

# **HIS FINAL STEPS**

**LED TO SOME GREEKS**

Midweek Lenten Service

# **ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | Bangor, WI**

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*March 8, 2023*

## **WELCOME TO WORSHIP**

In the name of our Savior, Jesus Christ, we welcome you to St. Paul's. We especially welcome our guests who have joined us today. We pray that your soul will be strengthened by the good news of God's forgiveness through Jesus.

## **THE SEASON OF LENT**

The word Lent comes from an Old English word for Spring ("lengten," the time of the year when the days grow longer). For the last 1700 years, the Church has set aside the 40 days between Ash Wednesday and Easter as a time of special preparation. It is a time of repentance and renewal. During Lent, our rejoicing is muted as we remember our Lord's suffering and death. But it is with a purpose: we know that the Lord who died took up his life again on Easter Sunday morning. So our 40 days of Lent are ones lived in the certain hope of the resurrection. The color of the season is purple. Purple is the ancient color of royalty. We have this kind of king: he wore a crown of thorns and carried a cross for us.

## **PRAYER IN PREPARATION FOR TODAY'S WORSHIP**

Lord Jesus, you gave your life to save me. Help me dedicate my life to you. Strike me with the power your law tonight, that I can see my sins of loving this world and seeking my own glory. Comfort me also with the life-giving message of your grace, that I may strive to live my life here on earth to the glory of your name. In that name I pray. Amen.

## **FOR FAMILIES WITH CHILDREN**

Children's activity sheets are available near the entrance to the sanctuary. The church basement is also available with a live feed of the worship service along with a Kids' Corner for parents with children to utilize during the service if needed.

## **THANK OFFERING**

You may leave your offering in the plate in the lobby. The QR code to the right will provide the link to our online giving option. If you're visiting with us today you are welcome to give an offering, but don't feel compelled by guilt or embarrassment to do so. God wants all offerings to be made freely and with joy.



# HIS FINAL STEPS

*In our Lenten services, we will walk with our Savior on the final steps of his journey to the cross. How humbling and comforting to learn that Jesus knew exactly what lay ahead. Yet Jesus took his final steps to the cross for you and for me.*

## OPENING HYMN

*Enslaved by Sin and Bound in Chains | 102*



1 En - slaved by sin and bound in chains, Be - neath its  
2 Nor gold nor gems could buy our peace, Nor all the  
3 Je - sus, the Lord, the might - y God, An all - suf -  
4 Je - sus the sac - ri - fice be - came To res - cue  
5 A - maz - ing good - ness! Love di - vine! Oh, may our



dread - ful ty - rant sway, And doomed to ev - er -  
world's col - lect - ed store Suf - fice to pur - chase  
fi - cient ran - som paid. O match - less price! His  
guilt - y souls from hell; The spot - less, bleed - ing,  
grate - ful hearts a - dore The match - less grace nor



last - ing pains We wretch - ed, guilt - y cap - tives lay.  
our re - lease; A thou - sand worlds were all too poor.  
pre - cious blood For vile, re - bel - lious trai - tors shed.  
dy - ing Lamb Be - neath a - veng - ing jus - tice fell.  
yield to sin Nor wear its cru - el fet - ters more!

*please stand*

## INVOCATION

**M:** In the name of the Father and of the Son ✙ and of the Holy Spirit.

**C:** Amen.

## CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Almighty God, our heavenly Father,

**C: 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.**

## ABSOLUTION

M: 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  
newness of life.

**C: Amen.**

*be seated*

## PSALM

*Psalms 30, p.76*

*Refrain*

At the works of your hands, O Lord, I  
lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

*Psalms tone*

\*

Sing to the LORD, you saints of his;\*  
praise his holy name.

For his anger lasts only a moment,\*  
but his favor lasts a lifetime;

weeping may remain for a night,\*  
but rejoicing comes in the morning.

### ***Refrain***

To you, O LORD, I called;\*  
to the Lord I cried for mercy.

Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me;\*  
O LORD, be my help.

You turned my wailing into dancing,\*  
that my heart may sing to you and not be silent.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son\*  
and to the Holy Spirit,  
as it was in the beginning,\*  
is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

### ***Refrain***

## **PSALM PRAYER**

M: When we were in the pit of despair, Lord, you lifted us out. Although your anger blazed down on us because of our sin, you sent your Son to take the brunt of your anger so that we might be spared. Now we rejoice in the splendor of your grace and proclaim your saving deeds to those who will yet praise you as their only Savior. Equip and empower us to let your glory be known. In Jesus we pray.

**C: Amen.**

## **THE PASSION HISTORY**

*Lesson Two*



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now On your ho - ly  
 2 Make me see your great dis - tress, An - guish, and af -  
 3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone Make me see your  
 4 If my sins give me a - harm And my con - science  
 5 Grant that I your pas - sion view With re - pent - ant



pas - sion; With your Spir - it me en - dow  
 flic - tion, Bonds and stripes and wretch - ed - ness  
 pas - sion, But its cause to me make known  
 grieve me, Let your cross my fear dis - arm;  
 griev - ing. Let me not bring shame to you



For such med - i - ta - tion. Grant that I in love  
 And your cru - ci - fix - ion; Make me see how scourge  
 And its ter - mi - na - tion. Ah! I al - so and  
 Peace of con - science give me. Help me see for - give -  
 By un - ho - ly liv - ing. How could I re - fuse



and faith May the im - age cher - ish Of your suf -  
 and rod, Spear and nails did wound you, How for them  
 my sin Wrought your deep af - flic - tion; This in - deed  
 ness won By your ho - ly pas - sion. If for me  
 to shun Ev - 'ry sin - ful pleas - ure Since for me



f'ring, pain, and death That I may not per - ish.  
 you died, O God, Who with thorns had crowned you.  
 the cause has been Of your cru - ci - fix - ion.  
 he slays his Son, God must have com - pas - sion!  
 God's on - ly Son Suf - fered with - out meas - ure?

6 Graciously my faith renew;  
Help me bear my crosses,  
Learning humbleness from you,  
Peace mid pain and losses.  
May I give you love for love!  
Hear me, O my Savior,  
That I may in heav'n above  
Sing your praise forever.

## SERMON

*John 12:20-33*

### **His Final Steps Led to Some Greeks**

<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

*"The one who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly. The one who sows generously will also reap generously. Each one should give as he has determined in his heart, not reluctantly or under pressure, for God loves a cheerful giver" (2 Cor 9:6,7).*

# HYMN

Upon the Cross Extended | 113



1 Up - on the cross ex - tend - ed, See, world, your Lord sus -  
 2 How God at our trans - gres - sion To an - ger gives ex -  
 3 'Tis I who should be smit - ten, My doom should here be  
 4 A crown of thorns you're wear - ing, My shame and scorn you're  
 5 Your cords of love, my Sav - ior, Bind me to you for -



pend - ed; Your Sav - ior yields his breath. The Prince of  
 pres - sion, How loud his thun - ders roll, How fear - ful -  
 writ - ten: Bound hand and foot in hell. The fet - ters  
 bear - ing That I might ran - somed be. My bonds - man,  
 ev - er; I am no long - er mine. To you I



life from heav - en Him - self has free - ly giv - en  
 ly he smites him, How sore - ly he re - quites him—  
 and the scourg - ing, The floods a - round you surg - ing,  
 ev - er will - ing, My place with pa - tience fill - ing,  
 glad - ly ten - der All that my life can ren - der



To shame and blows and bit - ter death.  
 All this your suf - f'rings teach my soul.  
 'Tis I who have de - served them well.  
 From sin and guilt has made me free.  
 And all I have to you re - sign.

*please stand*

## PRAYER

M: Gracious Lord, according to your will and promise,

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



M: You planned his path to the cross,

**C: and he followed it perfectly.**

M: He confronted the blindness of unbelief, the confusion of doubt, and the hurt of death

**C: but was not deterred as he proclaimed your kingdom to the least, the last, and the lost.**

M: As we hear and contemplate the holy record of our Savior's passion and death,

**C: use the sharp message of the law to empty us of pride and self-reliance.**

M: Humble us as we view the Savior in his humility,

**C: remembering and believing that he endured the cross so we might be freed from its horror.**

M: In his suffering show us our healing,

**C: in his grief show us our joy,**

M: and in his death show us our life.

**C: Hear our prayers, Lord, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.**

## **LORD'S PRAYER**

**C: 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

M: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us.

C: **May God bless us still so that all the ends of the earth will fear him. Amen.**

*be seated*

## CLOSING HYMN

*Glory Be to Jesus* | 103



1 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, Who in bit - ter pains  
2 Grace and life e - ter - nal In that blood I find;  
3 Blest through end - less a - ges Be the pre - cious stream  
4 A - bel's blood for ven - geance Plead - ed to the skies,  
5 Oft as earth ex - ult - ing Lifts its praise on high,



Poured for me the life - blood From his sa - cred veins.  
Blest be his com - pas - sion, In - fi - nite - ly kind.  
Which from end - less tor - ments Did the world re - deem.  
But the blood of Je - sus For our par - don cries.  
An - gel hosts re - joic - ing Make their glad re - ply.

6 Lift we, then, our voices,  
Swell the mighty flood;  
Louder still and louder  
Praise the precious blood!

my soul  
LONGS FOR YOUR  
SALVATION  
I HOPE IN YOUR  
WORD





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## **SERVING IN WORSHIP**

**Presiding Minister**  
**Accompanist**

Pastor Christopher Johns, Christ Lutheran Burr Oak  
Irene Bakken

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