



## Lent - Great Lent - Holy Week 2024 | Message from our Chaplain

March 15, 2024

Dear EMU Community,

Last week we shared information about Ramadan ([learn more here](#)), a Muslim observance in the ninth lunar month of the Islamic calendar. Ramadan began on March 11.

This week we feature the Fast of Great Lent (Ethiopian Orthodox Church) and the continuation of the season of Lent toward Holy Week and Easter Sunday (Western Christianity traditions).

Several EMU students are observing a vegan diet for the Fast of Great Lent (also known as Hudadi or the Abiy Tsom in some traditions). The Great Lent lasts for eight weeks before Easter (Fasika). During this fast, observants abstain from all animal products. The fast ends on Easter, which is observed on May 5 this year for many Eastern Orthodox Christians.

Many Western Christianity Christians observe the season of Lent beginning with Ash Wednesday through Holy Week and Easter Sunday. Lent is a season of fasting and spiritual practices intended to heighten spiritual awareness. This year, Easter is on March 31. Holy Week begins with Palm Sunday and includes Maundy Thursday and Good Friday. ([learn more here](#))

Acknowledging the importance of religious practice for many EMU students, faculty and staff, the Office of Faith and Spiritual Life; Center for Interfaith Engagement; Office of Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion; Office of International Student Services; and the Intensive English Program offer support to students observing these holidays and practices.

With support,  
Brian Martin Burkholder  
University Chaplain