

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

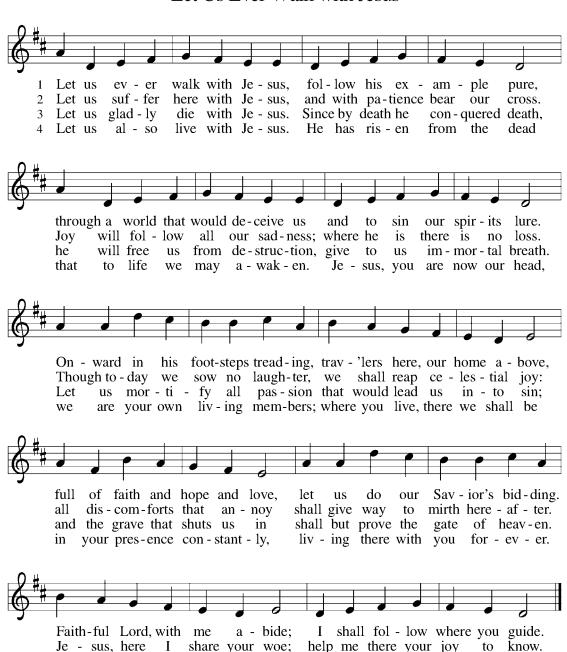
Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways, by the prophets, but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.

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



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Text: Sigismund von Birken, 1626–1681; tr. *Lutheran Book of Worship*, alt. Music: LASSET UNS MIT JESU ZIEHEN, Georg G. Boltze, 18th cent. Text © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress

Je - sus, let me faith - ful

Je - sus, here with you

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Reflection Pastor Scottie

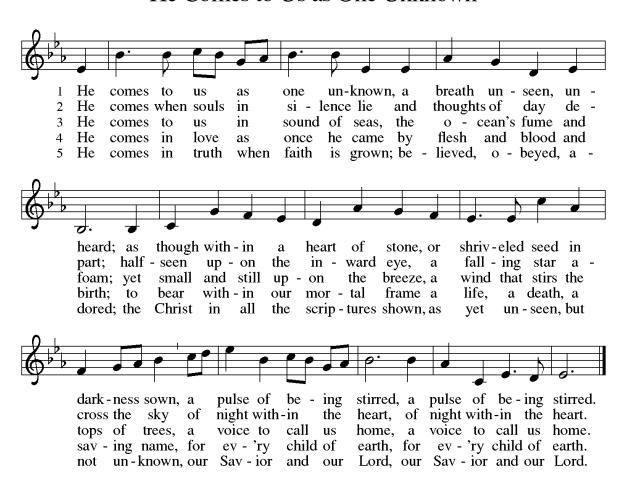
The reflection concludes:

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



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:

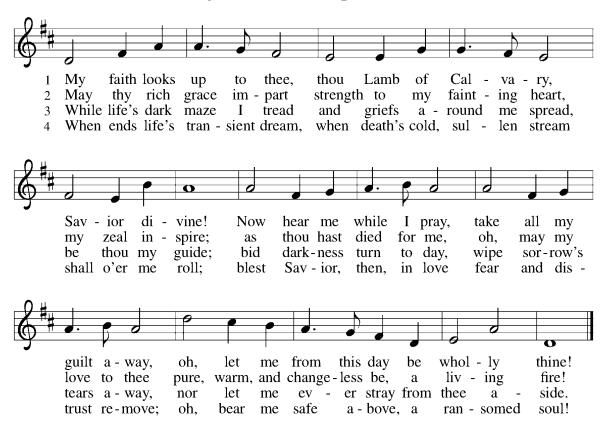
Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the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



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.)