

March 8, 2023
Lent III

**HIS
FINAL
STEPS**

**His Final Steps
Led to a Tomb**

Remain seated

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace at the last.

Amen.

It is good to give thanks to the Lord,
to sing praise to your name, O Most High,
to herald your love in the morning,
your truth at the close of day.

409 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary



1 Je - sus, ref - uge of the wea - ry, blest Re - deem - er,
2 Dare we pass that cross un - heed - ing, breath - ing no re -
3 Je - sus, may our hearts be burn - ing with more fer - vent



whom we love, foun - tain in life's des - ert drear - y, Sav - ior
pent - ant vow, as we see you wound - ed, bleed - ing, see your
love for you! May our eyes be ev - er turn - ing to be -



from the world a - bove, of - ten have your eyes, of - fend - ed,
thorn - en - cir - cled brow? Since your sin - less death has brought us
hold your cross a - new, till in glo - ry, part - ed nev - er



gazed up - on the sin - ner's fall; yet, up - on the
life e - ter - nal, peace, and rest, on - ly what your
from the bless - ed Sav - ior's side, grav - en in our



cross ex - tend - ed, you en - dured the pain of all.
grace has taught us calms the sin - ner's deep dis - tress.
hearts for - ev - er dwell the cross, the Cru - ci - fied!

Our help is in the name of the Lord,
the maker of heaven and earth.

Let us confess our sins in the presence of God and of one another.

Silence for personal reflection

Confession

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 newness of life.

Amen.

138A Your Praises, God, I'm Bringing



1 Your prais - es, God, I'm bring - ing; my heart with joy is
2 When deep - est need had felled me, your stead - fast love up -
3 Though you, O God, are ho - ly, yet you re - gard the
4 All peo - ples shall ac - claim you, and wor - ship - ing shall



sing - ing its thanks for gifts out - poured.
held me; my ur - gent prayer you heard.
low - ly and raise them from the dust.
name you the God of time and space.



Now, in your pres - ence kneel - ing, a - gain for grace ap -
When trou - ble sore as - sailed me, your mer - cy nev - er
Your prom - ise holds for - ev - er: "I will for - sake you
And I will join my prais - es with hymns the whole world



peal - ing, in qui - et - ness I wait your word.
failed me. You strength - ened me and I en - dured.
nev - er!" My God, my rock, in you I trust.
rais - es to you, the God of bound - less grace!

Text: Herman G. Stuempfle Tune: Heinrich Isaac

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Prayer

God our Father, we praise your name for the marvelous universe you have created, and we pray for humility to understand our role in it. Show us that your Son is the only man who can rule this world with true wisdom and power. Give us full confidence that all things are under the control of Christ, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit as one God, now and forever. Amen.

Passion History Reading - Lesson 3

While Jesus was still speaking, suddenly Judas (one of the Twelve) arrived. With him was a large crowd with lanterns, torches, swords, and clubs, who came from the chief priests and elders of the people. Judas was leading them.

Jesus, knowing everything that was going to happen to him, went out and asked them, “Who are you looking for?”

“Jesus the Nazarene,” they replied.

“I am he,” Jesus told them.

Judas, the betrayer, was standing with them. When Jesus told them, “I am he,” they backed away and fell to the ground.

Then Jesus asked them again, “Who are you looking for?”

“Jesus the Nazarene,” they said.

“I told you that I am he,” Jesus replied. “So if you are looking for me, let these men go.” This was to fulfill the statement he had spoken: “I did not lose any of those you have given me.”

Now the betrayer had given them a sign: “The one I kiss is the man. Arrest him.” Immediately he went to Jesus and said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.

Jesus said to him, “Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?”

Then they advanced, took hold of Jesus, and arrested him. When those who were around him saw what was about to happen, they said to him, “Lord, should we strike with a sword?” Then Simon Peter, who had a sword, drew it, struck the high priest’s servant, and cut off his right ear. The servant’s name was Malchus.

But Jesus responded, “Stop! No more of this! Put your sword back into its place, because all who take the sword will die by the sword. Do you not realize that I could call on my Father, and at once he would provide me with more than twelve legions of angels? But then how would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen this way?” Then he touched the servant’s ear and healed him.

At that same time Jesus said to the crowd, “Have you come out to arrest me with swords and clubs as if I were a robber? Day after day I was sitting in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. But all this has happened so that the writings of the prophets would be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

The company of soldiers, their commander, and the Jewish guards arrested Jesus and bound him. First they led him to Annas, because he was father-in-law to Caiaphas, who was the high priest that year. Now it was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews, “It is better that one man die for the people.”

Simon Peter and another disciple kept following Jesus. That disciple was known to the high priest, so he went into the high priest's courtyard with Jesus. But Peter stood outside by the door. So the other disciple, the one known to the high priest, went out and talked to the girl watching the door and brought Peter in.

The servants and guards were standing around a fire of coals that they had made because it was cold. While they warmed themselves, Peter was standing with them, warming himself too.

One of the servant girls of the high priest came there. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked directly at him and said, "You were also with Jesus the Galilean."

But he denied it in front of everyone, saying, "I don't know what you are talking about. Woman, I do not know him."

When Peter went out to the entryway, someone else saw him and said to those who were there, "This is one of them. This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."

Again Peter denied it with an oath and said, "I do not know the man."

After a little while those who stood by came and said to Peter, "Surely you are also one of them, because even your accent gives you away. You are a Galilean!"

Then he began to curse and to swear, "I do not know this man you are talking about! I do not know the man!"

At that very moment, while he was still speaking, the rooster crowed. The Lord turned and looked at Peter. Then Peter remembered the Lord's word, how he had said to him, "Before the rooster crows today you will deny me three times." He went outside, broke down, and wept bitterly.

The high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching.

Jesus answered him, "I have spoken openly to the world. I always taught in a synagogue or at the temple, where all the Jews gather. I said nothing in secret. Why are you questioning me? Ask those who heard what I told them. Look, they know what I said."

When he said this, one of the guards standing there hit Jesus in the face. "Is that how you answer the high priest?" he demanded.

"If I said something wrong," Jesus answered, "testify about what was wrong. But if I was right, why did you hit me?"

The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false testimony against Jesus so that they could put him to death. They found none, even though many false witnesses came forward. Finally two came forward and said, “This fellow said, ‘I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.’” Yet even on this point, their testimony did not agree.

The high priest stood up and said to him, “Have you no answer? What is this that these men are testifying against you?” But Jesus remained silent. Then the high priest said to him, “I place you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God!”

Jesus said to him, “It is as you have said. But I tell you, soon you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

Then the high priest tore his robes and said, “He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? See, you have just heard the blasphemy! What do you think?”

They answered, “He is deserving of death!” Then some began to spit on him. They covered his face, struck him with their fists, and said, “Prophecy to us, Christ! Who hit you?” The guards also took him and beat him. And they went on saying many other blasphemous things against him.

Into your hands I commend my spirit.

Into your hands I commend my spirit.

You have redeemed me, O Lord God of truth.

Into your hands I commend my spirit.

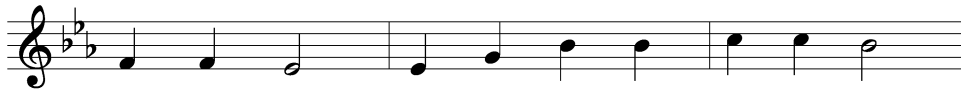
Glory to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.

Into your hands I commend my spirit.

425 Go to Dark Gethsemane



1 Go to dark Geth - sem - a - ne, all who feel the
2 Fol - low to the judg - ment hall, view the Lord of
3 Cal - v'ry's mourn - ful moun - tain climb; there, a - dor - ing
4 Ear - ly has - ten to the tomb where they laid his



tempt - er's pow'r; your Re - deem - er's con - flict see,
life ar - rained. Oh, the worm-wood and the gall,
at his feet, mark that mir - a - cle of time,
breath - less clay; all is sol - i - tude and gloom.



watch with him one bit - ter hour. Turn not from his
oh, the pangs his soul sus-tained! Shun not suf - f'ring,
God's own sac - ri - fice com-plete. "It is fin - ished!"
Who has tak - en him a - way? Christ is ris'n! He



griefs a - way; learn from Je - sus Christ to pray.
pain, or loss; learn from him to bear the cross.
hear him cry; learn from Je - sus Christ to die.
meets our eyes. Sav - ior, teach us so to rise.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt. Tune: Richard Redhead, 1820-1901 Text and tune: Public domain

Sermon His Final Steps Led to a Tomb

404 Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing



1 Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing in your ho - ly
2 Should some lust or sharp temp - ta - tion fas - ci - nate my
3 If the world my heart en - tic - es with the broad and
4 Ev - 'ry wound that pains or grieves me by your wounds, Lord,
5 O my God, my rock and tow - er, grant that in your



wounds I find, ev - 'ry hour that I am feel - ing pains of
sin - ful mind, let me think a - bout your pas - sion, and new
eas - y road, with se - duc - tive, sin - ful vic - es, let me
is made whole; when I'm weak, your cross re - vives me, grant - ing
death I trust, know - ing death has lost its pow - er since you



bod - y and of mind. Should some e - vil thought with - in
cour - age I shall find. Or should Sa - tan press me hard,
weigh the aw - ful load you were will - ing to en - dure.
new life to my soul. Yes, your com - fort ren - ders sweet
crushed it in the dust. Sav - ior, let your ag - o - ny



tempt my treach - 'rous heart to sin, show the per - il,
let me then be on my guard, say - ing, "Christ for
Help me flee all thoughts im - pure, mas - ter - ing each
ev - 'ry bit - ter cup I meet; for your all - a -
ev - er help and com - fort me; when I die be



and from sin - ning keep me ere its first be - gin - ning.
me was wound - ed," that the tempt - er flee con - found - ed.
wild temp - ta - tion, calm in prayer and med - i - ta - tion.
ton - ing pas - sion has pro - cured my soul's sal - va - tion.
my pro - tec - tion, light and life and res - ur - rec - tion.

Offering

Stand

Hear my prayer, O Lord;
listen to my cry.

Keep me as the apple of your eye;
hide me in the shadow of your wings.

In righteousness I shall see you;
when I awake, your presence will give me joy.

O Lord, support us all day long, till the shadows lengthen and the evening comes and the busy world is hushed and the fever of life is over and our work is done. Then, in your mercy, grant us a safe lodging and a holy rest and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

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.**

968 In Peace, Lord, You Let Your Servant

CW 968



In peace, Lord, you let your ser-vant now de-part ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your sal - va - tion, which
you have pre - pared for ev - 'ry peo - ple,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the
glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.

Text: The Lutheran Hymnal, 1941, rev. Tune: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–1993

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Benedicamus

Let us praise the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Blessing

The almighty and merciful Lord—the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit—bless us and keep us.

Amen.

Be Seated

783 Abide with Me



1 A - bide with me, fast falls the e - ven - tide.
2 Swift to its close ebbs out life's lit - tle day;
3 Come not in ter - rors, as the King of kings,
4 Thou on my head in ear - ly youth didst smile,



The dark - ness deep - ens; Lord, with me a - bide.
earth's joys grow dim, its glo - ries pass a - way;
but kind and good, with heal - ing in thy wings,
and though re - bel - lious and per - verse mean - while,



When oth - er help - ers fail and com - forts flee,
change and de - cay in all a - round I see;
tears for all woes, a heart for ev - 'ry plea;
thou hast not left me oft as I left thee;



help of the help - less, O a - bide with me.
O thou who chang - est not, a - bide with me.
come, Friend of sin - ners, thus a - bide with me.
on to the close, O Lord, a - bide with me.

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793–1847, alt. Tune: William H. Monk, 1823–1889 Text and tune: Public domain

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Lent Schedule

“His Final Steps” ponders the significance of the people and places on Jesus’ resolute final steps to the cross and three days later, his first steps from the tomb. Join us on Wednesdays at 7 pm as we prepare our hearts for Holy Week and Easter.

Mar 1 Lenten Worship (Pastor Smith)
His Final Steps Led to His Father’s House

Mar 8 Lenten Worship (Pastor Neumann)
His Final Steps Led to a Tomb

Mar 15 Lenten Worship
His Final Steps Led to Some Greeks

Mar 22 Lenten Worship (Pastor Smith)
His Final Steps Led to His Enemies

Mar 29 Lenten Worship (Pastor Neumann)
His Final Steps Led to a Fig Tree

Thank you to Pastor Neumann for preaching God’s Word to us tonight.

Thank you to Kris Olson for accompanying worship this evening.

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