



# HIS FINAL STEPS

## Midweek Lent #6

His Final Steps...  
~ Led to His Father's House ~



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**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 John Berg as our guest preacher. Pastor Berg serves our sister church, Divinity Lutheran, in St. Paul. We are grateful for his work to share God's Word with us tonight.

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

Preacher: Pastor John Berg (Divinity, St. Paul)

Piano: Madison Boerner

## 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**

### **What Grace Is This?**

*Salem School 5th-8th Grade*

- 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 and gently laid in manger-trough,  
he's taken, dead, from wretched cross and wrapped again for me.
- 6 What grace is this? How can it be? He wears this raw humility  
to lift me to eternity. Such grace—sweet grace—for me.

(7pm) Hymn: *Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing*

CW 404



1 Je - sus, grant that balm and heal - ing in your ho - ly  
2 Should some lust or sharp temp - ta - tion fas - ci - nate my  
3 If the world my heart en - tic - es with the broad and  
4 Ev - 'ry wound that pains or grieves me by your wounds, Lord,  
5 O my God, my rock and tow - er, grant that in your



wounds I find, ev - 'ry hour that I am feel - ing pains of  
sin - ful mind, let me think a - bout your pas - sion, and new  
eas - y road, with se - duc - tive, sin - ful vic - es, let me  
is made whole; when I'm weak, your cross re - vives me, grant - ing  
death I trust, know - ing death has lost its pow - er since you



bod - y and of mind. Should some e - vil thought with - in  
cour - age I shall find. Or should Sa - tan press me hard,  
weigh the aw - ful load you were will - ing to en - dure.  
new life to my soul. Yes, your com - fort ren - ders sweet  
crushed it in the dust. Sav - ior, let your ag - o - ny



tempt my treach - 'rous heart to sin, show the per - il,  
let me then be on my guard, say - ing, "Christ for  
Help me flee all thoughts im - pure, mas - ter - ing each  
ev - 'ry bit - ter cup I meet; for your all - a -  
ev - er help and com - fort me; when I die be



and from sin - ning keep me ere its first be - gin - ning.  
me was wound - ed," that the tempt - er flee con - found - ed.  
wild temp - ta - tion, calm in prayer and med - i - ta - tion.  
ton - ing pas - sion has pro - cured my soul's sal - va - tion.  
my pro - tec - tion, light and life and res - ur - rec - tion.

## Sermon Text

Matthew 21:12-17

<sup>12</sup>Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves. <sup>13</sup>"It is written," he said to them, " 'My house will be called a house of prayer,' but you are making it 'a den of robbers.'"

<sup>14</sup>The blind and the lame came to him at the temple, and he healed them. <sup>15</sup>But when the chief priests and the teachers of the law saw the wonderful things he did and the children shouting in the temple courts, "Hosanna to the Son of David," they were indignant.

<sup>16</sup>"Do you hear what these children are saying?" they asked him.

"Yes," replied Jesus, "have you never read,

" 'From the lips of children and infants  
you, Lord, have called forth your praise'?"

<sup>17</sup>And he left them and went out of the city to Bethany, where he spent the night.

The Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

## Sermon

***"His final steps led to his Father's house"***

*Please remain seated after the sermon.*

## Offering



 Connect Card

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.



 Give Online

## 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: Glory Be to Jesus

CW 402 sts. 1-3,6



1 Glo - ry be to Je - sus, who in bit - ter pains  
2 Grace and life e - ter - nal in that blood I find;  
3 Blest through end - less a - ges be the pre - cious stream  
6 Lift we, then, our voic - es, swell the might - y flood;



poured for me the life - blood from his sa - cred veins.  
blest be his com - pas - sion, in - fi - nite - ly kind.  
which from end - less tor - ment did the world re - deem.  
loud - er still and loud - er praise the pre - cious blood!

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

## THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

### Part #5— To Calvary

**PASTOR:** “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” asked Pilate, the governor. With one voice the crowd cried out:

**CONGREGATION:** “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!”

**PASTOR:** Barabbas had been thrown into prison for an insurrection in the city, and for murder. Wanting to release Jesus, Pilate appealed to them again. But they kept shouting,

**CONGREGATION:** “Crucify him! Crucify him!”

**PASTOR:** For the third time he spoke to them: “Why? What crime has this man committed? I have found in him no grounds for the death penalty. Therefore, I will have him punished and then release him.” But the Jews kept shouting,

**CONGREGATION:** “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.”

**PASTOR:** When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge’s seat at a place known as the Stone Pavement. It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour. Pilate said to the Jews: “Here is your king.” But they shouted,

**CONGREGATION:** “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!”

**PASTOR:** “Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked.

**CONGREGATION:** “We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered.

**PASTOR:** When Pilate saw that he was getting nowhere, but that instead an uproar was starting, he took water and washed his hands in front of the crowd. He said: “I am innocent of this man’s blood. It is your responsibility!”

**CONGREGATION:** “Let his blood be on us and on our children!”

**PASTOR:** Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified. The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They stripped him and put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. “Hail, king of the Jews!” they said. They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. Falling on their knees they paid homage to him.

**CONGREGATION:** And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

**PASTOR:** As they led him away, they seized Simon of Cyrene, who was on his way in from the country, and put the cross on him and made him carry it behind Jesus. A large number of people followed him, including women who mourned and weiled for him. Jesus turned and said to them:

“Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep for yourselves and for your children. For the time will come when you will say,

‘Blessed are the barren women, the wombs that never bore  
and the breasts that never nursed!’

Then, ‘they will say to the mountains: “Fall on us!”  
and to the hills: “Cover us!”’

For if men do these things when the tree is green, what will happen when it is dry?”

Two other men, both criminals, were also led out with him to be executed. They came to a place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. There they crucified him, along with the criminals – one on his right, the other on his left. Jesus said,

**CONGREGATION:** “Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing.”

**PASTOR:** And they divided up his clothes by casting lots. Pilate had a notice prepared and fastened to the cross. It read, JESUS OF NAZARETH, THE KING OF THE JEWS. Many of the Jews read this sign, for the place where Jesus was crucified was



near the city, and the sign was written in Aramaic, Latin and Greek. The chief priests of the Jews protested to Pilate:

**CONGREGATION:** “Do not write, ‘The King of the Jews,’ but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews.”

**PASTOR:** Pilate answered, “What I have written, I have written.”

(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



### His Final Steps...

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

Holy Thursday, April 6th (7pm) — ...Led to the Upper Room

Good Friday, April 7th (10am & 7pm) — ...Led to the Place of the Skull

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

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

His *First Steps* Led Outside His Tomb

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# 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.



# ***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.**

