

March 15, 2023



Midweek Lent #4

~ His Final Steps...Led to a Fig Tree ~



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www.salemlutheran.org

Midweek Lent #4

Welcome! Thank you for joining us for worship today. In our services we gather before our almighty God to receive his gifts and to offer him our worship and praise. Through God's powerful Word and sacraments he renews our faith and strengthens us to serve him and others in joy.

THEME OF THE DAY: Our midweek Lent series theme is ***His Final Steps***. The series ponders key moments from the account of Jesus' passion that demonstrate the thorough completeness of his saving work for us, the breadth and depth of his love for us, and the strength of his union with us.

Tonight we welcome Pastor Tim Otto as our guest preacher. Pastor Otto serves our sister church, St. John Lutheran, in St. Paul. We are grateful for his work to share God's Word with us tonight.

SERVING GOD, SERVING US:

Preacher: Pastor Tim Otto (St. John, St. Paul)

Piano: Jessica Klatt

Order of Worship



Preservice Music & Words of Welcome

Please remain seated.

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

C: Amen.

M: It is good to give thanks to the Lord,

C: To sing praise to your name, O Most High;

M: To herald your love in the morning,

C: Your truth at the close of day.

M: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

C: Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS OF SINS

M: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **Who made heaven and earth.**

M: Let us confess our sins to the Lord.

C: **I confess to God Almighty, before the whole company of heaven,
And to you, my brothers and sisters,
That I have sinned in thought, word, and deed.**

By my fault,

By my own fault,

By my own grievous fault.

For this I pray to God Almighty to have mercy on me.

Forgive all my sins,

And bring me to everlasting life.

M: 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.

C: **Amen.**

(4pm) Children's Anthem

Part of the Plan

Salem School 2nd-4th Grade

'Twas all part of the plan, since first the world began:
That on the tree He died for me. 'Twas all part of the plan!

'Twas all destined to be, by God's divine decree:
His life He gave, our souls, to save. 'Twas all destined to be!

For God ordained from long ago that Christ the Lord should suffer so,
That by His death the world would know the glory of His rising.

So come now and be glad! Why should your heart be sad?
For God's own Son the vict'ry won. 'Twas all part of the plan,
Part of the plan, part of the Lord's eternal plan!



1 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's sow - ing, may we rip - en
2 Lad - en branch - es free - ly bear - ing gifts the Giv - er
3 Root - ed deep in Christ our Mas - ter, Christ our pat - tern
4 Fruit - ful trees, the Spir - it's tend - ing, may we grow till



and in - crease, fruit to life e - ter - nal grow - ing,
loves to bless; here is fruit that grows by shar - ing,
and our goal, teach us, as the years fly fast - er,
har - vests cease; till we taste, in life un - end - ing,



rich in love and joy and peace.
pa - tience, kind - ness, gen - tle - ness.
good - ness, faith, and self - con - trol.
heav - en's love and joy and peace.

Sermon Text

Mark 11:12-14, 20-25

¹²The next day as they were leaving Bethany, Jesus was hungry. ¹³Seeing in the distance a fig tree in leaf, he went to find out if it had any fruit. When he reached it, he found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it.

²⁰In the morning, as they went along, they saw the fig tree withered from the roots. ²¹Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!"

²²"Have faith in God," Jesus answered. ²³"Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them. ²⁴Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. ²⁵And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

Sermon

"His final steps led to a fig tree"

Please remain seated after the sermon.

Offering



Our members give offerings to support God's work in our church. Offerings can be put in the basket or made online by scanning the code. Visitors may give, but aren't expected to.

We ask members and visitors alike to fill out the connection card and place it in the basket now or as you leave. Please share your prayer requests that we can pray for you.



Handbell Offertory

Go to Dark Gethsemane

Prayer of the Church

Lord's Prayer

A musical score for the Lord's Prayer in G major, 4/4 time. It consists of six staves of music with lyrics underneath. The lyrics are: "Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your name, your king - dom come, your will be done on earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins, as we for - give those who sin a - gainst us. Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de -".

Our Fa - ther in heav - en, hal - lowed be your
name, your king - dom come, your will be done on
earth as in heav - en. Give us to - day our
dai - ly bread. For - give us our sins, as
we for - give those who sin a - gainst us.
Lead us not in - to temp - ta - tion, but de -



Blessing

M: The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and ✠ give you peace.

C: Amen.

Hymn: Jesus, Refuge of the Weary

CW 409





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!

After the hymn, the congregation and pastor read the Passion History responsively.

THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Part #3— *Before the High Priest*

PASTOR: They brought Jesus first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Simon Peter and another disciple were following Jesus. Because this disciple was known to the high priest, he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard, but Peter had to wait outside at the door. The other disciple, who was known to the high priest, came back, spoke to the girl on duty there, and brought Peter in. It was cold, and the servants and officials stood around a fire they had made to keep warm. Peter entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome. Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. Jesus replied,

CONGREGATION: "I have spoken openly to the world. I always taught in synagogues or at the temple, where all the Jews come together. I said nothing in secret. Why question me? Ask those who heard me. Surely they know what I said."

PASTOR: When Jesus had said this, one of the officials nearby struck him in the face. He demanded, "Is that any way to answer the high priest?" Jesus replied,

CONGREGATION: "If I said something wrong, testify as to what is wrong. But if I spoke the truth, why did you hit me?"

PASTOR: Then Annas had Jesus sent, still bound, to Caiaphas the high priest. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would be good if one man died for the people. The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree. Finally, two came forward and declared,

CONGREGATION: "We heard him say, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days. I will destroy this man-made temple and in three days will build another, not made by man.' "

PASTOR: Yet even then their testimony did not agree. Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer. Again the high priest asked him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God." Jesus replied,

CONGREGATION: "Yes, it is as you say. But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

PASTOR: Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?"

They all condemned him as worthy of death. Some began to spit on him. They blindfolded him, and struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy to us, Christ. Who hit you?" They said many other insulting things to him and the guards took him and beat him.

While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him and said,

WOMEN: "You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus. Are you not one of this man's disciples?"

PASTOR: But he denied it before them all,

MEN: "I don't know or understand what you're talking about."

PASTOR: Then he went out to the gateway. When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around,

WOMEN: "This fellow is one of them."

PASTOR: Again he denied it, with an oath,

MEN: "I don't know the man!"

PASTOR: About an hour later another asserted, "Certainly this fellow was with him, for he is a Galilean." One of the high priest's servants, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, challenged him, "Didn't I see you with him in the olive grove?" Then Peter began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them,

MEN: "I don't know what you're talking about."

PASTOR: Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. And the Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: "Before the rooster crows today, you will disown me three times." And he went outside, broke down, and wept bitterly.

Very early in the morning, the chief priests with the elders, the teachers of the law, and the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate, the governor.

When Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he was seized with remorse and returned the thirty silver coins to the chief priests and the elders. He said, "I have sinned, for I have betrayed innocent blood." They replied,

CONGREGATION: "What is that to us? That's your responsibility."

PASTOR: So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself. The chief priests picked up the coins and said,

CONGREGATION: "It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money."

PASTOR: So they decided to use the money to buy the potter's field as a burial place for foreigners. That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken by Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

CONGREGATION: "They took the thirty silver coins, the price set on him by the people of Israel, and they used them to buy the potter's field, as the Lord commanded me."

(Verses compiled from the New International Version)

After the reading, the congregation joins in the seasonal response.

C: All we, like sheep, have gone astray. Each of us has turned to his own way, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. By his wounds, we are healed.

Silence for meditation.

Silent Prayer and Announcements

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Our special midweek services during the season of Lent will continue next week. Guest pastors from sister WELS churches join us as we journey to the cross with Christ and look at some of the destinations on **His Final Steps**. Each Wednesday, we hold services at 4pm & 7pm, with a fellowship meal served from 5-6:30pm. Past services can be accessed at our website: www.salemlutheran.org/worship.

His Final Steps...

Wednesday, Feb 22 — ...Led to a Dinner Celebration

Wednesday, March 1st — ...Led to a Tomb

Wednesday, March 8th — ...Led to His Enemies

Wednesday, March 15th — ...Led to a Fig Tree

Wednesday, March 22nd — ...Led to Some Greeks

Wednesday, March 29th—...Led to His Father's House

Sunday, April 2nd — (Palm Sunday) ...Led to a Donkey

Holy Thursday, April 6th — ...Led to the Upper Room

Good Friday, April 7th — ...Led to the Place of the Skull

Easter Sunday Dawn, April 9th (7am) — Hymns and Communion

Easter Sunday Festival, April 9th (8 & 10:45am) —

His *First Steps* Led Outside His Tomb

PREPARING FOR Easter

Easter for Kids

Salem's Easter for Kids program is coming up on the Saturday of Easter weekend (April 8th) from 10am–12pm. Parents are invited to stay and “travel” with their kids to different stations as Salem members share the joy of Easter with adults and kids alike. Easter for Kids is open to all children up to 5th grade. Easter for Kids is a great chance for the unchurched to learn about our Savior too. Invite a friend! Register to attend on our website at www.salemlutheran.org/easter.



Easter Breakfast

Each year Salem members enjoy an Easter breakfast together as part of our Easter celebration. We will continue this tradition this year! Please find the signup poster on the board in the church entry to see what items we need this year and ways to help. Thank you for serving and making our Easter joy a little brighter!



Easter Worship

Salem will celebrate Easter victory with three services on Easter Sunday morning. A sunrise service at 7am will be different from the other services, with readings and hymns reminding us of the wonder of the women's discovery of the empty tomb early Easter morning. Holy Communion will be offered in this quieter celebration of Easter victory.

Festival services at 9am & 10:45am will bring out our full-throated exultation as we celebrate loudly the meaning of Jesus' resurrection for every believer. Choirs will sing, trumpets will play, and handbells may even ring as the church rejoices in Easter triumph. Holy Communion will be offered in the festival services as well. Join us for one or more services Easter Sunday, and invite a friend to celebrate with you.

Welcome to worship!

FOR OUR GUESTS

We are glad that you joined us to worship our Savior today. If you have questions about our church or service simply ask an usher or someone near you. We're happy to help. Please take note of a few helpful things:

- † **Restrooms** are located straight down the hall opposite the sanctuary entrance. Both men's and women's restrooms are equipped with **diaper changing tables** for your convenience.
- † Our sanctuary is equipped with an amplified "loop" system for **hearing assistance**. Please set hearing aids to the "T" position.
- † You will find a **connection card** in your pew. We ask members and guests to share their names and contact info, and invite you to share requests for contact or prayers.
- † Salem members give an **offering** to support the work we do for the Lord. Guests are not expected to give anything, but if you wish to make a donation you can place it in a basket as it's passed during the service or give online.

FOR THOSE WITH YOUNG CHILDREN

We love to see families worship together and we welcome children to sing and pray and grow with us in our services. Please note these special worship aids and helps for families:

- † Children's bulletins & "*quiet bags*" for your child's use in worship are available in the entry, just to the left of the office hallway. Ask an usher if you need help finding them.
- † If your child needs to be nursed or quieted for a few moments you can use our "*cry room*" down the hallway across from the restrooms. The service is shown live on a TV in the room.
- † Sunday mornings, before the hymn of the day and sermon, children of all ages are invited to come to the front of church for a short devotion on God's Word. Parents may accompany their children as they wish.

**Salem Lutheran Church exists to glorify God
by teaching his timeless Truth, that all may
grow in grace and faith to share tomorrow's eternity.**

