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?
Ka Mōhai Aloha

Lent 3 by Dr. Rod Chamberlain, Vice President of Campus Education

Heluhelu Baibala/Scripture Reading
“Ua hāʻawi ‘ia mai ke kānāwai ma o Mose lā; akā, ‘o ka lokomaikaʻi a me ka ‘o iaʻiʻo ma o ʻesū Kristo iā ia”
Ioane 1:17
“For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”
John 1:17

Manaʻo
It’s hard when the rules change. Sometimes we see this happen as our younger brother or sister gets away with something that we are not allowed to do – and our parents say, “You are older – we expect more from you.” This is commonly the expectation of the keiki hiapo, the eldest child, in the ‘ohana.

Sometimes we experience these rule changes in our activities – the size of the field increases in soccer, the height of the basketball hoop gets higher, new rhythms are introduced in music, or what we are expected to memorize in plays and ʻoli become longer and longer. It just doesn’t seem fair.

This scripture passage from John talks about a rule change – about what God expects from us. For over a thousand year (through some laws given to Moses), the expectation was about meeting a whole lot of laws (big time rules) – so many laws that no one could actually obey them all. And then God sent his son, Jesus, to change the rules: that our relationship with God and meeting His expectations would now be through grace.

The word “grace” is used 156 times in the New Testament (and you know if a word is repeated that you ought to pay attention). In the Paipala Hemolele, the Hawaiian Bible, “grace” is interpreted as lokomaikaʻi or aloha. Lokomaikaʻi occurs 416 times and aloha appears 966 times throughout the Baibala! God gave this present to all of us without us earning or deserving it – that’s why we call it “Ka Mōhai Aloha”, a “gift of grace” – because He loves us so much that He gave His only son, ʻesū Kristo, as a mōhai or mōliaola – an ultimate sacrifice – for our sins.

The way we say “mahalo” to God is to share this gift of grace – aloha for others – without thinking about if they have earned it or deserved it. And that’s a rule change that we can all live with!

Questions to Ponder
• What are some ways you can show grace to others?
• Based upon what you know about God and His grace, is there any limit to grace?

Pule
Aloha e ke Akua – mahalo for sharing Your grace with me through your son, Jesus, ʻesū Ka Mōhai Aloha. During this Easter time, help me especially to share your grace with others who really need it. ʻĀmene
Keiki Activity
Make a list of five things you could do to show God’s grace to some other people this week – especially others who are your age. Share the list with a friend – and each of you pick one to use this week. Then you can come back later in the week and share what happened.

Suggested Hīmeni
“Lokomaika‘i! He Nani Nō” (Amazing Grace, Nā Hīmeni o Ka ‘Ekalesia #133)
Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now am found
Was blind, but now I see

Lokomaika‘i, he nani nō
Ho‘ola mai ia‘u
Ua hewa ia e aloha ‘ānō
Ua pō a'e ua lā