

**WHY PREPARE FOR EASTER?
Reliving the Passion, Part 1
Mark 14:27-28**

You can participate "in an ancient practice of our Christian Church: observing Lent, examining yourself for your own deep need of Jesus' grace, understanding the crucifixion as the moment of marvelous love and your salvation, and giving God thanks for a resurrection which promises your own in the end."

– Walter Wangerin, *Reliving the Passion*

**REASONS FOR ENTERING
INTO THE PRACTICE OF LENT:**

1. REMEMBER DEATH – OUR OWN AND OUR SAVIOR'S

"I'll sit back and say to myself, 'My friend, you have enough stored away for years to come. Now take it easy! Eat, drink, and be merry!'" But God said to him, 'You fool! You will die this very night. Then who will get it all?' Yes, a person is a fool to store up earthly wealth but not have a rich relationship with God." Luke 12:19-21 (NLT)

2. RECOGNIZE OUR SIN AS THE CAUSE OF DEATH

"Yet it was our weaknesses he carried; it was our sorrows that weighed him down. And we thought his troubles were a punishment from God for his own sins! But he was wounded and crushed for our sins. He was beaten that we might have peace. He was

whipped, and we were healed! All of us have strayed away like sheep. We have left God's paths to follow our own. Yet the Lord laid on him the guilt and sins of us all." Isaiah 53:4-6 (NLT)

3. WALK THE WAY WITH JESUS, AND

RECEIVE THE PROMISE OF MEETING HIM THERE

"'All of you will desert me,' Jesus told them. 'For the Scriptures say, "God will strike the Shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered." But after I am raised from the dead, I will go ahead of you to Galilee and meet you there.'" Mark 14:27-28 (NLT)

4. PREPARE FOR JOY

"Truly, you will weep and mourn over what is going to happen to me, but the world will rejoice. You will grieve, but your grief will suddenly turn to wonderful joy when you see me again. It will be like a woman experiencing the pains of labor. When her child is born, her anguish gives place to joy because she has brought a new person into the world. You have sorrow now, but I will see you again; then you will rejoice, and no one can rob you of that joy." John 16:20-22 (NLT)