

March 22, 2023



## Midweek Lent #5

~ His Final Steps...Led to Some Greeks ~



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Midweek Lent #5

**W**elcome! 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 Tom Hartwig as our guest preacher. Pastor Hartwig serves our sister church, Grace Lutheran, in South St. Paul. We are grateful for his work to share God's Word with us tonight.

***SERVING GOD, SERVING US:***

Preacher: Pastor Tom Hartwig (Grace, South St. Paul)

Piano: Robyn Stoller

## 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.**

### Hymn: *I Run to Christ*

CW 833



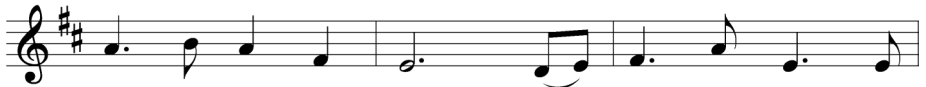
1	I	run	to Christ	when chased	by fear	and find	a ref - uge
2	I	run	to Christ	when worn	by life	and find	my soul re -
3	I	run	to Christ	when stalked	by sin	and find	a sure es -



sure.	“Be - lieve	in me,”	his voice	I hear;	his words	and
freshed.	“Come un -	to me,”	he calls	thro’ strife;	fa - tigue	gives
cape.	“De - liv - er	me,”	I cry	to him;	temp - ta - tion	



wounds	se - cure.	I	run	to Christ	when torn	by grief	and
way	to rest.	I	run	to Christ	when vexed	by hell	and
yields	to grace.	I	run	to Christ	when plagued	by shame	and



find a - bun - dant peace. "I too had tears," he  
 find a might - y arm. "The dev - il flees," the  
 find my one de - fense. "I bore God's wrath," he



gent - ly speaks; thus joy and sor - row meet.  
 Scrip - tures tell; he roars but can - not harm.  
 pleads my case— my ad - vo - cate and friend.

**Sermon Text**

*John 12:20-33*

<sup>20</sup>Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the festival. <sup>21</sup>They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup>Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

<sup>23</sup>Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified.

<sup>24</sup>Very truly I tell you, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. <sup>25</sup>Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life. <sup>26</sup>Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

<sup>27</sup>"Now my soul is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name!"

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified it, and will glorify it again."

<sup>29</sup>The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

<sup>30</sup>Jesus said, "This voice was for your benefit, not mine. <sup>31</sup>Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. <sup>32</sup>And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself." <sup>33</sup>He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

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.



## Prayer of the Church

### Lord’s Prayer

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 -



liv - er us from e - vil. For the king - dom, the  
pow - er, and the glo - ry are yours  
now and for - ev - er. A - men.

### 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, I Will Ponder Now

CW 420 sts. 1,3,6



1 Je - sus, I will pon - der now on your ho - ly pas - sion;  
3 Yet, O Lord, not thus a - lone make me see your pas - sion,  
6 Gra - cious - ly my faith re - new; help me bear my cross - es,  
with your Spir - it me en - dow for such med - i - ta - tion.  
but its cause to me make known and its ter - mi - na - tion.  
learn - ing hum - ble - ness from you, peace mid pain and loss - es.  
Grant that I in love and faith may the im - age cher - ish  
Ah! I al - so and my sin wrought your deep af - flic - tion;  
May I give you love for love! Hear me, O my Sav - ior,  
of your suf - f'ring, pain, and death that I may not per - ish.  
this in - deed the cause has been of your cru - ci - fix - ion.  
that I may in heav'n a - bove sing your praise for - ev - er.

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

## **THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

### **Part #4— On Trial Before Pilate**

**PASTOR:** The Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the palace of the Roman governor, Pontius Pilate. By now it was early morning, and to avoid ceremonial uncleanness the Jews did not enter the palace. They wanted to be able to eat the Passover. So Pilate came out to them and asked, "What charges are you bringing against this man?" They replied,

**CONGREGATION:** "If he were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you."

**PASTOR:** Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law." The Jews objected,

**CONGREGATION:** "But we have no right to execute anyone."

**PASTOR:** This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken indicating the kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled. Then the chief priests and elders began to accuse him, saying,

**CONGREGATION:** "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king."

**PASTOR:** Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?"

Jesus asked, "Is that your idea, or did others talk to you about me?"

Pilate replied, "Am I a Jew? It was your people and your chief priests who handed you over to me. What is it you have done?"

Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jews. But now my kingdom is from another place."

"You are a king, then!" said Pilate.

Jesus answered, "You are right in saying I am a king. In fact, for this reason I was born, and for this I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me."

"What is truth?" Pilate asked. With this he went out to the Jews, and announced to the chief priests and the crowd, "I find no basis for a charge against this man." The Jews insisted,

**CONGREGATION: "We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God."**

**PASTOR:** When Pilate heard this, he was even more afraid, and he went back inside the palace. "Where do you come from?" he asked Jesus, but Jesus gave him no answer. "Do you refuse to speak to me?" Pilate said. "Don't you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?"

Jesus answered, "You would have no power over me if it were not given to you from above. Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

**PASTOR:** From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free. But the Jews insisted,

**CONGREGATION: "He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here."**

**PASTOR:** On hearing this, Pilate asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that Jesus was under Herod's jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem at that time.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was greatly pleased, because for a long time he had been wanting to see him perform some miracle. He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the teachers of the law were standing there, vehemently accusing him. Then Herod and his soldiers ridiculed and mocked him. Dressing him in an elegant robe, they sent him back to Pilate.

**CONGREGATION: That day Herod and Pilate became friends - before this they had been enemies.**

**PASTOR:** Pilate called together the chief priests, the rulers and the people, and said to them, "You brought me this man as one who was inciting the people to rebellion. I have examined him in your presence and have found no basis for your charges against him. Neither has Herod, for he sent him back to us. As you can see, he has done nothing to deserve death. Therefore, I will punish him and then release him."

**MEN: Now it was the governor's custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas.**

**PASTOR:** So when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, "It is your custom for me to release to you one prisoner at the time of the Passover. Which one do



you want me to release to you? Barabbas, or Jesus who is called Christ?" For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.

While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent him this message:

**WOMEN:** "Don't have anything to do with that innocent man, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him."

**PASTOR:** But the chief priests and the elders stirred up the crowd and persuaded them to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

(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](http://www.salemlutheran.org/worship).

### **His Final Steps...**

**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

**HIS  
FINAL  
STEPS**

14940 62nd St N, Stillwater + [www.salemlutheran.org](http://www.salemlutheran.org) + 651-439-7831  
[church@salemlutheran.org](mailto:church@salemlutheran.org)

# 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](http://www.salemlutheran.org/easter).



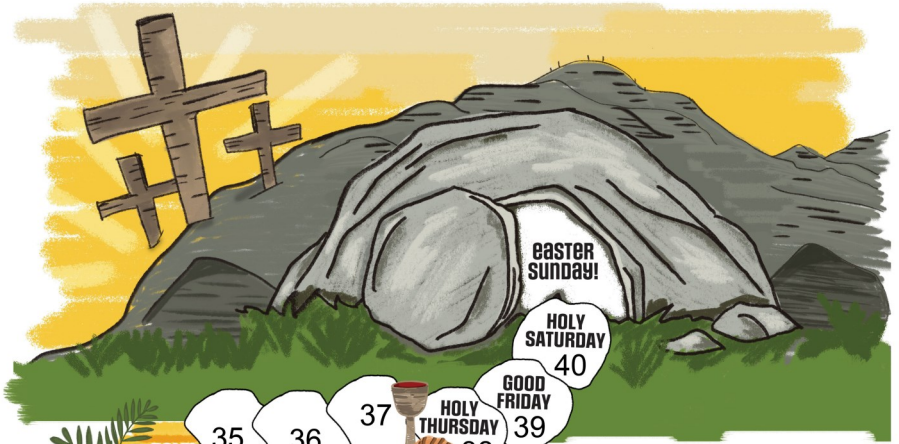
## Easter Breakfast

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.



40 days OF LENT

ASH WEDNESDAY 1

1ST SUNDAY

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Today →

5TH SUNDAY

4TH SUNDAY

3RD SUNDAY

Palm Sunday

HOLY THURSDAY 38

GOOD FRIDAY 39

HOLY SATURDAY 40

EASTER SUNDAY!

# *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.

