

HIS FINAL STEPS

Led to His Enemies

Guest Preacher Alex Groth
Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church
March 22, 2023

Hymn 784

Now the Light Has Gone Away



1 Now the light has gone a - way;
 2 Je - - sus, Sav - ior, wash a - way
 3 Let my near and dear ones be
 4 Now my eve - ning praise I give;
 5 Ah, my best and kind - est Friend,



Fa - ther, lis - ten while I pray,
 All that I've done wrong to - day.
 Safe with you e - ter - nal - ly.
 You once died that I might live.
 You will love me to the end.



Ask - ing you to watch and keep
 Make me ev - er more like you,
 Oh, bring me and all I love
 All your pre - cious gifts are free—
 Let me love you more and more,



And to send me qui - et sleep.
 Good and gen - tle, kind and true.
 To your hap - py home a - bove.
 Oh, how good you are to me!
 Al - ways bet - ter than be - fore.

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 118

*REFRAIN: This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!
This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice and be glad!*



The LORD is my strength and my song;
he has become my salvation.
The Lord's right hand is lifted high;
the LORD's right hand has done mighty things!
I will not die but live,
and will proclaim what the LORD has done.

REFRAIN

I will give you thanks, for you answered me;
you have become my salvation.
The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone;
the LORD has done this, and it is marvelous in our eyes.
This is the day the LORD has made;
let us rejoice and be glad in it.

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 227:1-26

27 Early in the morning, all the chief priests and the elders of the people came to the decision to put Jesus to death. ² They bound him, led him away and handed him over to Pilate, the governor.

³ When Judas, who had 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. ⁴ “I have sinned,” he said, “for I have betrayed innocent blood.”

“What is that to us?” they replied. “That’s your responsibility.”

⁵ So Judas threw the money into the temple and left. Then he went away and hanged himself.

⁶ 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.” ⁷ So they decided to use the money to buy the potter’s field as a burial place for foreigners. ⁸ That is why it has been called the Field of Blood to this day. ⁹ 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, ¹⁰ and they used them to buy the potter’s field, as the Lord commanded me.”

¹¹ Meanwhile Jesus stood before the governor, and the governor asked him, “Are you the king of the Jews?”

“Yes, it is as you say,” Jesus replied.

¹² When he was accused by the chief priests and the elders, he gave no answer. ¹³ Then Pilate asked him, “Don’t you hear the testimony they are bringing against you?” ¹⁴ But Jesus made no reply, not even to a single charge—to the great amazement of the governor.

¹⁵ Now it was the governor’s custom at the Feast to release a prisoner chosen by the crowd. ¹⁶ At that time they had a notorious prisoner, called Barabbas. ¹⁷ 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?” ¹⁸ For he knew it was out of envy that they had handed Jesus over to him.

¹⁹ 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, for I have suffered a great deal today in a dream because of him.”

²⁰ But the chief priests and the elders persuaded the crowd to ask for Barabbas and to have Jesus executed.

²¹ “Which of the two do you want me to release to you?” asked the governor.

“Barabbas,” they answered.

²² “What shall I do, then, with Jesus who is called Christ?” Pilate asked.

They all answered, “Crucify him!”

²³ “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

²⁴ 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!"

²⁵ All the people answered, "Let his blood be on us and on our children!"

²⁶ Then he released Barabbas to them. But he had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

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.

HYMN: CHRIST IS MADE THE SURE FOUNDATION

920



1 Christ is made the sure foun - da - tion, Christ, our head
2 To this tem - ple, where we call you, Come, O Lord
3 Grant, we pray, to all your faith - ful All the gifts
4 Praise and hon - or to the Fa - ther, Praise and hon -



and cor - ner - stone, Cho - sen of the Lord and pre - cious,
of hosts, and stay; Come with all your lov - ing - kind - ness,
they ask to gain, What they gain from you for - ev - er
or to the Son, Praise and hon - or to the Spir - it,



Bind - ing all the Church in one, Ho - ly Zi - on's
Hear your peo - ple as they pray, And your full - est
With the bless - ed to re - tain, And here - af - ter
Ev - er Three and ev - er One, One in might and



help for - ev - er And our con - fi - dence a - lone.
ben - e - dic - tion Speak with - in these walls to - day.
in your glo - ry Ev - er - more with you to reign.
one in glo - ry While un - end - ing a - ges run!

Sermon on Luke 20:9-19: His Final Steps Led to a His Enemies

⁹ He went on to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard, rented it to some farmers and went away for a long time. ¹⁰ At harvest time he sent a servant to the tenants so they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. ¹¹ He sent another servant, but that one also they beat and treated shamefully and sent away empty-handed. ¹² He sent still a third, and they wounded him and threw him out.

¹³ “Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my son, whom I love; perhaps they will respect him.’

¹⁴ “But when the tenants saw him, they talked the matter over. ‘This is the heir,’ they said. ‘Let’s kill him, and the inheritance will be ours.’ ¹⁵ So they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him.

“What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? ¹⁶ He will come and kill those tenants and give the vineyard to others.”

When the people heard this, they said, “May this never be!”

¹⁷ Jesus looked directly at them and asked, “Then what is the meaning of that which is written:

“ ‘The stone the builders rejected
has become the capstone’?”

¹⁸ Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, but he on whom it falls will be crushed.”

¹⁹ The teachers of the law and the chief priests looked for a way to arrest him immediately, because they knew he had spoken this parable against them. But they were afraid of the people.

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.



1 My song is love un - known, My Sav - ior's love to
 2 He came from his blest throne Sal - va - tion to be -
 3 Some - times they strew his way And his sweet prais - es
 4 Why? What has my Lord done? What makes this rage and
 5 They rise and needs will have My dear Lord made a -



me, Love to the love - less shown That they might
 stow, But such dis - dain! So few The longed - for
 sing, Re - sound - ing all the day Ho - san - nas
 spite? He made the lame to run; He gave the
 way. A mur - der - er they save; The Prince of



love - ly be. Oh, who am I That for my
 Christ would know! But oh, my friend, My friend in -
 to their King. Then "Cru - ci - fy!" Is all their
 blind their sight. Sweet in - ju - ries! Yet they at
 life they slay. Yet cheer - ful he To suff'r - ing



sake My Lord should take Frail flesh and die?
 deed, Who at my need His life did spend!
 breath, And for his death They thirst and cry.
 these Them - selves dis - please And 'gainst him rise.
 goes That he his foes From death might free.

6 In life no house, no home
 My Lord on earth might have;
 In death no friendly tomb
 But what a stranger gave.
 What may I say?
 Heav'n was his home
 But mine the tomb
 Wherein he lay.

7 Here might I stay and sing;
 No story so divine,
 Never was love, dear King,
 Never was grief like thine.
 This is my friend,
 In whose sweet praise
 I all my days
 Could gladly spend!