
3/15 Catina Evans  
3/15 Mone' Lawless

3/18 Spring George  
3/18 Rosalyn Sellman  
3/18 Jediah Edem-Babanawo  
3/19 Daniel Alston  
3/21 Rev. Gloria Bradley  
3/22 Pastor C. Michele Langston  
3/22 Cynthia Fikes  
3/23 Kiara Cornelius  
3/24 Steven Jackson  
3/25 Lizzie Smith  
3/26 Mildred Mitchell  
3/26 Rev. Veronica Beckley  
3/27 Priscilla Brooks  
3/27 Keaton Kirkpatrick  
3/28 Sandra Dee Kay  
3/31 Wanda MacLachlan





Kid's (and kids at heart) Corner

