

HIS FINAL STEPS

LED TO HIS ENEMIES

Midweek Lenten Service

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | Bangor, WI

March 15, 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

Gracious God, I do not deserve to be called your child. I have rebelled against your holy will and made myself an enemy of your goodness countless times. Reveal to me once again your mercy, grace, and faithful love. Let me follow in the footsteps of Jesus tonight as he went willingly to his enemies in order to save them and me. In his 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

Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing | 111



1 Sweet the mo - ments, rich in bless - ing, Which be -
2 Here we rest in won - der, view - ing All our
3 Here we find the dawn of heav - en While up -
4 Oh, that, near the cross a - bid - ing, We may
5 Lord, in lov - ing con - tem - pla - tion Fix our



fore the cross we spend, Life and health and peace pos -
sins on Je - sus laid; Here we see re - demp - tion
on the cross we gaze, See our tres - pass - es for -
to the Sav - ior cleave, Naught with him our hearts di -
hearts and eyes on you Till we taste your full sal -



sess - ing From the sin - ner's dy - ing friend.
flow - ing From the sac - ri - fice he made.
giv - en, And our songs of tri - umph raise.
vid - ing, All for him con - tent to leave!
va - tion And your un - veiled glo - ry view.

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

Psalm 118, p.108

Refrain

This is the day the Lord has made, let us re-
joice and be glad! This is the day the
Lord has made, let us re-joice and be glad!



The LORD is my strength and my song;*
he has become my salvation.

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 salvation.

The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;*
the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.

This is the day the LORD has made;*
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

**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: 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.

C: Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

He Stood Before the Court | 115

1 He stood be - fore the court On trial in - stead of
 2 These are the crimes that tell The tale of hu - man
 3 The sen - tence must be passed, The un - known pris - 'ner
 4 Shall we be judged and tried? In Christ our trial is



us; He met its pow'r to hurt, Con - demned to
 guilt; Our sins, our death, our hell— On these the
 killed; The price is paid at last, The law of
 done; We live, for he has died, Our con - dem -



face the cross— Our King, ac - cused of treach - er -
 case is built. To this world's pow'rs the Lord stays
 God ful - filled. He takes our blame, and from that
 na - tion gone. In Christ are we both dead and



y; Our God, a - bused for blas - phe - my!
 dumb. The guilt is ours; no an - swers come.
 day Th' ac - cu - ser's claim is wiped a - way.
 raised, A - live and free— his name be praised!

SERMON

*Luke 20:9-19***His Final Steps Led to His Enemies**

⁹He 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. ¹⁰When 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. ¹¹The man went ahead and sent yet another servant, but they also beat him, treated him shamefully, and sent him away empty-handed. ¹²He then sent yet a third. They also wounded him and threw him out. ¹³The 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.' ¹⁵They threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. So what will the owner of the vineyard do to them? ¹⁶He will come and destroy those tenant farmers and give the vineyard to others."

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

¹⁷But 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."

¹⁹That 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

"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

In the Hour of Trial | 116



1 In the hour of tri - al, Je - sus, plead for me
2 With for - bid - den plea - sures Should this vain world charm
3 Should your mer - cy send me Sor - row, toil, and woe,
4 When my life is end - ing, Though in grief or pain,



Lest by base de - ni - al I un - wor - thy be.
Or its tempt - ing trea - sures Spread to work me harm,
Or should pain at - tend me On my path be - low,
When my bod - y chang - es Back to dust a - gain,



When you see me wa - ver, With a look re - call,
Bring to my re - mem - brance Sad Geth - sem - a - ne
Grant that I may nev - er Fail your cross to view;
On your truth re - ly - ing, Through that mor - tal strife,



Nor for fear or fa - vor Ev - er let me fall.
Or, in dark - er sem - blance, Cross-crowned Cal - va - ry.
Grant that I may ev - er Cast my care on you.
Je - sus, take me, dy - ing, To e - ter - nal life.

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

Not All the Blood of Beasts | 128



1 Not all the blood of beasts On Is - rael's
2 But Christ, the heav'n - ly Lamb, Takes all our
3 In faith I place my hand On that dear
4 My soul looks back to see The bur - den
5 Be - liev - ing, we re - joice To see the



al - tars slain Could give the guilt - y con - science
sins a - way, A sac - ri - fice of no - bler
head di - vine, As pen - i - tent - ly here I
you did bear When hang - ing on the curs - ed
curse re - move; We bless the Lamb with cheer - ful



peace Or wash a - way the stain.
name And rich - er blood than they.
stand And lay on him my sin.
tree— I know my guilt was there!
voice And sing his bleed - ing love.

HAVE MERCY ON ME
O GOD
ACCORDING TO YOUR
UNFAILING
Love



SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister
Accompanist

Pastor Galen Riediger, Christ Lutheran West Salem
Harriet Langrehr

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