

HIS FINAL STEPS

St. Peter's Lutheran Church

March 15, 2023

His Final Steps Led To a Fig Tree

March 15, 2023

Bells

Order of Service

Evening Devotion | 244-245

Opening Hymn

Fruitful Trees, the Spirit's Sowing | 595

Psalm

Be Merciful, O Lord | 51

Psalm Prayer: Grant peace to your people, Lord, that amid the stresses of life, we may rest quietly, knowing all is right with you. Since your Son has paid for every sin, defeated every enemy, and rules at the right hand of your throne in heaven, let us fall asleep each night in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Passion History

He Suffered Under Pontius Pilate

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?" "If he were not a criminal," they replied, "we would not have handed him over to you." Pilate said, "Take him yourselves and judge him by your own law."

"But we have no right to execute anyone," the Jews objected. This happened so that the words Jesus had spoken indicating the kind of death he was going to die would be fulfilled. And they began to accuse him, saying, "We have found this man subverting our nation. He opposes payment of taxes to Caesar and claims to be Christ, a king."

Pilate then went back inside the palace, summoned Jesus, and asked him, "Are you the king of the Jews?" "Is that your idea," Jesus asked, "or did others talk to you about me?" "Do you think that I am a Jew?" Pilate replied. "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 again to the Jews and said, “I find no basis for a charge against him.” When Jesus was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. Then Pilate asked him, “Don’t you hear how many things they are accusing you of?” But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge.

The chief priests accused him of many things. So again, Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer?” But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed. But the chief priests insisted, “He stirs up the people all over Judea by his teaching. He started in Galilee and has come all the way here.” 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. From what he had heard about him, he hoped to see him perform some miracle. He plied him with many questions, but Jesus gave him no answer. The chief priests and 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. That day Herod and Pilate became friends – before this they had been enemies.

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 release him.”

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. So, when the crowd had gathered, Pilate asked them, “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: “Don’t have anything to do with that innocent man, because I have suffered a great deal today in a dream on account of him.” But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Hymn

Jesus, Refuge of the Weary | 409

Sermon Text

Mark 11:12-14, 20-25

The next day, after they had set out from Bethany, Jesus was hungry. ¹³When he saw a fig tree in leaf in the distance, he went to see if he might find anything on it. When he came to it, he found nothing but leaves, since it was not the season for figs. ¹⁴Jesus said to it, “May no one ever eat fruit from you again!” And his disciples were listening. ²⁰As they passed by in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered down to the roots. ²¹Peter remembered and said, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree that you cursed has withered.” ²²Jesus replied, “Have faith in God. ²³Amen I tell you: Whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be lifted up and thrown into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him. ²⁴Therefore I tell you, everything that you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. ²⁵Whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

“His Final Steps Led to A Fig Tree”

Pastor Dan Schmidt

Gathering of Our Offering

Lord Have Mercy & Prayer for Peace

page 245

Lord’s Prayer (*sung*)

page 230

Blessing

Closing Hymn

Christ the Vine | 709



Organist: Erin Achey