



BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH

A GREAT POWER AND A GREATER GIFT

Wednesday, February 21, 2024
Baptized into His Death

Service Theme

A Great Power and a Greater Gift

There is no such thing as holy water. The water used in Baptism did not come from a magic fountain or mystical lake. It came out of the tap. Yet, Baptism consists of more than just water. It is water combined with God's Word. And God's Word is powerful! God's Word is the Holy Spirit's tool to create and strengthen faith—faith that connects us to Christ's death and resurrection. Thus, when you witness a baptism, you are witnessing more power being unleashed than you see in a flash of lighting. You are witnessing a power that can take that which is dead and make it alive. God uses this saviour power on us, but not because we deserve it. Because of our sins, we deserve nothing from God but punishment and pain. But our God is merciful. He spares us from the pain we deserve. And our God is gracious. He gives us countless blessings we do not deserve. Today, we marvel at the blessing of Baptism—a great power and greater gift.

Hymn

CW 128 Not all the blood of beasts

**1 Not all the blood of beasts
On Israel's altars slain
Could give the guilty conscience peace
Or wash away the stain.**

**2 But Christ, the heav'nly Lamb,
Takes all our sins away,
A sacrifice of nobler name
And richer blood than they.**

**3 In faith I place my hand
On that dear head divine,
As penitently here I stand
And lay on him my sin.**

**4 My soul looks back to see
The burden you did bear
When hanging on the cursed tree—
I know my guilt was there!**

**5 Believing, we rejoice
To see the curse remove;
We bless the Lamb with cheerful voice
And sing his bleeding love.**

ORDER OF SERVICE

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son (+) and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

M: There is one body and one spirit.

C: **There is one hope to which we were called;**

M: One Lord, one faith, one baptism,

C: **One God and Father of all.**

M: Peace be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER

M: Almighty God, in our baptism you have consecrated us to be temples of your Holy Spirit. May we, whom you have counted worthy, nurture this gift of your indwelling Spirit with a lively faith and worship you with upright lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: **Amen**

THE NEW LIFE OF BAPTISM

M: In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvellous light. To follow Christ means dying to sin and rising to new life with him. Therefore I ask: Do you renounce the devil and all the forces that defy God?

C: **I renounce them.**

M: Do you reject the powers of this world that rebel against God?

C: **I reject them.**

M: Do you repent of the sins that separate you from God and your neighbour?

C: **I repent of them.**

M: Do you turn to Christ as Savior and Lord?

C: **I turn to Christ.**

M: Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his (+) cross. Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

C: **Fight valiantly as a disciple of Christ against sin, the world and the devil, and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

PRAYER

M: Almighty God, deliver those you have claimed from the powers of darkness. Restore in us the image of your glory and lead us in the light and obedience of Christ.

C: **Amen**

Hymn

CW 737:1 God's own child, I gladly say it

**God's own child, I gladly say it:
I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it,
Gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many?
I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free,
Lasting to eternity!**

LESSON – Titus 3:4-7 (EHV)

⁴But when the kindness and love of God our Savior toward mankind appeared, ⁵he saved us—not by righteous works that we did ourselves, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and the renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Savior, ⁷so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs in keeping with the hope of eternal life.

Hymn

CW 737:2 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

**Sin, disturb my soul no longer:
I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger:
Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me
Since my baptism did release me
In a dear forgiving flood,
Sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?**

PASSION READING – Mark 14:1-26—Perfume, Plot, & Passover

It was two days before the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread. The chief priests and the experts in the law were looking for some deceptive way to arrest Jesus and kill him. ²“Certainly not during the Festival,” they said, “or there will be a riot among the people.”

³While Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, as he was reclining at the table, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made from pure nard. She broke the alabaster jar and poured it over his head. ⁴But there were some who were indignant and said to one another, “Why has this perfume been wasted? ⁵Certainly this perfume could have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and given to the poor!” And they began to scold her.

⁶But Jesus said, “Leave her alone. Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing for me. ⁷In fact, you always have the poor with you, and whenever you want, you can do good for them. But you are not always going to have me. ⁸She did what she could.

She anointed my body beforehand for burial. ⁹Amen I tell you: Wherever the gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman did will also be told in memory of her.”

¹⁰Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests in order to betray Jesus to them. ¹¹When they heard this, they were glad and promised to give him money. So he began to look for an opportunity to betray him.

¹²On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb is sacrificed, his disciples asked him, “Where do you want us to go and prepare for you to eat the Passover?” ¹³He sent two of his disciples and said to them, “Go into the city, and there a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴Wherever he enters, tell the owner of the house that the Teacher says, ‘Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?’ ¹⁵He will show you a large upper room, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there.”

¹⁶His disciples left and went into the city and found things just as he had told them; and they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷When it was evening, he arrived with the Twelve.

¹⁸While they were reclining and eating, Jesus said, “Amen I tell you: One of you will betray me, one who is eating with me.”

¹⁹They began to be sorrowful and said to him one by one, “Surely not I?”

²⁰He said to them, “It is one of the Twelve, one who is dipping bread with me in the dish. ²¹Indeed, the Son of Man is going to go just as it has been written about him, but woe to that man by whom the Son of Man is betrayed! It would have been better for that man if he had not been born.”

²²While they were eating, Jesus took bread. When he had blessed it, he broke it and gave it to them, saying, “Take it. This is my body.”

²³Then he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them. They all drank from it. ²⁴He said to them, "This is my blood of the new testament, which is poured out for many. ²⁵Amen I tell you: I will certainly not drink again of the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God." ²⁶After they sang a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

RESPONSE

M: All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus
C: **Were baptized into his death.**

Hymn

CW 106 Come to Calvary's Holy Mountain

- 1 **Come to Calv'ry's holy mountain,
Sinners, ruined by the fall;
Here a pure and healing fountain
Flows to you, to me, to all,
In a full, perpetual tide,
Opened when our Savior died.**
- 2 **Come in poverty and meanness,
Come defiled, without, within;
From infection and uncleanness,
From the leprosy of sin,
Wash your robes and make them white;
You shall walk with God in light.**
- 3 **Come in sorrow and contrition,
Wounded, paralyzed, and blind;
Here the guilty, free remission,
Here the troubled, peace may find.
Health this fountain will restore;
He that drinks shall thirst no more.**

**4 He that drinks shall live forever;
'Tis a soul-renewing flood.
God is faithful; God will never
Break his covenant of blood,
Signed when our Redeemer died,
Sealed when he was glorified.**

SERMON TEXT & THEME

Titus 3:4-7... A Great Power and a Greater Gift

Hymn

CW 294 Baptized into your name most holy

**1 Baptized into your name most holy,
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place, though weak and lowly,
Among your saints, your chosen host,
Buried with Christ and dead to sin.
Your Spirit now shall live within.**

**2 My loving Father, there you took me
To be henceforth your child and heir.
My faithful Savior, there you let me
The fruit of all your sorrows share.
O Holy Spirit, comfort me
When threat'ning clouds around I see.**

**3 My faithful God, you fail me never;
Your promise surely will endure.
Oh, cast me not away forever
If words and deeds become impure.
Have mercy when I come defiled;
Forgive, lift up, restore your child.**

**4 All that I am and love most dearly
Receive it all, O Lord, from me.
Let me confess my faith sincerely
And help me your own child to be!
Let nothing that I am or own
Serve any will but yours alone.**

EVENING PRAYERS

M: I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins, as we forgive those who sin against us. Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen

BLESSING

M: The Lord bless us, and preserve us from all evil, and keep us in eternal life.

C: Amen.

M: Let us bless the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Hymn

CWS 592 All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

1 All praise to thee, my God, this night
For all the blessings of the light.
Keep me, oh, keep me, King of kings,
Beneath thine own almighty wings.
Forgive me, Lord, for thy dear Son
The ill that I this day have done,
That with the world, myself, and thee
I, ere I sleep, at peace may be.

2 Teach me to live that I may dread
The grave as little as my bed.
Teach me to die so that I may
Rise glorious at the awe-full day.
Oh, may my soul on thee repose
And may sweet sleep mine eyelids close,
Sleep that shall me more vig'rous make
To serve my God when I awake.



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