

**HIS  
FINAL  
STEPS**

**HIS FINAL STEPS LED TO SOME GREEKS**

Midweek Lent

# **BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH** | York, Nebraska

*March 1, 2023*

## **THEME OF THE DAY: HIS FINAL STEPS LED TO SOME GREEKS**

The theme for this year's Lenten season is "His Final Steps." The series will ponder the significance of the people and places on Jesus' resolute final steps to the cross.

**Worship Leader**  
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## **Acknowledgments**

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## Opening Hymn: 784 Now the Light Has Gone Away

- |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1 | Now the light has gone away;<br>Father, listen while I pray,<br>asking you to watch and keep<br>and to send me quiet sleep.   | O bring me and all I love<br>to your happy home above. |   |
| 2 | Jesus, Savior, wash away<br>all that I've done wrong today.<br>Make me ever more like you,<br>good and gentle, kind and true. | 4  | Now my evening praise I give;<br>you once died that I might live.<br>All your precious gifts are free—<br>oh, how good you are to me! |
| 3 | Let my near and dear ones be<br>safe with you eternally.  | 5  | Ah, my best and kindest Friend,<br>you will love me to the end.<br>Let me love you more and more,<br>always better than before.       |

Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836–1879, alt.  
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## Confession of Sins

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

**We have sinned against you**

**in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds,  
and in all that we have not done.**

**Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Deliver and restore us, that we may rest in peace.**

By the mercy of God we are redeemed by Jesus Christ, and in him we are forgiven. Let us rest in his peace until the rising of the sun, when we shall serve him in the newness of life.

**Amen.**

## Psalm: 30A You Have Turned My Wailing into Dancing

### Refrain

You have turned my wail - ing in - to  
danc - ing, in - to danc - ing.

### Tone

I will exalt you, LORD, for you lifted me out / of the depths  
and did not let my enemies gloat / over me.

LORD my God, I called to / you for help,  
and you / healed me.

You, LORD, brought me up from the realm / of the dead;  
you spared me from going down / to the pit. *Refrain*

Sing the praises of the LORD, you his faithful / people;  
praise his / holy name.

For his anger lasts only a / moment,  
but his favor lasts a / lifetime;  
weeping may stay / for the night,  
but rejoicing comes in the / morning.

**Glory be to the Father and / to the Son  
and to the Holy / Spirit,  
as it was in the be- / ginning,  
is now, and will be forever. / Amen. *Refrain***

Tune: Carl F. Schalk

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## Psalm Prayer

When I was in the pit of despair, Lord, you lifted me out. Though your anger blazed down on me because of my sin, you sent your Son to take the brunt of your anger so that I might be spared. Now I rejoice in the splendor of your grace and proclaim your saving deeds to those who will yet praise you as their only Savior.

**Amen.**

**Passion History:** *Matthew 26:36-56*

## Hymn: 814 Just as I Am, without One Plea

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 1 Just as I am, without one plea<br>but that thy blood was shed for me<br>and that thou bidd'st me come to thee,<br>O Lamb of God, I come, I come.          | 4 Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;<br>sight, riches, healing of the mind,<br>yea, all I need, in thee to find,<br>O Lamb of God, I come, I come. |
| 2 Just as I am and waiting not<br>to rid my soul of one dark blot,<br>to thee, whose blood can cleanse<br>each spot,<br>O Lamb of God, I come, I come.      | 5 Just as I am, thou wilt receive,<br>wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;<br>because thy promise I believe,<br>O Lamb of God, I come, I come.    |
| 3 Just as I am, though tossed about<br>with many' _a conflict, many' _a<br>doubt,<br>fightings and fears within, without,<br>O Lamb of God, I come, I come. | 6 Just as I am; thy love unknown<br>has broken ev'ry barrier down;<br>now to be thine, yea thine alone,<br>O Lamb of God, I come, I come.            |

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789-1871  
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## Sermon

### Reading

*John 12:20-33*

#### Jesus Predicts His Death

<sup>20</sup> Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Festival. <sup>21</sup> They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, "Sir, we want to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup> Philip went to tell Andrew. Andrew came with Philip and told Jesus.

<sup>23</sup> Jesus answered them, "The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. <sup>24</sup> Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it continues to be one kernel. But if it dies, it produces much grain. <sup>25</sup> Anyone who loves his life destroys it. And the one who hates his life in this world will hold on to it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup> If anyone serves me, let him follow me. And where I am, there my servant will be also. If anyone serves me, the Father will honor him.

<sup>27</sup> "Now my soul is troubled. And what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, this is the reason I came to this hour. <sup>28</sup> Father, glorify your name!"

A voice came from heaven: "I have glorified my name, and I will glorify it again."

<sup>29</sup> The crowd standing there heard it and said it thundered. Others said an angel talked to him. <sup>30</sup> Jesus answered, "This voice was not for my sake but for yours.

<sup>31</sup> "Now is the judgment of this world. Now the ruler of this world will be thrown out. <sup>32</sup> And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup> He said this to indicate what kind of death he was going to die.

### Offering

#### Offering Hymn: 400 Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing

*sts. 1, 5*

- |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Sweet the moments, rich in blessing,<br>which before the cross we spend,<br>life and health and peace possessing<br>from the sinner's dying friend. | 5 | Lord, in loving contemplation<br>fix our hearts and eyes on you<br>till we taste your full salvation<br>and your unveiled glory view. |
|---|---|---|---|

Text: alt. Walter Shirley, 1725–1786; James Allen, 1734–1804  
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### Prayer

Gracious Lord, according to your will and promise,

**You sent your Son into our world to atone for sin and restore eternal life.**

You planned his path to the cross,  
**and he followed it perfectly.**

He confronted the blindness of unbelief, the confusion of doubt, and the hurt of death  
**but was not deterred as he proclaimed your kingdom to the least, the last, and the lost.**

As we hear and contemplate the holy record of our Savior's passion and death,  
**Use the sharp message of the law to empty us of pride and self-reliance.**

Humble us as we view the Savior in his humility,  
**remembering and believing that he endured the cross so we might be freed from its horror.**

In his suffering show us our healing,  
**in his grief show us our joy,**  
and in his death show us our life.  
**Hear our prayers, Lord, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.**

## **Lord's Prayer**

**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**

May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us.  
**May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.**

## Hymn: 532 As the Deer Runs to the River

1 As the deer runs to the river,  
parched and weary from the chase,  
we have come from hurt and hurry,  
thirsting for your healing grace.  
(Refrain)

Ref Jesus, source of living water,  
may we drink of you and live!

2 When your Israel crossed the desert  
where no stream or spring was  
seen,  
Moses struck the rock, and water

flowed for them, refreshing, clean.  
(Refrain)

3 "Come and drink," Isaiah summoned,  
"all who for God's mercy plead!  
God's forgiveness, like a fountain,  
flows to satisfy your need."  
(Refrain)

4 Christ, we come from desert places,  
deepest thirst unsatisfied.  
Lead us to the waters flowing  
from the cross on which you died.  
(Refrain)

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle, Jr., 1923–2007

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