

# HIS FINAL STEPS

## Led To Some Greeks

March 22, 2023

### Bells

### Order of Service

*Evening Devotion* | 244-245

### Opening Hymn

*Jesus, I Will Ponder Now* | 420

### Psalm

*Answer Me When I Call* | 4

**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.

### The Passion History

### Condemned and Crucified

“Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” asked the governor. With one voice they cried out, “Away with this man! Release Barabbas to us!” (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, “Crucify him! Crucify him!” Then Pilate took Jesus and had him flogged. The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. They put a purple robe on him, then wove a crown of thorns and set it on him. And they began to call out to him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they worshiped him. Once more Pilate came out and said to the Jews, “Look, I am bringing him out to you to let you know that I find no basis for a charge against him.”

When Jesus came out wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe, Pilate said to them, “Here is the man!” As soon as the chief priests and their officials saw him, they shouted, “Crucify! Crucify!” But Pilate answered, “You take him and crucify him. As for me, I find no basis for a charge against him.” The Jews insisted, “We have a law, and according to that law he must die, because he claimed to be the Son of God.” 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 asked. “Don’t you realize I have power either to free you or to crucify you?” Jesus answered, “You have no power over me that was not given to you from above.

Therefore the one who handed me over to you is guilty of a greater sin.” From then on, Pilate tried to set Jesus free. But the Jews kept shouting, “If you let this man go, you are no friend of Caesar’s. Anyone who claims to be a king opposes Caesar.” When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus out and sat down on the judge’s seat at a place known as The Stone Pavement (which in Aramaic is Gabbatha). It was the day of Preparation of Passover Week, about the sixth hour. “Here is your king,” Pilate said to the Jews. But they shouted, “Take him away! Take him away! Crucify him!” “Shall I crucify your king?” Pilate asked. “We have no king but Caesar,” the chief priests answered. 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. “I am innocent of this man’s blood,” he said. “It is your responsibility!” All the people answered, “Let his blood be on us and on our children!”

Then he released Barabbas to them and handed Jesus over to be crucified. The soldiers took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. As they led him away, they seized Simon from 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 wailed 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 him 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, "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing."

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, "Do not write, 'The King of the Jews,' but that this man claimed to be king of the Jews." Pilate answered, "What I have written, I have written."

The word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### Hymn

*I Heard the Voice of Jesus Say* | 703

### Sermon Text

John 12:20-33

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, and asked him, "Sir, we want to see Jesus." <sup>22</sup>Philip went to tell Andrew. Andrew came with Philip and told Jesus.

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

<sup>24</sup>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. <sup>25</sup>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. <sup>26</sup>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.

<sup>27</sup>"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. <sup>28</sup>Father, glorify your name!"

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

<sup>29</sup>The crowd standing there heard it and said it thundered. Others said an angel talked to him. <sup>30</sup>Jesus answered, "This voice was not for my sake but for yours. <sup>31</sup>"Now is the judgment of this world. Now the ruler of this world will be thrown 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 indicate what kind of death he was going to die.

The Gospel of the Lord.

**Praise be to you, O Christ.**

### **"His Final Steps Led To Some Greeks"**

*Pastor Bobby Oberg*

### **Grade 6 in 3:30 service**

*"His Cross, My Life"*

By Mary Dorn Lippert

Wounds in the Savior's side, caused by my sin. Suffered so I could hide safely within.

On yesterday's cross, death was the loss; new life is mine today.

He stood where I should be: felon at large. He paid my penalty, guilty as charged.

On yesterday's cross, guilt was the loss; freedom is mine today.

His crime, my shame. His guilt, my blame. His bonds, my chain. Jesus Christ.

Jesus will always give courage to be stronger than threats that live all around me.

On yesterday's cross, fear was the loss; all things are mine today.

### **Gathering of Our Offering**

### **Lord Have Mercy & Prayer for Peace**

*page 245*

### **Lord's Prayer** (*sung*)

*page 230*

### **Blessing**

### **Closing Hymn**

*Just as I Am, without One Plea* | 814

**Organist**  
Pam Zuberbier