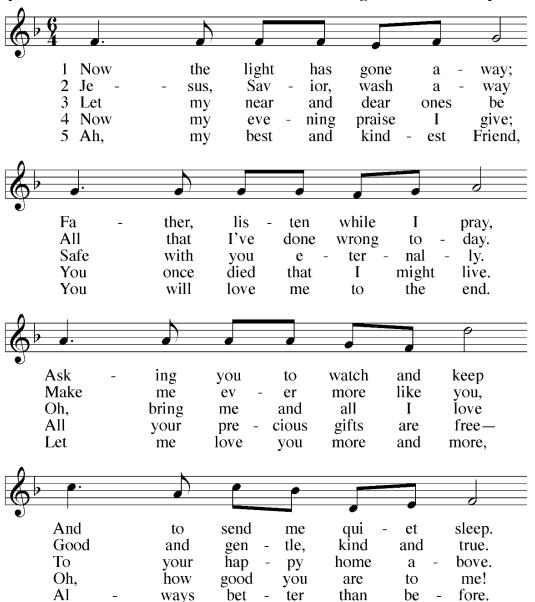
HIS FINAL SEPS

Led to a Tomb

Guest Preacher Joel Voss Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church March 15, 2023

Hymn 784

Now the Light Has Gone Away



Text: Frances R. Havergal, 1836-79, alt.

Tune: MÜDE BIN ICH (77 77) Liederbuch für Kleinkinder-Schulen, Kaiserwerth, 1842, alt.

CONFESSION OF SINS

M: Let us confess our sins.

C: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you in our thoughts, in our words, in our deeds, and in all that we have not done. Forgive us in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Deliver and restore us, that we may rest in peace.

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.

PSALM OF THE DAY

PSALM 30



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

Passion History from Matthew 26:57-75

⁵⁷ Those who had arrested Jesus took him to Caiaphas, the high priest, where the teachers of the law and the elders had assembled. ⁵⁸ But Peter followed him at a distance, right up to the courtyard of the high priest. He entered and sat down with the guards to see the outcome.

⁵⁹ The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for false evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death. ⁶⁰ But they did not find any, though many false witnesses came forward.

Finally two came forward ⁶¹ and declared, "This fellow said, 'I am able to destroy the temple of God and rebuild it in three days.'"

⁶² Then the high priest stood up and said to Jesus, "Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?" ⁶³ But Jesus remained silent.

The high priest said to him, "I charge you under oath by the living God: Tell us if you are the Christ, the Son of God."

⁶⁴ "Yes, it is as you say," Jesus replied. "But I say to all of you: In the future you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven."

⁶⁵ Then the high priest tore his clothes and said, "He has spoken blasphemy! Why do we need any more witnesses? Look, now you have heard the blasphemy. ⁶⁶ What do you think?"

"He is worthy of death," they answered.

⁶⁷ Then they spit in his face and struck him with their fists. Others slapped him ⁶⁸ and said, "Prophesy to us, Christ. Who hit you?"

⁶⁹ Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said.

⁷⁰ But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said.

⁷¹ Then he went out to the gateway, where another girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth."

⁷² He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!"

⁷³ After a little while, those standing there went up to Peter and said, "Surely you are one of them, for your accent gives you away."

⁷⁴ Then he began to call down curses on himself and he swore to them, "I don't know the man!"

Immediately a rooster crowed. ⁷⁵ Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken: "Before the rooster crows, you will disown me three times." And he went outside and wept bitterly.

C: All we like sheep have gone astray, and the Lord has laid on him the iniquity of us all. By his wounds we are healed.



Sermon on selected verses from John 11: His Final Steps Led to a Tomb

"Lord, the one you love is sick."

⁴When he heard this, Jesus said, "This sickness will not end in death. No, it is for God's glory so that God's Son may be glorified through it." ⁵ Jesus loved Martha and her

sister and Lazarus. ⁶ Yet when he heard that Lazarus was sick, he stayed where he was two more days.

- ¹⁴ So then he told them plainly, "Lazarus is dead, ¹⁵ and for your sake I am glad I was not there, so that you may believe. But let us go to him."
- ²¹ "Lord," Martha said to Jesus, "if you had been here, my brother would not have died. ²² But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask."
 - ²³ Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again."
 - ²⁴ Martha answered, "I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day."
- ²⁵ Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; ²⁶ and whoever lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"
- ²⁷ "Yes, Lord," she told him, "I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who was to come into the world."
- ³⁸ Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. ³⁹ "Take away the stone," he said.
- "But, Lord," said Martha, the sister of the dead man, "by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days."
- ⁴⁰ Then Jesus said, "Did I not tell you that if you believed, you would see the glory of God?"
- ⁴¹ So they took away the stone. Then Jesus looked up and said, "Father, I thank you that you have heard me. ⁴² I knew that you always hear me, but I said this for the benefit of the people standing here, that they may believe that you sent me."
- ⁴³ When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" ⁴⁴ The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face.

Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go."

- ⁴⁵ Therefore many of the Jews who had come to visit Mary, and had seen what Jesus did, put their faith in him. ⁴⁶ But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. ⁴⁷ Then the chief priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Sanhedrin.
- "What are we accomplishing?" they asked. "Here is this man performing many miraculous signs. ⁴⁸ If we let him go on like this, everyone will believe in him, and then the Romans will come and take away both our place and our nation."
- ⁴⁹ Then one of them, named Caiaphas, who was high priest that year, spoke up, "You know nothing at all! ⁵⁰ You do not realize that it is better for you that one man die for the people than that the whole nation perish."
- ⁵¹ He did not say this on his own, but as high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the Jewish nation, ⁵² and not only for that nation but also for the scattered children of God, to bring them together and make them one. ⁵³ So from that day on they plotted to take his life.

PRAYER

M: Gracious Lord, according to your will and promise,

C: you sent your Son into our world to atone for sin and restore eternal life.

M: You planned his path to the cross,

C: and he followed it perfectly.

M: He confronted the blindness of unbelief, the confusion of doubt, and the hurt of death

C: but was not deterred as he proclaimed your kingdom to the least, the last, and the lost.

M: As we hear and contemplate the holy record of our Savior's passion and death,

C: use the sharp message of the law to empty us of pride and self-reliance.

M: Humble us as we view the Savior in his humility,

C: remembering and believing that he endured the cross so we might be freed from its horror.

M: In his suffering show us our healing,

C: in his grief show us our joy,

M: and in his death show us our life.

C: Hear our prayers, Lord, for the sake of Jesus. Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father, who art in heaven,

hallowed be thy name,

thy kingdom come,

thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;

and forgive us our trespasses,

as we forgive those who trespass against us;

and lead us not into temptation,

but deliver us from evil.

For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.

M: May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine on us.

C: May God bless us still, so that all the ends of the earth will fear him.



- 6 Thou has suffered great affliction
 And hast borne it patiently,
 Even death by crucifixtion,
 Fully to atone for me.
 Thou didst choose to be tormented
 That my doom should be prevented.
 Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
 Dearest Jesus, unto thee.
- 7 Then, for all that wrought my pardon,
 For thy sorrows deep and sore,
 For thine anguish in the garden,
 I will thank thee evermore,
 Thank thee for thy groaning, sighing,
 For thy bleeding and thy dying,
 For that last triumphant cry,
 And shall praise thee, Lord, on high.