Ka Mōhai Aloha- The Gift of Grace or the Gracious Sacrifice.

The Season of Lent is a time that we use to reflect on the gracious gift that God gave to us in His Son Jesus Christ. We celebrated his birth at Christmas and now at Easter, we mark his death. But unlike us humans, for whom physical death is final, Christ’s death was not. On the third day after Jesus was crucified, he was resurrected or rose again. This was a sign to us that we too will rise again. That life in Christ is eternal. The Season of Lent is designed to help us to reflect on what that gift truly means to us and how we might be better people while we still have the chance.

Lent starts on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter, lasting for 40 days (not counting Sundays). There are a variety of practices that the different faith groups have used to prepare for Easter. Some will give up something such as candy, sweets, ice cream or even meat. Others might add something to bolster their faith life, like prayer. For me, I’ll usually turn off my car radio on my way to work and use that time to pray. That’s 30 minutes talking with my Heavenly Father. Do whatever will work for you to strengthen your faith.

For these series of devotionals, we asked some of the leaders, faculty and staff of the various Kamehameha Schools programs to share their mana’o of what Lent means to them. We hope this will provide you strength and encouragement during this special time.

Looking forward to Easter!
Nā Kahu Kordell Kekoa and Kalani Wong

Here are a few kid friendly web pages on Lent:
- [http://brightsadness.org/kids.html](http://brightsadness.org/kids.html)

Did you know…

…that the date of Easter changes every year? Easter always falls on the first Sunday after the first full moon on or after the vernal equinox.

…the day before Ash Wednesday is called a “Fat Tuesday” or “Shrove Tuesday”? In some places, pancakes are served. Here in Hawai‘i, malasadas are a tasty treat eaten by all. What else is that Tuesday known as?

…the ashes used on Ash Wednesday are made from burning the palms used on Palm Sunday the year prior?

…there are a number of events in the Bible that last 40 days including the amount of time that Jesus spent in the wilderness? What are the others?
Heluhelu Baibala/Scripture Reading

7 Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous person, though for a good person someone might possibly dare to die. 8 But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since we have now been justified by his blood, how much more shall we be saved from God’s wrath through him! - Romans 5:7-9

Mana‘o

Have you received gifts that you haven’t used? I’m sure the giver must have spent time looking for something that you might want or could use, spending time and money to get the right gift. It could have been for Christmas or a birthday, or just because. Yet it sits in your closet unused or unwanted. There’s a really special gift that is so wonderful and so valuable that it would be really sad if we never used it. It’s a gift that was given to us by God – free and totally unexpected and undeserved. It’s Ka Mōhai Aloha - the gift of grace or the withholding of the punishment and forgiving us of our wrongdoings even though we don’t deserve it.

We often do things that go against what God hopes for us. These are called sins. We should be punished for this, just like our parents would discipline us when we do the wrong things. However, there are times that our earthly parents hold back the punishment because they love us. God does the same thing. It tells us in the Bible that “the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23). We should be punished for the sins that we commit, but instead, Jesus took the punishment himself. Jesus became Ka Mōhai Aloha - the Gracious Sacrifice so that we might be forgiven for the wrong that we’ve done, not just now but always. And because of that forgiveness, we have live eternally with God in heaven.

Questions to Ponder

• Is there someone in your life who has done something wrong to you? Can you find a way to forgive them?
• What do we need to do to live our lives so we sin less?

Pule

Dear God, mahalo for all the gifts that you shower upon us so freely. May we never take any of them for granted. Help us to recognize the wrong that we do each day and help us to live pono. Ma ka inoa o Iesū Kristo, ‘Āmene.

Keiki Activity

• Look up the word “Mōhai” in the Hawaiian dictionary. What can you sacrifice for others?
• Do you have any unused gifts in your closet that someone else could really use? Share it with him/her.
Lent 2 (February 22-28) by Shontell Calina, Christian Education Instructor- KS Hawai’i

**Heluhelu Baïbala/Scripture Reading**- Mataio/Matthew 4:1-11

A laila, alakaʻi ʻia akula ʻo lesū e ka ʻUhane i ka wao nahele, e hoʻowalewale ʻia aku ai e ka diabolō. Hoʻokē ʻai ihola ia i hoʻokahi kanahā ūa, a me nā pō he kanahā, a ma hope iho, pōloli ihola ia. A hiki aku ka mea hoʻowalewale i ona ūa, ʻi akula ia, Inā ʻo ke Keiki ʻoe a ke Akua, e ʻi mai ʻoe i kēia mau pōhaku i ilo i berena. 

A Kākā, ʻōlelo maila ʻo lesū, ʻi maila, Ua palapala ʻia, ʻAʻole e ola ke kanaka i ka berena wale nō, akā, ma nā mea a pau mai ka waia mai o ke Akua. 5 A laila, lawe akula ka diabolō iā ia i ke kūlanakauhale hoʻāno; a hoʻokau akula iā ia ma luna iho o kahi ʻoiʻoi o ka luakini; 6 ʻĪ akula iā ia, Inā ʻo ʻoe ke Keiki a ke Akua, e lele iho ʻoe i lalo; no ka mea, ua palapala ʻia, E kauoha ma nō ia i kona poʻe ʻānela nou, e kaʻiakaʻi lākou ʻiʻoʻo me ko lākou mau lima, o kū ʻia ou wāwae i ka pōhaku. 7 ʻĪ maila ʻo lesū, Ua palapala ʻia nō hoʻi, Mai hoʻāʻo aku ʻoe i ka Haku i kou Akua. 8 Lawe hou akula ka diabolō iā ia i kahi mauna kiʻekiʻe loa, a hōʻike akula iā ia i nā aupuni a pau o ka honua, a me ko lākou nani; 9 ʻĪ akula hoʻi iā ia, O kēia mau mea a pau kaʻu e hāʻawi aku ai iā ʻoe, ke kukuli iho ʻoe, a hoʻomana mai iaʻu. 10 A laila, ʻōlelo maila lesū ʻia ia, E hele pēlā ʻoe, e Sātana; no ka mea, ua palapala ʻia, E hoʻomanu aku ʻoe i ka Haku i kou Akua, a e mālama aku ʻoe iā ia wale nō. 

11 A laila, haʻalele akula ka diabolō iā ia; aia hoʻi, hele maila nā ʻānela, a lawelawe nāna.

Then Jesus was led by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. 2 After fasting forty days and forty nights, he was hungry. 3 The tempter came to him and said, “If you are the Son of God, tell these stones to become bread.” 4 Jesus answered, “It is written: ‘Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.’ ” 5 Then the devil took him to the holy city and had him stand on the highest point of the temple. 6 “If you are the Son of God,” he said, “throw yourself down. For it is written: ‘He will command his angels concerning you, and they will lift you up in their hands, so that you will not strike your foot against a stone.’ ” 7 Jesus answered him, “It is also written: ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’ ” 8 Again, the devil took him to a very high mountain and showed him all the kingdoms of the world and their splendor. 9 “All this I will give you,” he said, “if you will bow down and worship me.” 10 Jesus said to him, “Away from me, Satan! For it is written: ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve him only.’ ” 11 Then the devil left him, and angels came and attended him.

**Manaʻo**

The season of Lent is a time when many Christians prepare for the celebration of Easter, the joyous resurrection of Jesus Christ. It is a 40-day time period often observed by fasting, repentance, deep reflection of Jesus Christ and one’s pilina with God and how one may be living out Christian values.

The story of Jesus being tempted is often connected to Lent because of the lesson this moʻolelo brings. Jesus fasted for forty days, meaning he went without
food for that time. Fasting meats or sweets during Lent, for example, is a common practice amongst Christians today. The fasting, however, was meant to prepare oneself spiritually for the work at hand or ahead. It was denying the needs of the flesh in hopes of strengthening the spirit.

During this time of physical weakness in the desert, the devil came and tempted Jesus to do the opposite of what God had taught him, the opposite of what Jesus knew to be the truth, to deny who He really was. However, every time, Jesus was tempted, He did not fight back with His fists or with sarcasm or with lengthy pleading. He spoke the Word of God. He quoted scripture. He came back with the truth. Although the devil tried three times, Jesus never gave in and the story tells us that the devil left.

Let us also consider this manaʻo. In Mataio 6:13, the conclusion to Ka Pule a Ka Haku, The Lord’s Prayer, we our reminded by our Lord Iesu Kristo, to pray asking for His grace and guidance:

Mai hoʻokuʻu ʻoe iā mākou i ka hoʻowalewale ʻia mai
E hoʻopakele nō naʻe iā mākou i ka ʻino
Do not release us into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.

What we normally read in English as “Do not lead us into temptation” is read in Hawaiian as “Do not release us into temptation.” Thus, may we not be released (hoʻokuʻu ʻia) from His protective hold on us that we would mislead ourselves and become engrossed by temptation (hoʻowalewale ʻia).

In life we will often be tempted to go against what God has taught us, what we know is truth, what we know to be pono, to perhaps forget our identity in who ke Akua has created us to be. It can also often feel as if times of temptation come when we are physically or emotionally weak. There are times when we want to say and do the wrong thing because it seems justified or we think it will make us feel better at that moment. Be encouraged, mai hopohopo, look to what our Jesus did. He simply went back to the truth, God’s Word. He chose to stand on His loving Father’s promises and holomua instead of giving in. And just as in the story, God too will mālama you, will attend to you in your times of weakness.

Questions to Ponder
- What are some things that tempt me?
- What can I do to not give in to temptation?
- How can I be an encouragement to others?

Pule
E ke Akua Mana Loa, Almighty God, thank You for your promises and being the source of my strength. Please help me to make pono choices even when I am weak. For Your word says, Your strength is made perfect in weakness. Ma ka inoa o Iesū Kristo, ʻāmene.
For Keiki
Have you ever felt tempted to do something you know you should not do?
Tempted is a word that means you may feel as if you might want to do something that may not be very pono. For example, have you ever wanted to eat a piece of candy even though your mākua said not to? How about stay up past your bedtime without anyone noticing? Sometimes we can even be tempted to not tell the truth or maybe say an unkind word to someone because that person made us mad.

Well, in our Bible story, Jesus was tempted too. He was tempted to not follow God, but because He had great pilina with God and loved God, and knew that God loved Him so much, it made Him very strong in His heart. It made Jesus strong enough to continue following ke Akua even when He wasn’t feeling so well.

So when we get those feelings of temptation, feelings like we might want to do something we know is pono’ole, just remember that God loves you so much that He put His strength inside of your heart already to continue following His ways. You can also always pule and ask God to help you to make the right choices just like Jesus did.

Keiki Pule
E Makua Lani, Heavenly Father, thank You for loving me so much. Please help me to make good choices today no matter what is happening. And thank You for also putting your strength right inside my heart. Ma ka inoa o Iesū, ʻāmene.

Keiki Activity
Discuss situations in which they might be tempted to make a pono’ole choice and come up with solutions on how to make a better choice. For example, wanting to eat a piece of candy after being told ʻaʻole by a parent or being tempted to puni about their homework so they don’t get in trouble.

Himeni - E lesū, e Aloha Mai
E lesū, e aloha mai ʻia mākou
E lesū, e aloha mai ʻia mākou
Hui kala mai i kō mākou mau hewa
E lesū, e aloha mai