

Reading: 1 Corinthians 1:18-30

<sup>18</sup>The, message of the cross is foolishness to those who are being destroyed. But it is the power of God for those of us who are being saved. <sup>19</sup>It is written in scripture: *I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and I will reject the intelligence of the intelligent...* <sup>21</sup>In God's wisdom, he determined that the world wouldn't come to know him through its wisdom. Instead, God was pleased to save those who believe through the foolishness of preaching. <sup>22</sup>Jews ask for signs, and Greeks look for wisdom, <sup>23</sup>but we preach Christ crucified, which is a scandal to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles. <sup>24</sup>But to those who are called—both Jews and Greeks—Christ is God's power and God's wisdom. <sup>25</sup>This is because the foolishness of God is wiser than human wisdom, and the weakness of God is stronger than human strength.

<sup>26</sup>Look at your situation when you were called, brothers and sisters! By ordinary human standards not many were wise, not many were powerful, not many were from the upper class. <sup>27</sup>But God chose what the world considers foolish to shame the wise. God chose what the world considers weak to shame the strong. <sup>28</sup>And God chose what the world considers low-class and low-life—what is considered to be nothing—to reduce what is considered to be something to nothing. <sup>29</sup>So no human being can brag in God's presence. <sup>30</sup>It is because of God that you are in Christ Jesus. He became wisdom from God for us.

Gospel: 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."