

**HIS
FINAL
STEPS**

HIS FINAL STEPS LED TO HIS ENEMIES

Midweek Lent

BETHEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH | York, Nebraska

March 8, 2023

THEME OF THE DAY: HIS FINAL STEPS LED TO HIS ENEMIES

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
Organist/Pianist

Pastor Fred Berger
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Acknowledgments

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Opening Hymn: 784 Now the Light Has Gone Away

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|---|---|--|---|
| 1 | Now the light has gone away;
Father, listen while I pray,
asking you to watch and keep
and to send me quiet sleep. | O bring me and all I love
to your happy home above. | |
| 2 | Jesus, Savior, wash away
all that I've done wrong today.
Make me ever more like you,
good and gentle, kind and true. | 4 | Now my evening praise I give;
you once died that I might live.
All your precious gifts are free—
oh, how good you are to me! |
| 3 | Let my near and dear ones be
safe with you eternally. | 5 | Ah, my best and kindest Friend,
you will love me to the end.
Let me love you more and more,
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: 118A This is the Day the LORD Has Made

Refrain



This is the day the LORD has made, let us re-joyce and be glad!



This is the day the LORD has made, let us re-joyce and be glad!

Tone



The LORD is my strength and / my defense;
he has become my sal- / vation.
The LORD's right hand is / lifted high;
the LORD's right hand has done / mighty things!
I will not / die but live,
and will proclaim what the / LORD has done. *Refrain*

I will give you thanks, for you / answered me;
you have become my sal- / vation.
The stone the builders re- / jected
has become the / cornerstone;
the LORD has / done this,
and it is marvelous / in our eyes.

**Glorify 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***

Text: Lectionary for Mass

Tune: Marty Haugen

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Psalm Prayer

Lord Jesus, you are the stone the builders rejected that has become the cornerstone. We praise you for facing the fury of your enemies undaunted. Because you overcame death itself, we will not die but live, and we will always proclaim your marvelous deeds; for you live and rule with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

Passion History: *Matthew 26:57-75*

Hymn: 434 Upon the Cross Extended

- 1 Upon the cross extended,
see, world, your Lord suspended;
your Savior yields his breath.
The Prince of life from heaven
himself has freely given
to shame and blows and bitter
death.
- 2 Who is it, Lord, that bruised you?
Who has so sore abused you
and caused you all your woe?
We all must make confession
of sin and dire transgression,
while you no ways of evil know.
- 3 I caused your grief and sighing
by evils multiplying
as countless as the sands.
I caused the woes unnumbered
with which your soul is cumbered,
your sorrows raised by wicked
hands.
- 4 Your soul in griefs unbounded,
your head with thorns surrounded,
you died to ransom me.
The cross for me enduring,
the crown for me securing,
you healed my wounds and set me
free.
- 5 Your cross I place before me,
its saving pow'r restore me,
sustain me in the test.
It will, when life is ending,
be guiding and attending
my way to your eternal rest.

Text: tr. John Kelly, 1833–1890, alt.; Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676, abr.
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Sermon

Reading

Luke 20:9–19

The Parable of the Tenants

⁹ He began to tell the people this parable: "A man planted a vineyard, leased it to some tenant farmers, and went away on a journey for a long time. ¹⁰ When it was the right time, he sent a servant to the tenants to collect his share of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenant farmers beat the servant and sent him away empty-handed. ¹¹ The man went ahead and sent yet another servant, but they also beat him, treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. ¹² He then sent yet a third. They also wounded him and threw him out. ¹³ The owner of the vineyard said, 'What should I do? I will send my son, whom I love. Perhaps they will respect him.'

¹⁴ "But when the tenant farmers saw him, they talked it over with one another. They said, 'This is the heir. Let's kill him, so that the inheritance will be ours.' ¹⁵ They threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. So what will the owner of the vineyard do to them? ¹⁶ He will come and destroy those tenant farmers and give the vineyard to others."

When they heard this, they said, "May it never be!"

¹⁷ But he looked at them and said, "Then what about this that is written:

The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone?

¹⁸ "Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and it will crush the one on whom it falls."

¹⁹ That very hour the chief priests and the experts in the law began looking for a way to lay hands on him, because they knew he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people.

Offering

Offering Hymn: 433 God Was There on Calvary

sts. 1–2

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|---|--|---|---|
| 1 | God was there on Calvary,
God the Father's only Son,
dying that the world might live,
there on Calvary. | 2 | All the world on Calvary
crucified the Prince of life,
pierced the hands of God's own Son,
there on Calvary. |
|---|--|---|---|

Text: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–1993

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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: 397 My Song is Love Unknown

sts. 1–4

- 1 My song is love unknown,
my Savior's love to me,
love to the loveless shown
that they might lovely be.
Oh, who am I
that for my sake
my Lord should take
frail flesh and die?
- 2 He came from his blest throne
salvation to bestow,
but such disdain! So few
the longed-for Christ would know!
But oh, my friend,
my friend indeed,
who at my need
his life did spend!
- 3 Sometimes they strew his way
and his sweet praises sing,
resounding all the day
hosannas to their King.
Then "Crucify!"
is all their breath,
and for his death
they thirst and cry.
- 4 Why? What has my Lord done?
What makes this rage and spite?
He made the lame to run,
he gave the blind their sight.
Sweet injuries!
Yet they at these
themselves displease
and 'gainst him rise.

Text: Samuel Crossman, c. 1624–1683, alt.
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