

# Season of Lent: *By Faith*

## March 24, 2021, 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday in Lent

### *The Faith of Jesus*

[All Wednesday Lent Worship Services will be using the Holden Evening Prayer Liturgy, click here to view it.](#)

*In his Sermon on the Mount, our Lord reveals traits that can help us follow him and imitate him. One might even argue that they reveal certain insights about Jesus and the kind of faith he possessed.*

#### **First Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

<sup>18</sup> For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. <sup>19</sup> For it is written,

“I will destroy the wisdom of the wise,  
and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.”

<sup>20</sup> Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? <sup>21</sup> For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. <sup>22</sup> For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, <sup>23</sup> but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, <sup>24</sup> but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. <sup>25</sup> For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup> Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: <sup>[a]</sup> not many of you were wise by human standards, <sup>[b]</sup> not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. <sup>27</sup> But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; <sup>28</sup> God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, <sup>29</sup> so that no one <sup>[c]</sup> might boast in the presence of God. <sup>30</sup> He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, <sup>31</sup> in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in <sup>[d]</sup> the Lord.”

#### **Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:1-12**

<sup>1</sup> When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. <sup>2</sup> Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying:

<sup>3</sup> “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>4</sup> “Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

<sup>5</sup> “Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

<sup>6</sup> “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

<sup>7</sup> “Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

<sup>8</sup> “Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

<sup>9</sup>“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

<sup>10</sup>“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

<sup>11</sup>“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. <sup>12</sup>Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

## Questions to Reflect on:

1. As you reflect on the words that Jesus preaches to his newly called disciples and to the crowd of people following him, is it possible they are a reflection of his own faith?
2. During the season of Lent, we walk with Jesus to the cross and we reflect on the fact that he went to it willingly. That being said, *how do you think the way of the cross defines our faith?*
3. What traits listed by Jesus in the Beatitudes can you see in yourself? What ones do you see in others? What characteristics would you like to see improved in your own faith life and what do you think you can do to make that happen?