



OUR SAVIOR'S
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Midweek Lent ~ March 22, 2023

**HIS
FINAL
STEPS**

Our Worship

Opening Hymn

CW 397

Stand for verse 7

- 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.
- 5 They rise and needs will have my dear Lord made away.
A murderer they save, the Prince of life they slay.
Yet cheerful he to suffering goes
that he his foes from death might free.
- 6 In life no house, no home my Lord on earth might have;
in death no friendly tomb but what a stranger gave.
What may I say? Heav'n was his home
but mine the tomb wherein he lay.
- 7 Here might I stay and sing; no story so divine,
never was love, dear King, never was grief like thine.
This is my friend, in whose sweet praise
I all my days could gladly spend!

Confession of Sins

Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
We have sinned against you in our thoughts, in our words, and in our deeds, and in all that we have not done. Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. and for the sake of his sufferings and death. Deliver us 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 newness of life.
Amen. Let us praise the Lord!

Hymn of Praise

Christ, the Life of All the Living
CW 396 st. 4, 5

**Heartless scoffers did surround thee,
treating thee with cruel scorn,
and with piercing thorns they crowned thee.
All disgrace thou, Lord, hast borne
that as thine thou mightest own me
and with heav'nly glory crown me.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
dearest Jesus, unto thee.**

**Thou hast suffered men to bruise thee
that from pain I might be free;
falsely did thy foes accuse thee:
thence I gain security.
Comfortless thy soul did languish
me to comfort in my anguish.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
dearest Jesus, unto thee.**

Text: Ernst C. Homburg, 1605–1681, abr.; (st. 4): tr. Evangelical Lutheran Hymn-Book, 1912, alt.; (st. 5): tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827–1878, alt.
Text: Public domain

¹Then the whole assembly rose and led him off to Pilate. ²And they began to accuse him, saying, “We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Messiah, a king.”

³So Pilate asked Jesus, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

“You have said so,” Jesus replied.

⁴Then Pilate announced to the chief priests and the crowd, “I find no basis for a charge against this man.”

⁵But they insisted, “He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here.”

⁶On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. ⁷When he learned that Jesus was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

⁸When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform a sign of some sort. ⁹He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. ¹⁰The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. ¹¹Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate. ¹²That day Herod and Pilate became friends—before this they had been enemies.

¹³Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, ¹⁴and said to them, “You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. ¹⁵Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us; as you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. ¹⁶Therefore, I will punish him and then release him.”

¹⁸But the whole crowd shouted, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!” ¹⁹(Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder.)

²⁰Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. ²¹But they kept shouting, “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

²²For the third time he spoke to them: “Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore I will have him punished and then release him.”

²³But with loud shouts they insistently demanded that he be crucified, and their shouts prevailed. ²⁴So Pilate decided to grant their demand. ²⁵He released the man who had been thrown into prison for insurrection and murder, the one they asked for, and surrendered Jesus to their will.

Hymn of the Day

CW 529

- 1 In the cross of Christ I glory, tow'ring o'er the wrecks of time.
All the light of sacred story gathers round its head sublime.
- 2 When the woes of life o'ertake me, hopes deceive and fears annoy,
never shall the cross forsake me; lo, it glows with peace and joy.
- 3 When the sun of bliss is beaming light and love upon my way,
from the cross the radiance streaming adds more luster to the day.
- 4 Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure by the cross are sanctified;
peace is there that knows no measure, joys that through all time
abide.

Text: John Bowring, 1792–1872 Text: Public domain

Sermon

John 12:20-33

His Final Steps Led to Some Greeks

²⁰Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. “Sir,” they said, “we would like to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

²³Jesus replied, “The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

²⁷“Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour.
²⁸Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” ²⁹The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

³⁰Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

Thank Offering & Friendship Register

As the offering is gathered, we ask both members and visitors to sign the Friendship Registers, which are located at the end of the pews. Guests are welcome to give but should not feel obligated to do so.

Prayer of the Church

Lord’s Prayer

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. 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. Amen.

Now Rest beneath Night's Shadow

CW 794



1 Now rest be - neath night's shad - ow the wood - land,
2 The rule of day is o - ver and shin - ing
3 Lord Je - sus, since you love me, O spread your
4 My loved ones, rest se - cure - ly, for God this



field, and mead - ow; the world in slum - ber lies.
jew - els cov - er the heav - en's bound - less blue.
wings a - bove me and shield me from a - harm.
night will sure - ly from per - il guard your heads.



But you, my heart, a - wak - en, with prayer and song be
Thus I shall shine in heav - en, where crowns of gold are
Though Sa - tan would as - sail me, your mer - cy will not
Sweet slum - bers may he send you and bid his hosts at -



tak - en; let praise to your Cre - a - tor rise.
giv - en to all who faith - ful prove and true.
fail me; I rest in your pro - tect - ing arm.
tend you and through the night watch o'er your beds.

Text: tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, alt.; Paul Gerhardt, 1607–1676
Tune: Heinrich Isaac, c. 1450–1517
Text and tune: Public domain

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Serving in Worship

- Minister – Pastor Andy Ewald
- Organist – Polly Behrens
- Ushers – Tim & Ellen Heil

His Final Steps

We have one more special Wednesday Lent service leading up to Holy Week. “His Final Steps” is the unifying theme of the messages delivered by area WELS pastors.

- Midweek Lent #6, Wednesday, March 29th
Presiding Minister: Pastor John Hadler (St. Matthew, Marathon)
“His Final Steps Led to a Donkey”
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Palm Sunday, April 2

9:00 am Service of the Passion

Maundy Thursday, April 6

1:00 pm Worship with Holy Communion

Good Friday, April 7

1:00 pm Worship

Easter Sunday, April 9

9:00 am Festival Service with Holy Communion
Fellowship & light breakfast to follow

Alleluia! Jesus lives!



OUR SAVIOR'S

EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

Growing in Jesus, Sharing His Love

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