

# **HIS FINAL STEPS**

**Led to a Dinner Celebration**

Guest Preacher Tom Westra  
Abiding Word Evangelical Lutheran Church  
March 8, 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 138

M: 1 I will praise you, O Lord, with all my heart;  
before the “gods” I will sing your praise.

2 I will bow down toward your holy temple and will praise your name for your love and your faithfulness, for you have exalted above all things your name and your word.

3 When I called, you answered me; you made me bold and stouthearted.

4 May all the kings of the earth praise you, O Lord,  
when they hear the words of your mouth.

5 May they sing of the ways of the Lord, for the glory of the Lord is great.

6 Though the Lord is on high, he looks upon the lowly, but the proud he knows from afar.

7 Though I walk in the midst of trouble, you preserve my life;  
you stretch out your hand against the anger of my foes, with your right hand  
you save me.

8 The Lord will fulfill his purpose for me; your love, O Lord, endures  
forever— do not abandon the works of your hands.

C: **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.**

## Passion History from Matthew 26:36-56

<sup>36</sup> Then Jesus went with his disciples to a place called Gethsemane, and he said to them, “Sit here while I go over there and pray.” <sup>37</sup> He took Peter and the two sons of Zebedee along with him, and he began to be sorrowful and troubled. <sup>38</sup> Then he said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch with me.”

<sup>39</sup> Going a little farther, he fell with his face to the ground and prayed, “My Father, if it is possible, may this cup be taken from me. Yet not as I will, but as you will.”

<sup>40</sup> Then he returned to his disciples and found them sleeping. “Could you men not keep watch with me for one hour?” he asked Peter. <sup>41</sup> “Watch and pray so that you will not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the body is weak.”

<sup>42</sup> He went away a second time and prayed, “My Father, if it is not possible for this cup to be taken away unless I drink it, may your will be done.”

<sup>43</sup> When he came back, he again found them sleeping, because their eyes were heavy. <sup>44</sup> So he left them and went away once more and prayed the third time, saying the same thing.

<sup>45</sup> Then he returned to the disciples and said to them, “Are you still sleeping and resting? Look, the hour is near, and the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. <sup>46</sup> Rise, let us go! Here comes my betrayer!”

<sup>47</sup> While he was still speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, arrived. With him was a large crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests and the elders of the people. <sup>48</sup> Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him.” <sup>49</sup> Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Greetings, Rabbi!” and kissed him.

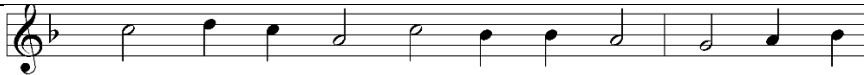
<sup>50</sup> Jesus replied, “Friend, do what you came for.”

Then the men stepped forward, seized Jesus and arrested him. <sup>51</sup> With that, one of Jesus’ companions reached for his sword, drew it out and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

<sup>52</sup> “Put your sword back in its place,” Jesus said to him, “for all who draw the sword will die by the sword. <sup>53</sup> Do you think I cannot call on my Father, and he will at once put at my disposal more than twelve legions of angels? <sup>54</sup> But how then would the Scriptures be fulfilled that say it must happen in this way?”

<sup>55</sup> At that time Jesus said to the crowd, “Am I leading a rebellion, that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? Every day I sat in the temple courts teaching, and you did not arrest me. <sup>56</sup> But this has all taken place that the writings of the prophets might be fulfilled.” Then all the disciples deserted him and fled.

**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 A Lamb goes un - com - plain - ing forth, Our guilt and  
 2 This Lamb is Christ, the soul's great friend, The Lamb of  
 3 "Yes, Fa - ther, yes, most will - ing - ly I'll bear what  
 4 From morn till eve, in all I do, I'll praise you,



e - vil bear - ing And, lad - en with the sins of earth,  
 God, our Sav - ior; Him God the Fa - ther chose to send  
 you com - mand me. My will con - forms to your de - cree;  
 Christ, my trea - sure. To sac - ri - fice my - self for you



None else the bur - den shar - ing. Goes pa - tient on,  
 To gain for us his fa - vor. "Go forth, my Son,"  
 I'll do what you have asked me." O won - drous Love,  
 Shall be my aim and plea - sure. My stream of life



grows weak and faint, To slaugh - ter led with - out com - plaint,  
 the Fa - ther said, "And free my chil - dren from their dread  
 what have you done! The Fa - ther of - fers up his Son,  
 shall ev - er be A cur - rent flow - ing cease - less - ly,



That spot - less life to of - fer, Bears shame and stripes  
 Of guilt and con - dem - na - tion. The wrath and stripes  
 De - sir - ing our sal - va - tion. O Love, how strong  
 Your con - stant praise out - pour - ing. I'll trea - sure in



and wounds and death, An - guish and mock - er - y and says,  
 are hard to bear, But by your pas - sion they will share  
 you are to save! You make his bed with - in the grave  
 my mem - o - ry, O Lord, all you have done for me,



"Will - ing all this I suf - fer."  
 The fruit of your sal - va - tion."  
 Who built the earth's foun - da - tion.  
 Your gra - cious love a - dor - ing.

## **Sermon on John 12:1-11: His Final Steps Led to a Dinner Celebration**

Six days before the Passover, Jesus arrived at Bethany, where Lazarus lived, whom Jesus had raised from the dead.<sup>2</sup> Here a dinner was given in Jesus' honor. Martha served, while Lazarus was among those reclining at the table with him.<sup>3</sup> Then Mary took about a pint of pure nard, an expensive perfume; she poured it on Jesus' feet and wiped his feet with her hair. And the house was filled with the fragrance of the perfume.

<sup>4</sup> But one of his disciples, Judas Iscariot, who was later to betray him, objected,<sup>5</sup> "Why wasn't this perfume sold and the money given to the poor? It was worth a year's wages."<sup>6</sup> He did not say this because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief; as keeper of the money bag, he used to help himself to what was put into it.

<sup>7</sup> "Leave her alone," Jesus replied. "It was intended that she should save this perfume for the day of my burial."<sup>8</sup> You will always have the poor among you, but you will not always have me."

<sup>9</sup> Meanwhile a large crowd of Jews found out that Jesus was there and came, not only because of him but also to see Lazarus, whom he had raised from the dead.<sup>10</sup> So the chief priests made plans to kill Lazarus as well,<sup>11</sup> for on account of him many of the Jews were going over to Jesus and putting their faith in him.

## **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.**

**HYMN: COME TO CALVARY'S HOLY MOUNTAIN**

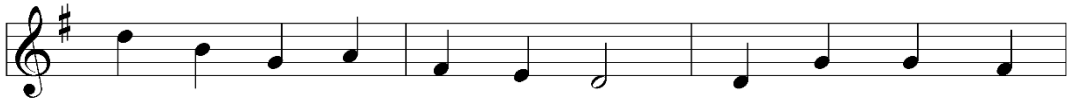
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1 Come to Cal - v'ry's ho - ly moun-tain, Sin - ners, ru - ined  
 2 Come in pov - er - ty and mean-ness, Come de - filed, with -  
 3 Come in sor - row and con - tri - tion, Wound-ed, par - a -  
 4 He that drinks shall live for - ev - er; 'Tis a soul - re -



by the fall; Here a pure and heal - ing foun - tain  
 out, with - in; From in - fec - tion and un - clean-ness,  
 lyzed, and blind; Here the guilt - y, free re - mis - sion,  
 new - ing flood. God is faith - ful; God will nev - er



Flows to you, to me, to all, In a full, per -  
 From the lep - ro - sy of sin, Wash your robes and  
 Here the trou - bled, peace may find. Health this foun - tain  
 Break his cov - e - nant of blood, Signed when our Re -



pet - ual tide, O - pened when our Sav - ior died.  
 make them white; You shall walk with God in light.  
 will re - store; He that drinks shall thirst no more.  
 deem - er died, Sealed when he was glo - ri - fied.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771-1854, alt.  
 Tune: NAAR MIT ÆIE (87 87 77) Ludvig M. Lindeman, 1812-87.