

**HIS
FINAL
STEPS**

*Sixth Wednesday in Lent
His Final Steps Led to a Fig Tree*

St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church | *Jordan, Minnesota*

March 29, 2023

WELCOME TO WORSHIP

Welcome and thank you for joining us for worship today! In our service we gather before our almighty and saving God to offer him our worship and praise. We also assemble to hear God’s holy and powerful word and celebrate his life-giving sacraments. Through these means, God strengthens our faith and walks us ever closer to our eternal home with him.

SERIES THEME

“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.

Chaplain..... Ed Fredrich, The Lutheran Home, Belle Plaine, MN

Acknowledgments

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409 Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

CW 409

Stand

Opening Sentences

CW 215

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
the light no darkness can overcome.

Stay with us, Lord, for it is evening,
and the day is almost over.

Be our light and scatter the darkness,
and hear our evening prayer and praise.

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Hymn of Light

CW 216



1 Glad - d'ning light of pur - est glo - ry, shin - ing
2 In the fad - ing light of eve - ning, as the
3 For your gift of life un - end - ing, joy - ful



down from heav'n on high, from the ev - er -
set - ting sun de - parts, Fa - ther, Son, and
voic - es ev - er sing hymns of praise that



liv - ing Fa - ther— hail, most bless - ed Je - sus Christ!
Ho - ly Spir - it— we a - dore you, Lord our God.
right - ly hon - or, Son of God, your sav - ing name.

Text: Michael D. Schultz

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Blessed are you, O Lord our God, King of the universe, who led your people Israel with a pillar of cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ. May his Word be a lamp to our feet and a light to our path, for you are merciful and you love your whole creation. We, your creatures, glorify you—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Be seated

Psalm 141

CW 217



Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense, the lift - ing up
of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice. O Lord, I
call to you; come to me quick - ly; hear my voice when I
cry to you. Let my prayer rise be - fore you as in - cense,
the lift - ing up of my hands as the eve - ning sac - ri - fice.

Tune: David Schack

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Let the incense of our prayers rise before you, O Lord, and let your mercy descend on us, that we may sing your praises with the Church on earth and forever in heaven; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

4 Answer Me When I Call

Psalm 4

Grant peace to your people, Lord, that amid the stresses of life, we may rest quietly, knowing all is right with you. Since your Son has paid for every sin, defeated every enemy, and rules at the right hand of your throne in heaven, let us fall asleep each night in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Passion History Lesson

Matthew 27:27-66

After the reading:

The Word of the Lord

Thanks be to God.

723 When in the Hour of Utmost Need

CW 723

Sermon

His Final Steps Led to a Fig Tree

Reading

Mark 11:12–14, 20–25

The next day, after they had set out from Bethany, Jesus was hungry. When he saw a fig tree in leaf in the distance, he went to see if he might find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, since it was not the season for figs. Jesus said to it, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again!” And his disciples were listening. As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered down to the roots. Peter remembered and said, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered.” Jesus replied, “Have faith in God. Amen I tell you: Whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. Therefore I tell you, everything that you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.

Song of Mary

CW 220

My soul pro-claims the great-ness of the Lord; my spir-it re-
 joic-es in God my Sav-ior, for he has looked with fa-vor
 on his low-ly ser-vant. From this day all gen-er-a-tions
 will call me bless-ed. The Al-might-y has done great
 things for me, and ho-ly is his name. He has mer-cy on
 those who fear him in ev-'ry gen-er-a-tion.
 He has shown the strength of his arm; he has scat-tered the
 proud in their con-ceil. He has cast down the might-y

from their thrones and has lift - ed up the low - ly.
 He has filled the hun - gry with good things, and the rich
 he has sent a - way emp - ty. He has come to the
 help of his ser - vant Is - ra - el, for he has re - mem - bered his
 prom - ise of mer - cy, the prom - ise made to our fa - thers,
 to A - bra - ham, and to his chil - dren for - ev - er. A - men.

Tune: Kurt J. Eggert

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Be seated

The Offering

During the offering, please fill out the Friendship Register in the pew and pass it down to those sitting next to you.

Stand

Lord, Have Mercy

CW 221

In peace let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace from above and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For this holy house and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For the leaders of our synod and district, for all pastors in Christ, for all who are servants of the Church, and for all the people of God, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For all who govern our nation and for all public servants, that they may be upheld and strengthened for every good deed, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For those who work to bring peace, justice, health, and protection in this and every place, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For those who bring offerings, those who do good works in this congregation, those who toil, those who sing, and all who await from the Lord great and abundant mercy, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For favorable weather, for an abundance of the fruits of the earth, and for peaceful times, let us pray to the Lord:

Lord, have mercy.

For our deliverance from all affliction, wrath, danger, and need, let us pray to the Lord:
Lord, have mercy.

For the faithful who have gone before us and are with Christ, let us give thanks to the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

Silence for individual prayer may follow.

Rejoicing in the fellowship of all the saints, let us commend ourselves, one another, and our whole life to Christ our Lord:
to you, O Lord.

Prayer

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.

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.**

Benedicamus

Let us praise the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

Blessing

The grace of our Lord † Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all.
Amen.

Be seated

595 Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing

CW 595

OUR GREATEST NEEDS

What do you really need right now? To answer that question, one must first define what a “need” is. We understand that a “need” is greater than a “want.” If you lack something you want, life goes on just fine. If you lack something you need, that presents a problem. Thus, to correctly answer that question, “What do you really need right now,” ultimately one must understand their greatest problems.

Mankind’s greatest problems are universal. We all live under the curse of sin. That sin makes us utterly helpless in our natural state. Natural man is confused, unable to make sense of life. Left in sin, man is doomed to death, and not just physical death. After one’s heart stops comes another type of death that is infinitely worse, an eternal nightmare.

Lent is the season of the Church Year where we wrestle with our greatest needs. Lent also demonstrates that in Christ, all our greatest needs are met. Here is what the Spirit makes clear this season. If you lack Christ, you have nothing. If you have Christ, you have everything you truly need.

April 4 Passion Sunday - A Greater Type of King

April 6 Holy Thursday - Blessed Communion

April 7 Good Friday - The Perfect Sacrifice



Built on the Solid Rock of Jesus Christ and his Word,
we celebrate the blessing of our church building where
we nurture his saints in his Word. Support the
campaign to retire our debt!