



Diocese of the Virgin Islands
The Episcopal Church of the Virgin Islands,
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A Holy Lent: A Time to Repair, Restore, and Rejoice

A Meditation from Bishop Rafael Morales-Maldonado

Scripture: *Isaiah 58:6-12* ***“Is not this the fast that I choose: to loose the bonds of injustice, to undo the thongs of the yoke, to let the oppressed go free, and to break every yoke? ... You shall be called the repairer of the breach, the restorer of streets to live in.”***

Dear People of God,

As we stand at the threshold of this Holy Lent, I invite you to step into this sacred season with open hearts, ready to be shaped by the voice of God. Lent is not merely a time of personal sacrifice but a call to restoration—within ourselves, within our communities, and within our world. The prophet Isaiah reminds us that true fasting is not about empty ritual, but about breaking chains of injustice, feeding the hungry, and healing the wounds of division. It is in this work that we become repairers of the breach, restoring what is broken and making a way for God’s justice and love to shine forth.

Each of us carries wounds and burdens, places in our lives where we feel the cracks of despair, fear, or uncertainty. But Lent is a wilderness journey—a time when Jesus himself walked through hunger and temptation, yet emerged in the power of the Spirit. As we fast, pray, and listen deeply, we, too, will be strengthened for the road ahead. This is a time not only of repentance but of renewal, a time to clear away distractions so that we might hear the voice of the One who calls us beloved. Beloved, let this Lent be a time of true transformation. May we journey with Jesus—not only to the cross but beyond it—to the radiant hope of resurrection. In prayer and fasting, in acts of justice and mercy, may we find ourselves drawn closer to the heart of God and to one another. May we be faithful in this wilderness, knowing that beyond the struggle, beyond the sacrifice, beyond even death itself, awaits the joy of new life.

May this Holy Lent be for each of us a season of deep listening, bold love, and a renewal of hope. Let us go forth, as repairers of the breach, following our Lord Jesus Christ with courage, faith, and joy.



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A Prayer for Our Lenten Journey O God, as we enter this holy season, lead us through the wilderness of our lives.

Strengthen us in fasting, prayer, and acts of mercy. Make us repairers of the breach, restorers of hope, and bearers of your love. As we journey with Christ, may we find ourselves renewed in faith, prepared for the cross, and ready to embrace the joy of resurrection. In your holy name, we pray. **Amen.**

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