

HIS FINAL STEPS

LED TO A TOMB

Midweek Lenten Service

ST. PAUL'S LUTHERAN CHURCH | Bangor, WI

March 22, 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.

CHIMES

When I Survey the Wondrous Cross

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.

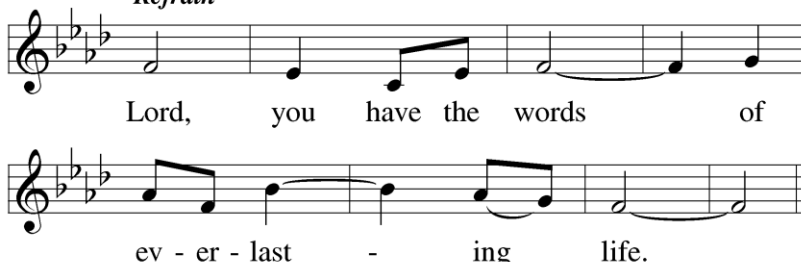
C: Amen.

be seated


PSALM

Psalm 119b, p.110

Refrain



Psalm tone



Teach me, O LORD, to follow your decrees;*
then I will keep them to the end.

Give me understanding, and I will keep your law*
and obey it with all my heart.

Direct me in the path of your commands,*
for there I find delight.

Refrain

Turn my eyes away from worthless things;*
preserve my life according to your Word.

Fulfill your promise to your servant,*
so that you may be feared.

How I long for your precepts!*
Preserve my life in your righteousness.

**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, we confess our sins to you and plead for your mercy. We acknowledge that sin runs too deep in our nature for us ever to rid ourselves of it, but we thank you that Jesus has done what we could not do, washing us clean of every stain. We plead that your Spirit would give us the strength to live a new life; through Christ our Lord.

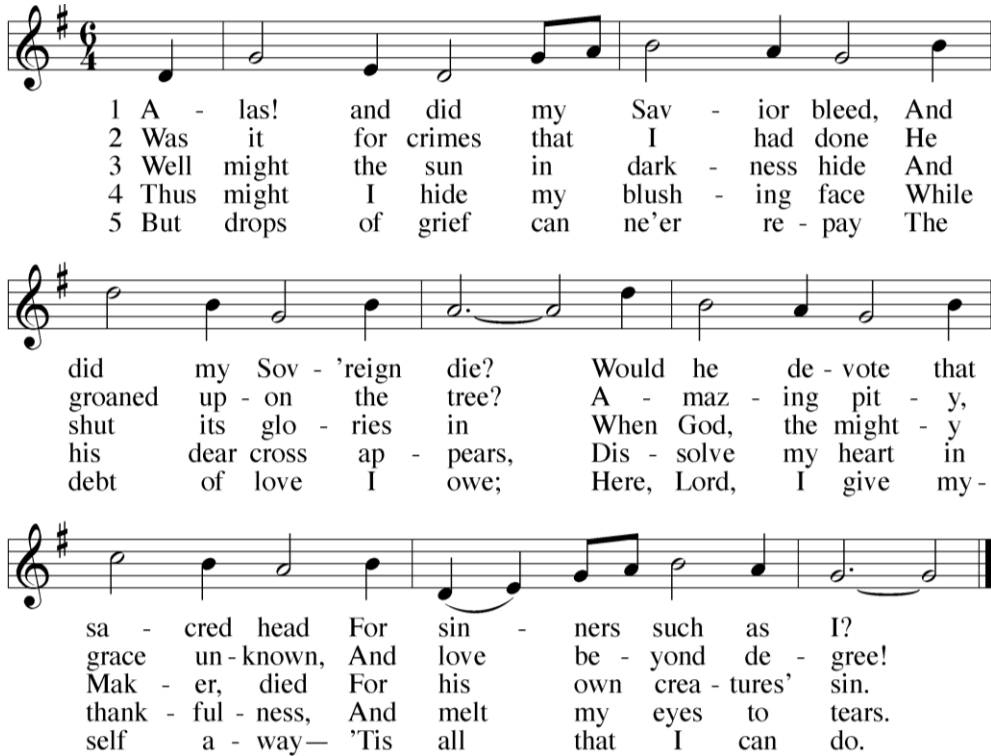
C: Amen.

THE PASSION HISTORY

Lesson Four

HYMN OF THE DAY

Alas! and Did My Savior Bleed | 129



1 A - las! and did my Sav - ior bleed, And
2 Was it for crimes that I had done He
3 Well might the sun in dark - ness hide And
4 Thus might I hide my blush - ing face While
5 But drops of grief can ne'er re - pay The

did my Sov - 'reign die? Would he de - vote that
groaned up - on the tree? A - maz - ing pit - y,
shut its glo - ries in When God, the might - y
his dear cross ap - pears, Dis - solve my heart in
debt of love I owe; Here, Lord, I give my -

sa - cred head For sin - ners such as I?
grace un - known, And love be - yond de - gree!
Mak - er, died For his own crea - tures' sin.
thank - ful - ness, And melt my eyes to tears.
self a - way— 'Tis all that I can do.

SERMON

John 11:1-7, 11-15, 20-27, 32-33, 38-53

His Final Steps Led to a Tomb

¹Now a certain man named Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village of Mary and her sister Martha. ²This Mary, whose brother Lazarus was sick, was the same Mary who anointed the Lord with perfume and wiped his feet with her hair.

³So the sisters sent a message to Jesus, saying, "Lord, the one you love is sick!"

⁴When Jesus heard it, he said, "This sickness is not going to result in death, but it is for the glory of God, so that the Son of God may be glorified through it."

⁵Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. ⁶Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed in the place where he was two more days.

⁷Then afterwards he said to his disciples, "Let's go back to Judea."

¹¹He said this and then told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I am going there to wake him up."

¹²Then the disciples said, "Lord, if he has fallen asleep, he will get well."

¹³Jesus had been speaking about his death, but they thought he was merely talking about ordinary sleep. ¹⁴So Jesus told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead. ¹⁵And I am glad for your sake that I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

²⁰When Martha heard that Jesus was coming, she went to meet him, while Mary was sitting in the house.

²¹Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²²But even now I know that whatever you ask from God, God will give you."

²³Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."

²⁴Martha replied, "I know that he will rise in the resurrection on the Last Day."

²⁵Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me will live, even if he dies. ²⁶And whoever lives and believes in me will never perish. Do you believe this?"

²⁷"Yes, Lord," she told him. "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."

³²When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died."

³³When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and troubled.

³⁸Jesus was deeply moved again as he came to the tomb. It was a cave, and a stone was lying against it. ³⁹"Take away the stone," he said.

Martha, the dead man's sister, told him, "Lord, by this time there will be an odor, because it has been four days."

⁴⁰Jesus said to her, "Did I not tell you that if you believe, you will see the glory of God?" ⁴¹So they took away the stone.

continued...

Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you heard me. ⁴²I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the crowd standing here, so that they may believe that you sent me." ⁴³After he said this, he shouted with a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!"

⁴⁴The man who had died came out with his feet and his hands bound with strips of linen and his face wrapped with a cloth. Jesus told them, "Loose him and let him go."

⁴⁵Therefore many of the Jews who came to Mary and saw what Jesus did believed in him. ⁴⁶But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷So the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin. They asked, "What are we going to do, because this man is doing many miraculous signs? ⁴⁸If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him. Then the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."

⁴⁹But one of them, Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, said to them, "You know nothing at all. ⁵⁰You do not even consider that it is better for us that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish." ⁵¹He did not say this on his own, but, as high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, ⁵²and not only for that nation, but also in order to gather into one the scattered children of God.

⁵³So from that day on they plotted to kill him.

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).





1 Sing, my tongue, the glo - rious bat - tle;
 2 Tell how, when at length the full - ness
 3 Thus, with thir - ty years ac - com - plished,
 4 Faith - ful cross, true sign of tri - umph,
 5 Un - to God be praise and glo - ry;



Sing the end - ing of the fray. Now a -
 Of th' ap - point - ed time was come, He, the
 He went forth from Naz - a - reth, Des - tined,
 Be for all the no - blest tree; None in
 To the Fa - ther and the Son, To th' e -



bove the cross, the tro - phy, Sound the loud tri -
 Word, was born of wom - an, Left for us his
 ded - i - cat - ed, will - ing, Did his work and
 fo - liage, none in blos - som, None in fruit your
 ter - nal Spir - it hon - or Now and ev - er -



um - phant lay. Tell how Christ, the world's Re -
 Fa - ther's home, Blazed the path of true o -
 met his death; Like a lamb he hum - bly
 e - qual be, Sym - bol of the world's re -
 more be done— Praise and glo - ry in the



deem - er, As a vic - tim won the day.
 be - dience, Shone as light a - midst the gloom.
 yield - ed On the cross his dy - ing breath.
 demp - tion, For your bur - den makes us free.
 high - est While the time - less a - ges run.

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!



SERVING IN WORSHIP

Presiding Minister
Accompanist

Pastor Don Frelitz, Christ Lutheran West Salem
Harriet Langrehr

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