



BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH

A SACRAMENT, NOT A SIGN

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

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Service Theme

A Sacrament, not a Sign

Signs and symbols are important because they represent something larger. There are those who view Baptism as an important sign, a symbolic representation of the way God washes away our sin. They could not be more wrong. Baptism doesn't represent something. Baptism is something. St. Peter says plainly, "Baptism... saves you" (1 Peter 3:21). Baptism isn't a sign. Baptism is a sacrament. God has connected his saving work and Word with a common earthly element—water. As we continue our Lenten look at Baptism, let us remember what we are looking at when we see someone come to the font. That is not a sign. It is not symbolic. It is a miracle... a Holy Sacrament.

Hymn

CW 111 Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing

**1 Sweet the moments, rich in blessing,
Which before the cross we spend,
Life and health and peace possessing
From the sinner's dying friend.**

**2 Here we rest in wonder, viewing
All our sins on Jesus laid;
Here we see redemption flowing
From the sacrifice he made.**

**3 Here we find the dawn of heaven
While upon the cross we gaze,
See our trespasses forgiven,
And our songs of triumph raise.**

**4 Oh, that, near the cross abiding,
We may to the Savior cleave,
Naught with him our hearts dividing,
All for him content to leave!**

**5 Lord, in loving contemplation
Fix our hearts and eyes on you
Till we taste your full salvation
And your unveiled glory view.**

ORDER OF SERVICE

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

C: **Amen.**

M: In Christ, God gives us water welling up for eternal life. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

C: **Lord, give us this water and we shall thirst no more.**

M: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PRAYER

M: Blessed are you, sovereign God of all. To you be glory and praise forever. You are our light and our salvation. From the deep waters of death you have raised your Son to life in triumph. Grant that all who have been born anew by water and the Spirit may daily be renewed in your image, walk by the light of faith, and serve you in newness of life; through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit we lift our voices of praise. Blessed be you, God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit..

C: Blessed be God forever. Amen.

THE NEW LIFE OF BAPTISM

M: Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God. Therefore I ask you: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

C: With the help of God, I will.

M: Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

C: With the help of God, I will.

M: Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

C: With the help of God, I will.

M: Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbour as yourself?

C: With the help of God, I will.

M: Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

C: **With the help of God, I will.**

PRAYER

M: Eternal God, our beginning and our end, preserve in your people the new life of baptism; as Christ receives us on earth, so may he guide us through the trials of this world and enfold us in the joy of heaven, where you live and reign, one God for ever and ever.

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 – 1 Peter 3:18-22 (EHV)

... Christ also suffered once for sins in our place, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in flesh but was made alive in spirit, ¹⁹in which he also went and made an announcement to the spirits in prison. ²⁰These spirits disobeyed long ago, when God's patience was waiting in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In this ark a few, that is, eight souls, were saved by water.

²¹And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the body but the guarantee of a good conscience before God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. ²²He went to heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

Hymn

CW 737:3 God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

**Satan, hear this proclamation:
I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation;
I am not so soon enticed.
Now that to the font I've traveled,
All your might has come unraveled,
And, against your tyranny,
God, my Lord, unites with me!**

PASSION READING – Mark 14:27-42—Gethsemane

²⁷Jesus said to them, “You will all fall away because of me. For it is written: ‘I will strike the shepherd, and the sheep will be scattered.’ ²⁸But after I am raised, I will go ahead of you into Galilee.”

²⁹But Peter said to him, “Even if all fall away, I will not.”

³⁰Jesus said to him, “Amen I tell you: Today—this very night—before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.”

³¹But Peter kept saying emphatically, “Even if I have to die with you, I will never deny you.” And they all said the same thing.

³²They went to a place named Gethsemane. Jesus told his disciples, “Sit here while I pray.” ³³Then he took Peter, James, and John along with him and began to be troubled and distressed.

³⁴He said to them, “My soul is overwhelmed with sorrow, even to the point of death. Stay here and keep watch.”

³⁵Going forward a little, he fell on the ground and prayed that, if it were possible, the hour might pass from him. ³⁶He also said, “*Abba*, Father, everything is possible for you. Take this cup away from me. Yet not what I will, but what you will.”

³⁷When he returned to the disciples, he found them sleeping. He said to Peter, “Simon, are you sleeping? Were you not strong enough to keep watch for one hour? ³⁸Watch and pray that you may not enter into temptation. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak.”

³⁹Again he went away and prayed, saying the same thing. ⁴⁰When he returned, he found them sleeping, for their eyes were heavy. They did not know what they should answer him. ⁴¹He returned the third time and said to them, “Are you going to continue sleeping and resting? It is enough. The hour has come. Look, the Son of Man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. ⁴²Rise, let us go. Look, my betrayer is near.”

RESPONSE

M: All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus

C: **Were baptized into his death.**

Hymn

CW 104 Go to dark Gethsemane

**1 Go to dark Gethsemane,
All who feel the tempter’s pow’r;
Your Redeemer’s conflict see.
Watch with him one bitter hour;
Turn not from his griefs away;
Learn of Jesus Christ to pray.**

**2 Follow to the judgment hall;
View the Lord of life arraigned.
Oh, the wormwood and the gall!
Oh, the pangs his soul sustained!
Shun not suffering, pain, or loss;
Learn of him to bear the cross.**

**3 Calv'ry's mournful mountain climb;
There, adoring at his feet,
Mark that miracle of time,
God's own sacrifice complete.
"It is finished!" hear him cry;
Learn of Jesus Christ to die.**

**4 Early hasten to the tomb
Where they laid his breathless clay;
All is solitude and gloom.
Who has taken him away?
Christ is ris'n! He meets our eyes.
Savior, teach us so to rise.**

SERMON TEXT & THEME

1 Peter 3:18-22 ... A Sacrament, not a Sign

Hymn

CW 299 All Who Believe and Are Baptized

**1 All who believe and are baptized
Shall see the Lord's salvation;
Baptized into the death of Christ,
They are a new creation.
Through Christ's redemption they shall
stand
Among the glorious, heav'nly band
Of ev'ry tribe and nation.**

**2 With one accord, O God, we pray:
Grant us your Holy Spirit.
Help us in our infirmity
Through Jesus' blood and merit.
Grant us to grow in grace each day
That by this sacrament we may
Eternal life inherit.**

EVENING PRAYERS

M: O God our Father, by your mercy and might the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light. We place into your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only what you bless will prosper. To your great love and protection we commit each other and all those we love, knowing that you alone are our great defender.

C: Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

⁵
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:** May God lead you in truth and steady your spirit.
May Christ renew your joy and strengthen your will.
May the Spirit teach you God's hidden wisdom and fill you with songs of rejoicing.
- C:** **We go in peace to love and serve the Lord, in the name of Christ. Amen.**

Hymn

CWS 590:1-2 God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven

**1 God, who made the earth and heaven,
Darkness and light,
You the day for work have given,
For rest the night.
May your angel host defend us,
Slumber sweet your mercy send us,
Holy dreams and hopes attend us
All through the night.**

**2 And when morn again shall call us
To run life's way,
May we still, whate'er befall us,
Your will obey.
From the pow'r of evil hide us;
In the narrow pathway guide us;
Never be your smile denied us,
All through the day.**



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