



Wednesday
Lenten Series
By Faith



April 1, 2020

Lent 5: Jesus, the Perfecter of Our Faith

Enduring the cross, Jesus became “the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.” How does the way of the cross define our faith?

*The congregation may remain seated for the entire service.
Congregational responses are printed in bold text.*

Opening Dialogue

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways, by the prophets,
but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.

He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being,
and he sustains all things by his powerful word.

Since we have confidence by the new and living way opened for us by Jesus,
let us approach with a true heart in full assurance of faith.

Gathering Song

Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus



1 Let us ev - er walk with Je - sus, fol - low his ex - am - ple pure,
2 Let us suf - fer here with Je - sus, and with pa - tience bear our cross.
3 Let us glad - ly die with Je - sus. Since by death he con - quered death,
4 Let us al - so live with Je - sus. He has ris - en from the dead



through a world that would de - ceive us and to sin our spir - its lure.
Joy will fol - low all our sad - ness; where he is there is no loss.
he will free us from de - struc - tion, give to us im - mor - tal breath.
that to life we may a - wak - en. Je - sus, you are now our head,



On - ward in his foot - steps tread - ing, trav - 'lers here, our home a - bove,
Though to - day we sow no laugh - ter, we shall reap ce - les - tial joy:
Let us mor - ti - fy all pas - sion that would lead us in - to sin;
we are your own liv - ing mem - bers; where you live, there we shall be



full of faith and hope and love, let us do our Sav - ior's bid - ding.
all dis - com - forts that an - noy shall give way to mirth here - af - ter.
and the grave that shuts us in shall but prove the gate of heav - en.
in your pres - ence con - stant - ly, liv - ing there with you for - ev - er.



Faith - ful Lord, with me a - bide; I shall fol - low where you guide.
Je - sus, here I share your woe; help me there your joy to know.
Je - sus, here with you I die, there to live with you on high.
Je - sus, let me faith - ful be; life e - ter - nal grant to me.

Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–1681; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt.

Music: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN, Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent.

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The reflection concludes:

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for,
the conviction of things not seen.

Hymn of the Day

He Comes to Us as One Unknown



1 He comes to us as one un-known, a breath un - seen, un -
2 He comes when souls in si - lence lie and thoughts of day de -
3 He comes to us in sound of seas, the o - cean's fume and
4 He comes in love as once he came by flesh and blood and
5 He comes in truth when faith is grown; be - lieved, o - beyed, a -



heard; as though with - in a heart of stone, or shriv - eled seed in
part; half - seen up - on the in - ward eye, a fall - ing star a -
foam; yet small and still up - on the breeze, a wind that stirs the
birth; to bear with - in our mor - tal frame a life, a death, a
dored; the Christ in all the scrip - tures shown, as yet un - seen, but



dark - ness sown, a pulse of be - ing stirred, a pulse of be - ing stirred.
cross the sky of night with - in the heart, of night with - in the heart.
tops of trees, a voice to call us home, a voice to call us home.
sav - ing name, for ev - 'ry child of earth, for ev - 'ry child of earth.
not un - known, our Sav - ior and our Lord, our Sav - ior and our Lord.

Text: Timothy Dudley-Smith, b. 1926

Music: REPTON, C. Hubert H. Parry, 1848–1918

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Prayers

Surrounded by a great cloud of witnesses, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.
A brief silence.

Faithful God, shower the world with your lovingkindness,
that all may know your peace.

Open our eyes to the needs of our neighbors,
that all may know your love.

Comfort the sick and dying,
that all may know your mercy.

Guide our leaders in the way of truth,
that all may know your justice.

Focus our hearts on the way of the cross,
that all may have faith in you.

Let us pray in the words of Martin Luther:
**Behold, Lord, an empty vessel that needs to be filled.
My Lord, fill it. I am weak in the faith; strengthen me.
I am cold in love; warm me and make me fervent, that
my love may go out to my neighbor. I do not have a
strong and firm faith; at times I doubt and am unable
to trust you altogether. O Lord, help me. Strengthen
my faith and trust in you. In you I have sealed the treasure
of all I have. I am poor; you are rich and came to
be merciful to the poor. I am a sinner; you are upright.
With me, there is an abundance of sin; in you is the
fullness of righteousness. Therefore I will remain with
you, of whom I can receive, but to whom I may not give.
Amen.**

Lord's Prayer

Finally, let us pray with the words our Savior gave us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
and the power, and the glory,
forever and ever. Amen.**

Blessing

The God of peace,
who brought back from the dead our Lord Jesus,
the great shepherd of the sheep,
make you complete in everything good
so that you may do God's will,
through Jesus Christ, to whom be the glory forever and ever.

Amen.

Sending Hymn

My Faith Looks Up to Thee



1 My faith looks up to thee, thou Lamb of Cal - va - ry,
2 May thy rich grace im - part strength to my faint - ing heart,
3 While life's dark maze I tread and griefs a - round me spread,
4 When ends life's tran - sient dream, when death's cold, sul - len stream



Sav - ior di - vine! Now hear me while I pray, take all my
my zeal in - spire; as thou hast died for me, oh, may my
be thou my guide; bid dark-ness turn to day, wipe sor-row's
shall o'er me roll; blest Sav - ior, then, in love fear and dis -



guilt a - way, oh, let me from this day be whol - ly thine!
love to thee pure, warm, and change-less be, a liv - ing fire!
tears a - way, nor let me ev - er stray from thee a - side.
trust re-move; oh, bear me safe a - bove, a ran - somed soul!

Text: Ray Palmer, 1808–1887

Music: OLIVET, Lowell Mason, 1792–1872

The Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.

(Please greet one another with words of peace.)