

HIS FINAL STEPS

Led to His Father's House

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

March 8, 2023

Preservice: 4th Grade Recorders in 3:30

Bells

Order of Service

Evening Devotion | 244-245

Opening Hymn

Jesus, Grant That Balm and Healing | 404

Psalm

O Lord, Our Lord | 8

Psalm Prayer: God our Father, we praise your name for the marvelous universe you have created, and we pray for humility to understand our role in it. Show us that your Son is the only man who can rule this world with true wisdom and power. Give us full confidence that all things are under the control of Christ, who lives and rules with you and the Holy Spirit as one God, now and forever. Amen.

The Passion History

Trial and Denial

Then the detachment of soldiers with its commander and the Jewish officials bound Jesus and brought him first to Annas, who was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, the high priest that year. Caiaphas was the one who had advised the Jews that it would

be good if one man died for the people. 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 also was standing with them, warming himself. Meanwhile, the high priest questioned Jesus about his disciples and his teaching. "I have spoken openly to the world," Jesus replied. "I always taught in the 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." When Jesus had said this, one of the officials nearby struck him in the face. "Is that any way to answer the high priest?" he demanded. "If I said something wrong," Jesus replied, "speak up about it. But if I spoke the truth, why did you hit me?"

Then Annas sent him, still bound, to Caiaphas, the high priest. 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. Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: "We heard him say, 'I will destroy this man-made temple and in three days will build another, not made by man!' 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 him no answer.

Again the high priest asked him, "Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One?" "I am," said Jesus. "And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven." The high priest tore his clothes. "Why do we need any more witnesses?" he asked. "You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?" They all condemned him as worthy of death. Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, "Prophecy! Who hit you?" 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. "You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus," she said. But he denied it. "I don't know or understand what you're talking about," he said, and went out into the entryway. Just as he was speaking, the rooster crowed. When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, "This fellow is one of them." Again he denied it.

After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them, for you are 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 he began to call down curses on himself, and he swore to them, “I don’t know this man you’re talking about.” Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. The Lord turned and looked straight at Peter. Then Peter remembered the word the Lord had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows twice, you will disown me three times.” And he went outside 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. When Judas, who 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. “I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.” “What is that to us?” they replied, “That’s your responsibility.” 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, “It is against the law to put this into the treasury, since it is blood money.” 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: “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.”

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Christ Is the World’s Light | 515

Sermon Text

Matthew 21:12-17

Jesus entered the temple courts and drove out all those who were selling and buying in the temple. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the seats of those who were selling doves. ¹³He said to them, “It is written, ‘My house will be called a house of prayer,’ but you are making it a den of robbers!”

¹⁴The blind and the lame came to him in the temple, and he healed them.

¹⁵But when the chief priests and the experts in the law saw the wonders he performed and heard the children calling out in the temple, “Hosanna to the Son of David!” they were indignant. ¹⁶They said to him, “Do you hear what they are saying?”

Jesus told them, “Yes. Have you never read, From the lips of little children and nursing babies you have prepared praise?”

¹⁷He left them, went out of the city to Bethany, and spent the night there.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

“His Final Steps Led to His Father’s House”

Pastor Ian Headrick

Grade 4 in 3:30 service

“There Is a Green Hill Far Away”

by Cecil Alexander arr. G.A. Hennig

There is a green hill far away, Outside a city wall,
Where our dear Lord was crucified, And died to save us all.
We may not know, we cannot tell, What pains he had to bear,
But we believe it was for us He hung and suffered there.
He died that we might be forgiv’n Washed in a cleansing flood
That we might go at last to heav’n Saved by his precious blood,
Oh, dearly, deeply has he loved; Therefore we love him too,
We trust in his redeeming blood, And live his work to do.

Gathering of Our Offering

Lord Have Mercy & Prayer for Peace

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Lord’s Prayer (*sung*) please join with the choir/soloist

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Blessing

Closing Hymn

Glory Be to Jesus | 402

Organist: Pam Zuberbier