



HIS FINAL STEPS

**Led to
Some Greeks**

March 21, 2023



Fifth Midweek
of Lent

WELCOME, GUESTS!!! We are so glad you came! If you have any questions or would like more information about our church, any member of Grace would be happy to speak with you. Please take the time to fill out the guest register in the church's entrance. Restrooms are located to the left as you exit the sanctuary. Congregational responses are indicated by indent and boldened letters.

The overall theme for the 2023 Lenten sermons is "His Final Steps." The series 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.

ORDER OF SERVICE: THE OFFICE OF COMPLINE – CLOSE OF THE DAY, P. 128 (ELH)

The Lord Almighty grant us a quiet night and peace as it ends.

Amen.

Our help is in the name of the Lord:

Who made heaven and earth.

Restore us again, O God of our salvation.

And put away your anger towards me.

Come quickly and save me O God, to deliver me.

Come quickly to help me, O Lord. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, now and forevermore. Amen.

Silence for Meditation

CONFESSION OF SINS

Almighty God, heavenly Father: I have sinned against you through my own fault, in thought, word, and actions. For the sake of the suffering, death, and resurrection of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on me, forgive me all my sin, and bring me to everlasting life.

Almighty God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, does not desire the death of sinners but rather that they turn from their wickedness and live.

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.

Amen.

HYMN:

#397

JUST AS I AM, WITHOUT ONE PLEA

1 Just as I am, with - out one plea
 2 Just as I am and wait - ing not
 3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout
 4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind;
 5 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive,

But that thy blood was shed for me
 To rid my soul of one dark blot,
 With man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt,
 Sight, rich - es, heal - ing of the mind,
 Wilt wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve;

And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
 To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
 Fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
 Yea, all I need, in thee to find,
 Be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,

O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; thy love unknown
 Has broken ev'ry barrier down.
 Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
 O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

Text: Charlotte Elliott, 1789–1871.
 Tune: WOODWORTH (LM) William B. Bradbury, 1816–68.

PSALM FOR THE EVENING

PSALM 30

****Spoken Responsively****

I will exalt you, O Lord, because you lifted me up.*

You did not let my enemies rejoice over me.

O Lord my God, I cried out to you,*

And you healed me.

Lord, you snatched my life from the grave.*

You kept me alive so I did not go down into the pit.

Make music to the Lord, you his favored ones,*

And give thanks when you remember his holiness.

For we spend a moment under his anger, but we enjoy a lifetime in his favor.”*

In the evening, weeping comes to stay through the night, but in the morning, there is rejoicing!

But I—I said in my security, *

“I will never be knocked down.”

Lord, in your favor you made strength stand like a mountain for me.*

Then you hid your face. I was terrified.

To you, O Lord, I call.*

To the Lord I cry for mercy:

“What gain is there in shedding my blood, in sending me down to destruction?*

Will dust praise you? Will it proclaim your truth?

Lord, hear and be merciful to me.*

Lord, be a helper for me.”

You turned my mourning into dancing.*

You removed my sackcloth and clothed me with joy,

So that my whole being may make music to you and not be silent.*

O Lord my God, I thank you forever.

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 more. Amen

Psalm Prayer

When I was in the pit of despair, Lord, you lifted me out. Though your anger blazed down on me because of my sin, you sent your Son to take the brunt of your anger so that I might be spared. Now I rejoice in the splendor of your grace and proclaim your saving deeds to those who will yet praise you as their only Savior. Amen.

PASSION READING:

LESSON FIVE

SERMON HYMN:

#715

WHAT GRACE IS THIS!

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. What grace is this! My Lord and King
Has set his face to suffering
My God eternal dies to bring
Eternal life to me. | 2. What grace is this- That very God
Would stoop to lift a cross of wood
And walk a road of rock and blood,
A sinner's road, for me. |
| 3. What grace is this! Though Lord of all,
He yields to Pontius Pilate's law
And lets the Roman hammers draw
A rush of blood for me. | 4. What grace is this! Rude agonies!
With common thieves he hangs and bleeds.
The sinless Son bears each misdeed.
He pays for all, for me. |

- | | |
|---|---------------------------------------|
| 5. What grace is this! Once wrapped in cloths | 6. What grace is this! How can it be? |
| And gently laid in manger-trough, | He wears this raw humility |
| He's taken dead, from wretched cross | To lift me to eternity. |
| And wrapped again for me. | Such grace-sweet grace-for me. |

SERMON:

Led to Some Greeks

SERMON TEXT

JOHN 12: 20 – 33

Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Festival. They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we want to see Jesus.” Philip went to tell Andrew. Andrew came with Philip and told Jesus. Jesus answered them, “The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. 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. 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. 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.

“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. Father, glorify your name!” A voice came from heaven: “I have glorified my name, and I will glorify it again.” The crowd standing there heard it and said it thundered. Others said an angel talked to him. Jesus answered, “This voice was not for my sake but for yours. “Now is the judgment of this world. Now the ruler of this world will be thrown out. And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” He said this to indicate what kind of death he was going to die.

OFFERING – THE OFFERING PLATE WILL BE PASSED AT THIS TIME. GUESTS AND VISITORS--SHOULD YOU BE INCLINED TO GIVE, WE THANK YOU! KNOW THIS SERVICE IS OUR GIFT TO YOU.

Please Stand

RESPONSORY PRAYER

Gracious Lord, according to your will and promise,

you sent your Son into our world to atone for sin and restore eternal life.

You planned his path to the cross,

and he followed it perfectly.

He confronted the blindness of unbelief, the confusion of doubt, and the hurt of death

but was not deterred as he proclaimed your kingdom to the least, the last, and the lost.

As we hear and contemplate the holy record of our Savior’s passion and death,

use the sharp message of the law to empty us of pride and self-reliance.

Humble us as we view the Savior in his humility,

remembering and believing that he endured the cross so we might be freed from its horror.

In his suffering show us our healing,

in his grief show us our joy,

and in his death show us our life.

Hear our prayers, Lord, for the sake of Jesus. 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.

Preserve us, O Lord, while waking, and guard us while sleeping, that we may watch with Christ, and asleep we may rest in peace.

SONG OF SIMEON



C: Lord, now you let your servant de - part in peace ac-cord-ing
to your word. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have pre-
pared be - fore the face of all people, a light to light - en the
Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.

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.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ (†) the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit abide with you into this night and forever into eternity.



C: A - men.

CLOSING HYMN

#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?

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Easter Lilies – Thank you everyone who signed up for Easter Lilies, last week we had 22 lilies committed for our Easter celebration. If you missed signing up to bring them you can still bring one, all lilies need to be at church on April 8 we will be setting up church from 4 – 5:00 pm. If that does not work you can still bring them Easter morning. Once again thank you our Grace family.

Lenten Services –We will worship on **TUESDAYS** at 7:00 pm, Sunday services for Palm Sunday and Easter will remain at 10:30 am with no Sunday School on Easter:

March 28: **Midweek 6**..... His Final Steps Led to His Enemies..... Luke 20:9-19

April 2: **Palm Sunday** His Final Steps Led to a Donkey Matthew 21:1-11

April 6: **Maundy Thursday**: His Final Steps Led to the Upper Room Mark 14:12-17

April 7: **Good Friday** His Final Steps Led to the Place of the Skull Luke 23:26-33

April 9: **Easter Sunday**..... His *First* Steps Led Outside His Tomb John 20:11-18

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