



Words for the Way

An online Lent Course for the Diocese of Aberdeen and Orkney

Poor

Wednesday 15 March



Wesley, Frank, 1923-2002. Blessed are the Poor, from **Art in the Christian Tradition**, a project of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library, Nashville, TN. <https://diglib.library.vanderbilt.edu/act-imagelink.pl?RC=59231> [retrieved March 15, 2023]. Original source: Estate of Frank Wesley, http://www.frankwesleyart.com/main_page.htm.

Matthew 5:17–19

Jesus said, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish but to fulfil. For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not one letter, not one stroke of a letter, will pass from the law until all is accomplished. Therefore, whoever breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches others to do the same, will be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

The conclusion in the Scottish Episcopal Church's Evening Prayer from Ash Wednesday to Passion Sunday uses words from the Beatitudes (below), they begin with 'Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of heaven'. In the Gospel reading for today, Jesus teaches about who will be seen as the least and the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. Contrasts abound – rich and poor, greatest and least, the topsy turvy economy of the kingdom of heaven, the Kingdom of God which challenges and works against earthly social structures.

Today you're invited to reflect on what being poor in spirit might mean in the context of the kingdom of heaven. What might this mean to you? What might you be being called to do to work with those poor in spirit or the poor in society? The two music tracks suggested have no or very few works so you may wish to play them as you reflect on these questions.

Conclusion (from Matthew 5) from Evening Prayer – Returning to God

- 1 Blessed are the poor in spirit,*
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 2 Blessed are those who mourn,*
for they shall be comforted.
- 3 Blessed are the meek,*
for they shall inherit the earth.
- 4 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,*
for they shall be satisfied.
- 5 Blessed are the merciful,*
for they shall obtain mercy.
- 6 Blessed are the pure in heart,*
for they shall see God.
- 7 Blessed are the peacemakers,*
for they shall be called the children of God.
- 8 Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness' sake,*
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

To Listen

The Beatitudes by Vladimir Martynov performed by the Kronos Quartet
Blessed are the Poor in Spirit by Lofi Christian Music

These and other music mentioned in these reflections can be found in a playlist at <https://open.spotify.com/playlist/72omFXFljUHKiHcvk9OYv4?si=c33294da79674b98>



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The word for each day is taken from Trevor Hudson's *40 words for 40 days Pauses for Lent*.