

**HIS
FINAL
STEPS**

**LED TO
SOME GREEKS**

ZION EV. LUTHERAN CHURCH, MONROE, MI

(Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod)

4th Midweek Lenten Worship

Order of Service

March 15, 2023

WELCOME TO ZION. It is our hope and prayer that the message you hear today from God's Word will strengthen your faith and fill your heart with the peace only God can give and the joy we have in believing that JESUS CHRIST is our Savior from sin.

OPENING HYMN: *CW 99* (vs. 1-3)

“Oh, Come, My Soul”

LENT

99

Oh, Come, My Soul



1 Oh, come, my soul, your Sav - ior see Nailed to your
2 'Tis yours, my soul, the sin, the shame, The cross, the
3 Oh, sing, my soul, sing end - less - ly The won-drous



cross on Cal - va - ry. Your pains he bears; Your thorns
nails, the thirst, the pain; In ag - o - ny His blood
love that sets you free; His dy - ing breath Brings life



he wears That yours a crown of life might be.
runs free To write in heav - en's book your name.
from death, Makes heav'n your home e - ter - nal - ly.

Text: Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–93. © 1993 Kurt J. Eggert. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Tune: OH, COME, MY SOUL (88 44 8) Kurt J. Eggert, 1923–93. © 1993 Kurt J. Eggert. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

INVOCATION

P: In the name of the Father and of the Son ✝ and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

CONFESSION OF SINS

P: If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us.

C: If we confess our sins, God is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.

P: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: Holy God, gracious Father,

I am sinful by nature

and have sinned against you in my thoughts, words, and actions.

I have not loved you with my whole heart;

I have not loved others as I should.

I deserve your punishment both now and forever.

**But Jesus, my Savior, paid for my sins
with his holy life and innocent death.**

Trusting in him, I pray:

God, have mercy on me, a sinner.

Silence for meditation and reflection.

ABSOLUTION

P: Our gracious Father in heaven has been merciful to us. He sent his only Son, Jesus Christ, who gave his life as the atoning sacrifice for the sins of the whole world. Therefore, as a called servant of Christ and by his authority, I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the Son  and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

LITANY PRAYER

P: O God the Father, you are not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to the saving knowledge of the Truth.

C: Have mercy on us.

P: O God the Son, you carried the sin of the whole world and laid down your life to draw all people to yourself.

C: Have mercy on us.

P: O God the Holy Spirit, you make the hearts of the spiritually dead alive and transform rebellious people into your children.

C: Have mercy on us.

P: Most holy and triune God, we offer our praise for your mercy and grace which you pour out through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: We praise you, O Lord.

P: For revealing yourself in the Book of Truth, for gathering nations to faith by that Word, for bringing our souls to believe and rejoice,

C: We thank you, O Lord.

P: For martyrs, reformers, and steadfast Christians who scorned personal danger to proclaim the gospel,

C: We thank you, O Lord.

P: Stir up our hearts with the joy of our salvation and increase our love and loyalty to you.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: Constantly cleanse, reform, and protect your Church in this day of spreading error and confusion.

C: **Christ, have mercy.**

P: Bring your kingdom to all blood-bought souls who remain lost.

C: **Lord, have mercy.**

P: The Lord Almighty is with us; he is our mighty fortress. Let us exalt his holy name.

PSALM 30

CW 76

Refrain

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

Psalm 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

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PASSION HISTORY RESPONSIVE READING

**THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
LESSON FOUR**

Pastor: As soon as it was day, the council of the elders of the people met together, both chief priests and experts in the law.

Congregation: They brought Jesus into their Sanhedrin and said, “If you are the Christ, tell us.”

Men: But he said to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I ask you, you will not answer me or release me. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”¹

Congregation: They all said, “Are you then the Son of God?”

Pastor: He said to them, “I am what you are saying.”

Men: Then they said, “Why do we need any more testimony? For we ourselves have heard it from his own mouth!”

Women: Then the chief priests with the elders and experts in the law, together with the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision.

Men: They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pontius Pilate, the governor.²

Pastor: Then when Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he felt remorse. He brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders and said, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.”

Congregation: But they said, “What is that to us? That’s your problem.”

Women: He threw the pieces of silver into the temple and left. Then he went out and hanged himself.

Pastor: The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, “It is not lawful to put these into the treasury,

¹ Psalm 110:1

² Luke 22:66-23:1; Mark 15:1; Matthew 27:2

since it is blood money.”

Men: They reached a decision to buy the potter’s field with the money, as a burial place for foreigners.

Women: So that field has been called The Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

Men: They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price the sons of Israel had set for him, and they gave them for the potter’s field, just as the Lord commanded me.³

Pastor: Early in the morning, the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium. They did not enter the Praetorium themselves, so that they would not become ceremonially unclean. (They wanted to be able to eat the Passover meal.) So Pilate went out to them and said, “What charge do you bring against this man?”

Women: They answered him, “If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.”

Pastor: Pilate told them, “Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.”

Congregation: The Jews said, “It’s not legal for us to put anyone to death.” This happened so that the statement Jesus had spoken indicating what kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled.⁴

Men: They began to accuse him, saying, “We found this fellow misleading our nation, forbidding the payment of taxes to Caesar, and saying that he himself is Christ, a king.”

Women: Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Pastor: “It is as you say,” Jesus replied.⁵

Congregation: The chief priests accused him of many things. When he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing.

Men: Pilate questioned him again, “Are you not going to answer anything? See how many charges they are bringing against you!”

Women: But Jesus still did not answer anything, so Pilate was amazed.

Congregation: Pilate went back into the Praetorium and summoned Jesus. He asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Pastor: Jesus answered, “Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you about me?”

³ Matthew 27:3-10; see Zechariah 11:12-13; Jeremiah 19:1-13; 32:6-9

⁴ John 18:28-32

⁵ Luke 23:2-3

Congregation: Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?”

Pastor: Jesus replied, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight so that I would not be handed over to the Jews. But now my kingdom is not from here.”

Men: “You are a king then?” Pilate asked.

Pastor: Jesus answered, “I am, as you say, a king. For this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

Men: “What is truth?” Pilate said to him.

Congregation: After he said this, he went out again to the Jews and told them, “I find no basis for a charge against him.”⁶

Women: But they kept insisting, “He stirs up the people, teaching all through Judea, beginning from Galilee all the way here.”

Pastor: When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that he was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem during those days.

Women: When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad. For a long time he had wanted to see him, because he had heard many things about him.

Men: He hoped to see some miracle performed by him. He questioned him with many words, but Jesus gave him no answer.

Congregation: The chief priests and the experts in the law stood there, vehemently accusing him.

Women: Herod, along with his soldiers, treated him with contempt and ridiculed him. Dressing him in bright clothing, Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate.

Pastor: Herod and Pilate became friends with each other on that day. Before this they had been enemies of each other.⁷

⁶ Matthew 27:11-14; Mark 15:1-5; Luke 23:1-4; John 18:28-38

⁷ Luke 23:4-12

INVITATION

338

I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, “Come un - to
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, “Be - hold, I
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, “I am this



me and rest; Lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down Your
 free - ly give The liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; Stoop
 dark world's light. Look un - to me; your morn shall rise And



head up - on my breast.” I came to Je - sus as I
 down and drink and live.” I came to Je - sus, and I
 all your day be bright.” I looked to Je - sus, and I



was, Wea - ry and worn and sad; I found in
 drank Of that life - giv - ing stream; My thirst was
 found In him my star, my sun; And in that



him a rest - ing place, And he has made me glad.
 quenched, my soul re - vived, And now I live in him.
 light of life I'll walk Till trav - 'ling days are done.

Text: Horatius Bonar, 1808–89.

Tune: VOX DILECTI (C.M.D.) John B. Dykes, 1823–76.

SERMON TEXT AND THEME

John 12:20-33

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Festival. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we want to see Jesus.” ²² Philip went to tell Andrew. Andrew came with Philip and told Jesus. ²³ Jesus answered them, “The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ 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. ²⁵ 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. ²⁶ 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. ²⁷ “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. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!” A voice came from heaven: “I have glorified my

name, and I will glorify it again.”²⁹ The crowd standing there heard it and said it thundered. Others said an angel talked to him.³⁰ Jesus answered, “This voice was not for my sake but for yours.”³¹ “Now is the judgment of this world. Now the ruler of this world will be thrown out.”³² And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.”³³ He said this to indicate what kind of death he was going to die. (EHV)

HIS FINAL STEPS LED TO SOME GREEKS

CONSECRATION OF ELEMENTS

DISTRIBUTION

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS: *CW 98 (vs. 1-5)*
CW 310

“Jesus I Will Ponder Now”
“I Come, O Savior, To Your Table”

LENT

98

Jesus, I Will Ponder Now



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 - larm 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?

I Come, O Savior, to Your Table



1 I come, O Sav - ior, to your ta - ble, For weak and
 2 Oh, grant that I in man - ner wor - thy May now trust
 3 Un - wor - thy though I am, O Sav - ior, Be - cause I
 4 Oh, let me loathe all sin for - ev - er As death and
 5 Your heart is filled with fer - vent yearn - ing That sin - ners



wea - ry is my soul; O Je - sus, you a - lone are
 sole - ly in your Word, And, con - scious of the sins be -
 have a sin - ful heart, Yet you your lamb will ban - ish
 poi - son to my soul, That I through will - ful sin - ning
 may sal - va - tion see Who, Lord, to you in faith are

Refrain



a - ble To sat - is - fy and make me whole.
 fore me, Look on - ly un - to you, O Lord.
 nev - er, Nor will your faith - ful - ness de - part. Lord, may your
 nev - er May see your judg - ment take its toll!
 turn - ing; So let me, too, come trust - ing - ly.



bod - y and your blood Be for my soul the high - est good!

6 Weary am I and heavy laden;
 With sin my soul is sore oppressed.
 Receive me graciously and gladden
 My heart, for I am now your guest.
Refrain

11 Your body, giv'n for me, O Savior,
 Your blood, which you for me have shed—
 These are my life and strength forever;
 By them my hungry soul is fed.
Refrain

7 You here will find a heart most lowly
 That feels unworthy in your sight,
 That duly weeps o'er sin, yet solely
 Your merit pleads, as it is right.
Refrain

12 With you, Lord, I am now united;
 I live in you and you in me.
 No sorrow fills my soul; delighted,
 It finds its peace on Calvary.
Refrain

8 By faith I call your holy table
 The testament of your deep love,
 For by your gift I now am able
 To know the heart of God above.
Refrain

13 Who can condemn me now? For surely
 The Lord is near, who justifies.
 No hell I fear, and thus securely
 With Jesus I to heaven rise.
Refrain

9 What higher gift can we inherit?
 It is faith's bond and solid base;
 It is the strength of heart and spirit,
 The covenant of hope and grace.
Refrain

14 Though death may threaten with disaster,
 It cannot rob me of my cheer,
 For he who is of death the master
 With help and strength is always near.
Refrain

10 This feast is manna, wealth abounding
 Unto the poor, to weak ones pow'r,
 To angels joy, to hell confounding,
 And life for me in death's dark hour.
Refrain

15 My heart has now become your dwelling,
 O blessed, holy Trinity.
 With angels I, your praises telling,
 Shall live in joy eternally.
Refrain

PRAYER FOR PEACE

P: Lord God, all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works come from you. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments. Defend us also from the fear of our enemies that we may live in peace and quietness, through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

BLESSING



M: The grace of our Lord + Je - sus Christ and the love of God



and the fellowship of the Holy Spir - it be with you all.



C: A - men.

CLOSING HYMN: *CW 98* (v. 6)
(Music on previous page)

“Jesus, I Will Ponder Now”

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.

Text: Sigmund von Birken, 1626–81; tr. August Crull, 1845–1923, alt.
Tune: JESU KREUZ, LEIDEN UND PEIN (76 76 D Trochaic) Melchior Vulpus, c. 1570–1615, alt.

Officiants

Accompanist: Mona Vitale
Liturgist: Pastor Ross Ulrich
Preacher: Pastor Nate Fager