

HIS FINAL STEPS

Led to Some Greeks

Guest Preacher Luke Italiano
Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church
March 29, 2023

Hymn 784

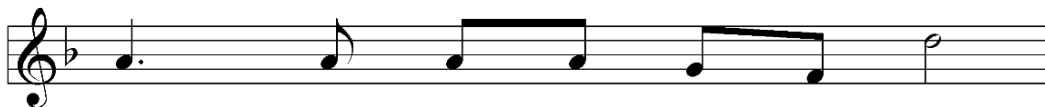
Now the Light Has Gone Away



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 OF THE DAY

PSALM 30

Refrain



At the works of your hands, O Lord, I lift up my voice in song; I sing for joy.

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.

Psalm tone



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 27:27-66

²⁷ Then the governor's soldiers took Jesus into the Praetorium and gathered the whole company of soldiers around him. ²⁸ They stripped him and put a scarlet robe on him, ²⁹ and then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on his head. They put a staff in his right hand and knelt in front of him and mocked him. "Hail, king of the Jews!" they said. ³⁰ They spit on him, and took the staff and struck him on the head again and again. ³¹ After they had mocked him, they took off the robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him away to crucify him.

³² As they were going out, they met a man from Cyrene, named Simon, and they forced him to carry the cross. ³³ They came to a place called Golgotha (which means The Place of the Skull). ³⁴ There they offered Jesus wine to drink, mixed with gall; but after tasting it, he refused to drink it. ³⁵ When they had crucified him, they divided up his clothes by casting lots. ³⁶ And sitting down, they kept watch over him there. ³⁷ Above his head they placed the written charge against him: this is Jesus, the King of the Jews. ³⁸ Two robbers were crucified with him, one on his right and one on his left. ³⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads ⁴⁰ and saying, "You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, save yourself! Come down from the cross, if you are the Son of God!"

⁴¹ In the same way the chief priests, the teachers of the law and the elders mocked him. ⁴² "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! He's the King of Israel! Let him come down now from the cross, and we will believe in him. ⁴³ He trusts in God. Let God rescue him now if he wants him, for he said, 'I am the Son of God.'" ⁴⁴ In the same way the robbers who were crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

⁴⁵ From the sixth hour until the ninth hour darkness came over all the land. ⁴⁶ About the ninth hour Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*"—which means, "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?"

⁴⁷ When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "He's calling Elijah."

⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran and got a sponge. He filled it with wine vinegar, put it on a stick, and offered it to Jesus to drink. ⁴⁹ The rest said, "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to save him."

⁵⁰ And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.

⁵¹ At that moment the curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. The earth shook and the rocks split. ⁵² The tombs broke open and the bodies of many holy people who had died were raised to life. ⁵³ They came out of the tombs, and after Jesus' resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many people.

⁵⁴ When the centurion and those with him who were guarding Jesus saw the earthquake and all that had happened, they were terrified, and exclaimed, "Surely he was the Son of God!"

⁵⁵ Many women were there, watching from a distance. They had followed Jesus from Galilee to care for his needs. ⁵⁶ Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and Joses, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

⁵⁷ As evening approached, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who had himself become a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ Going to Pilate, he asked for Jesus' body, and Pilate ordered that it be given to him. ⁵⁹ Joseph took the body, wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰ and placed it in his own new tomb that he had cut out of the rock. He rolled a big stone in front of the entrance to the tomb and went away. ⁶¹ Mary Magdalene and the other Mary were sitting there opposite the tomb.

⁶² The next day, the one after Preparation Day, the chief priests and the Pharisees went to Pilate. ⁶³ "Sir," they said, "we remember that while he was still alive that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise again.' ⁶⁴ So give the order for the tomb to be made secure until the third day. Otherwise, his disciples may come and steal the body and tell the people that he has been raised from the dead. This last deception will be worse than the first."

⁶⁵ "Take a guard," Pilate answered. "Go, make the tomb as secure as you know how." ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure by putting a seal on the stone and posting the guard.

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.



1 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Come un - to
 2 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "Be - hold, I
 3 I heard the voice of Je - sus say, "I am this



me and rest; Lay down, O wea - ry one, lay down Your
 free - ly give The liv - ing wa - ter, thirst - y one; Stoop
 dark world's light. Look un - to me; your morn shall rise And



head up - on my breast." I came to Je - sus as I
 down and drink and live." I came to Je - sus, and I
 all your day be bright." I looked to Je - sus, and I



was, Wea - ry and worn and sad; I found in
 drank Of that life - giv - ing stream; My thirst was
 found In him my star, my sun; And in that



him a rest - ing place, And he has made me glad.
 quenched, my soul re - vived, And now I live in him.
 light of life I'll walk Till trav - 'ling days are done.

Sermon on John 12:20-33: His Final Steps Led to Some Greeks

²⁰ Now there were some Greeks among those who went up to worship at the Feast. ²¹ They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida in Galilee, with a request. "Sir," they said, "we would like to see Jesus." ²² Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

²³ Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. ²⁴ I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed.

But if it dies, it produces many seeds. ²⁵ The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. ²⁶ Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me.

²⁷ “Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? ‘Father, save me from this hour’? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. ²⁸ Father, glorify your name!”

Then a voice came from heaven, “I have glorified it, and will glorify it again.” ²⁹ The crowd that was there and heard it said it had thundered; others said an angel had spoken to him.

³⁰ Jesus said, “This voice was for your benefit, not mine. ³¹ Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. ³² But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.” ³³ He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die.

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 Just as I am, with - out one plea
2 Just as I am and wait - ing not
3 Just as I am, though tossed a - bout
4 Just as I am, poor, wretch - ed, blind;
5 Just as I am, thou wilt re - ceive,



But that thy blood was shed for me
To rid my soul of one dark blot,
With man - y a con - flict, man - y a doubt,
Sight, rich - es, heal - ing of the mind,
Wilt wel - come, par - don, cleanse, re - lieve;



And that thou bidd'st me come to thee,
To thee, whose blood can cleanse each spot,
Fight - ings and fears with - in, with - out,
Yea, all I need, in thee to find,
Be - cause thy prom - ise I be - lieve,



O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.

6 Just as I am; thy love unknown
Has broken ev'ry barrier down.
Now to be thine, yea, thine alone,
O Lamb of God, I come, I come.