

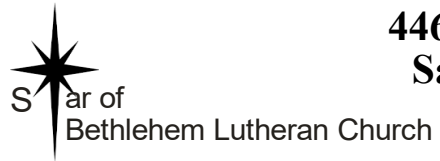
LENT

**Midweek
5**

**HIS
FINAL
STEPS**

... led to some Greeks ...





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Pastor Michael Foley

Worship Service

Wednesday, March 22, 2023 7:00 p.m.

LENTEN Vespers Lent Midweek 5

Evening Prayer

Vespers

OPENING HYMN: # 814 “Just as I Am, without One Plea”

**Just as I am, without one plea but that thy blood was shed for me
and that thou bidd’st me come to thee,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am and waiting not to rid my soul of one dark blot,
to thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, though tossed about
with many a conflict, many a doubt,
fightings and fears within, without,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, poor, wretched, blind;
sight, riches, healing of the mind,
yea, all I need, in thee to find, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

**Just as I am, thou wilt receive,
wilt welcome, pardon, cleanse, relieve;
because thy promise I believe, O Lamb of God, I come, I come.**

Please stand for last verse:

**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.**



M: O Lord, o - pen my lips.



C: And my mouth shall de - clare your praise.



M: Has - ten to save me, O God.



C: O Lord, come quick - ly to help me.



M: The Lord be with you.



C: And al - so with you.

M: Lord God, you have brought us safely to this hour of evening prayer. We thank you for providing all that we need for body and life. Bless us who have gathered in your name. Forgive our sins. Speak to our hearts. Dispel our sorrows with the comfort of your Word, and receive our hymns of thanks and praise, through Jesus Christ, our living Savior, who reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

C: 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.

M: Let our prayers be acceptable in your sight. Come and help us in time of need that we may sing your praise in holy joy now and forever, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: Amen.

PSALM 30

Refrain

At the works of your hands, O Lord, I
 lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

Psalm tone

*

**Sing to the LORD, you saints of his;*
praise his holy name.**

**For his anger lasts only a moment,*
but his favor lasts a lifetime;**

**weeping may remain for a night,*
but rejoicing comes in the morning.**

Refrain

**To you, O LORD, I called;*
to the Lord I cried for mercy.**

**Hear, O LORD, and be merciful to me;*
O LORD, be my help.**

**You turned my wailing into dancing,*
that my heart may sing to you and not be silent.**

**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. Amen.**

Refrain

M: 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 that 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.

C: Amen.

**THE PASSION HISTORY OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
LESSON FOUR**

As soon as it was day, the council of the elders of the people met together, both chief priests and experts in the law. They brought Jesus into their Sanhedrin and said, “If you are the Christ, tell us.”

But he said to them, “If I tell you, you will not believe, and if I ask you, you will not answer me or release me. But from now on, the Son of Man will be seated at the right hand of the power of God.”

They all said, “Are you then the Son of God?”

He said to them, “I am what you are saying.”

Then they said, “Why do we need any more testimony? For we ourselves have heard it from his own mouth!” Then the chief priests with the elders and experts in the law, together with the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pontius Pilate, the governor.

Then when Judas, who had betrayed him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he felt remorse. He brought back the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders and said, “I have sinned by betraying innocent blood.” But they said, “What is that to us? That’s your problem.”

He threw the pieces of silver into the temple and left. Then he went out and hanged himself. The chief priests took the pieces of silver and said, “It is not lawful to put these into the treasury, since it is blood money.” They reached a decision to buy the potter’s field with the money, as a burial place for foreigners. So that field has been called The Field of Blood to this day. Then what was spoken through Jeremiah the prophet was fulfilled:

They took the thirty pieces of silver, the price the sons of Israel had set for him, and they gave them for the potter’s field, just as the Lord commanded me.

Early in the morning, the Jews led Jesus from Caiaphas to the Praetorium. They did not enter the Praetorium themselves, so that they would not become ceremonially unclean. (They wanted to be able to eat the Passover meal.) So Pilate went out to them and said, “What charge do you bring against this man?”

They answered him, “If this man were not a criminal, we would not have handed him over to you.”

Pilate told them, “Take him yourselves and judge him according to your law.”

The Jews said, “It’s not legal for us to put anyone to death.” This happened so that the statement Jesus had spoken indicating what kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled.

They began to accuse him, saying, “We found this fellow misleading our nation, forbidding the payment of taxes to Caesar, and

saying that he himself is Christ, a king.”

Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

“It is as you say,” Jesus replied.

The chief priests accused him of many things. When he was accused by the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing.

Pilate questioned him again, “Are you not going to answer anything? See how many charges they are bringing against you!”

But Jesus still did not answer anything, so Pilate was amazed.

Pilate went back into the Praetorium and summoned Jesus. He asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

Jesus answered, “Are you saying this on your own, or did others tell you about me?”

Pilate answered, “Am I a Jew? Your own people and chief priests handed you over to me. What have you done?”

Jesus replied, “My kingdom is not of this world. If my kingdom were of this world, my servants would fight so that I would not be handed over to the Jews. But now my kingdom is not from here.”

“You are a king then?” Pilate asked.

Jesus answered, “I am, as you say, a king. For this reason I was born, and for this reason I came into the world, to testify to the truth. Everyone who belongs to the truth listens to my voice.”

“What is truth?” Pilate said to him.

After he said this, he went out again to the Jews and told them, “I find no basis for a charge against him.”

But they kept insisting, “He stirs up the people, teaching all through Judea, beginning from Galilee all the way here.”

When Pilate heard this, he asked if the man was a Galilean. When he learned that he was under Herod’s jurisdiction, he sent him to Herod, who was also in Jerusalem during those days.

When Herod saw Jesus, he was very glad. For a long time he had wanted to see him, because he had heard many things about him. He hoped to see some miracle performed by him. He questioned him with many words, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and the experts in the law stood there, vehemently accusing him. Herod, along with his soldiers, treated him with contempt and ridiculed him. Dressing him in bright clothing, Herod sent Jesus back to Pilate. Herod and Pilate became friends with each other on that day. Before this they had been enemies of each other.

HYMN: # 703 “I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say”

♪ I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Come unto me and rest;
lay down, O weary one, lay down your head upon my breast.”
I came to Jesus as I was, so weary, worn, and sad;
I found in him a resting place, and he has made me glad.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “Behold, I freely give
the living water, thirsty one; stoop down and drink and live.”
I came to Jesus, and I drank of that life-giving stream;
my thirst was quenched, my soul revived,
and now I live in him.

I heard the voice of Jesus say, “I am this dark world’s light.
Look unto me; your morn shall rise
and all your day be bright.”
I looked to Jesus, and I found in him my star, my sun;
and in that light of life I’ll walk till trav’ling days are done.

MESSAGE: John 12:20-33

²⁰Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Festival. ²¹They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, and asked him, “Sir, we want to see Jesus.” ²²Philip went to tell Andrew. Andrew came with Philip and told Jesus.

²³Jesus answered them, “The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴Amen, 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. ²⁵Anyone who loves his life destroys it. And the one who hates his life in this world will hold on to it for eternal life. ²⁶If 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.

²⁷“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.

²⁸Father, glorify your name!”

A voice came from heaven: “I have glorified my name, and I will glorify it again.”

²⁹The crowd standing there heard it and said it thundered. Others said an angel talked to him. ³⁰Jesus answered, “This voice was not for my sake but for yours.

³¹“Now is the judgment of this world. Now the ruler of this world will be thrown out. ³²And I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all people to myself.” ³³He said this to indicate what kind of death he was going to die.

HYMN: # 833 “I Run to Christ” *(alternate melody)*

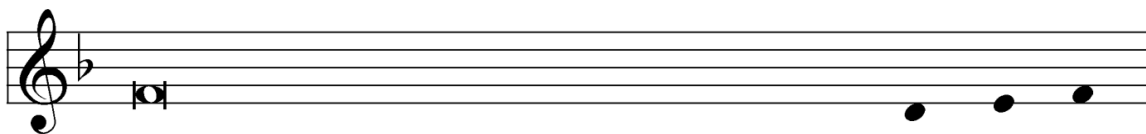
♪ I run to Christ when chased by fear and find a refuge sure.
“Believe in me,” his voice I hear; his words and wounds secure.
I run to Christ when torn by grief and find abundant peace.
“I too had tears,” he gently speaks; thus joy and sorrow meet.

I run to Christ when worn by life and find my soul refreshed.
“Come unto me,” he calls thro’ strife; fatigue gives way to rest.
I run to Christ when vexed by hell and find a mighty arm.
“The devil flees,” the Scriptures tell;
he roars but cannot harm.

I run to Christ when stalked by sin and find a sure escape.
“Deliver me,” I cry to him; temptation yields to grace.
I run to Christ when plagued by shame
and find my one defense.
“I bore God’s wrath,” he pleads my case —
my advocate and friend.

OFFERING

LORD, HAVE MERCY *Kyrie*



M: In the closing hours of this day, hear us as we pray, O Lord:



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: For the well-being of people everywhere, for the growth of your church in all the world, and for the strengthening of all who serve and worship here, we pray, O Lord:



C: Christ, have mer - cy.

M: For one another, young and old, for your blessings that come with every stage of life, and for joy in doing your will, we pray, O Lord:



C: Lord, have mer - cy.

M: For our public servants who work day and night to bring protection, justice, learning, and health to this and every place, we pray to you, O Lord:



C: Lord, hear our prayer.

M: For favorable weather and bountiful harvests, for clothing and food, for health of body, mind, and spirit, and for deliverance from all sin and every form of evil, we pray to you, O Lord:



C: Lord, hear our prayer.

M: For the faithful who have gone before us, who have shared with us your good news, whose souls are now at rest in your heavenly kingdom, we give you thanks, O Lord:



C: Thanks be to God.



CLOSING HYMN: # 784 "Now the Light Has Gone Away"

♪ Now the light has gone away; Father, listen while I pray,
asking you to watch and keep and to send me quiet sleep.

Jesus, Savior, wash away all that I've done wrong today.
Make me ever more like you, good and gentle, kind and true.

Let my near and dear ones be safe with you eternally.
O bring me and all I love to your happy home above.

Now my evening praise I give; you once died that I might live.
All your precious gifts are free— oh, how good you are to me!

Ah, my best and kindest Friend, you will love me to the end.
Let me love you more and more, always better than before.