



BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH

BAPTISM IS NEEDED BY ALL

Wednesday, March 13, 2024

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Service Theme

Baptism Is Needed by All

Jesus was speaking about Baptism when he said, “No one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit.” Consider the weight of that phrase, “no one.” It is all encompassing. The murderer, the abuser, the terrorist—if they hope to enter the kingdom of God, they need the cleansing washing that comes in Baptism. But so does the gossip, the envious, the worrier. That’s what “no one” means. Clearly, the man who has lived a long life, who has 80-plus years of sin on his record, needs the saving power of Baptism. But so does the newborn infant who is not yet capable of speaking a sinful word. That’s what “no one” means. This is a hard teaching for people to accept. Many cannot understand how a violent criminal can be in the same moral category as the young “innocent” baby. Yet, in God’s eyes, they are, for they both were born of sinful flesh. Therefore, they both need the salvation God provides through Baptism. Today, we see that Baptism is indeed needed by all.

Hymn

CW 119 Were You There

1 Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they crucified my Lord?

2 Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they nailed him to the tree?

3 Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

Oh, sometimes it causes me to tremble, tremble, tremble.

Were you there when they laid him in the tomb?

ORDER OF SERVICE

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

C: **Amen.**

M: Praise God who made heaven and earth,

C: **Who keeps his promise forever.**

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

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

P

PRAYER

M: Almighty God, whose Son Jesus Christ was baptized in the river Jordan: we thank you for the gift of water to cleanse us and revive us. We thank you that through the waters of the Red Sea you led your people out of slavery to freedom in the Promised Land. We thank you that through the deep waters of death you brought your Son and raised him to life in triumph. We thank you that in the water of our baptism you made us one with Christ in his death and in his resurrection, to be cleansed and delivered from all sin. Send your Holy Spirit upon us and raise us with Christ to full and eternal life; for all might, majesty, authority and power are yours, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE NEW LIFE OF BAPTISM

M: I ask you, with the whole Christian Church, to confess your baptismal faith. Do you believe in God the Father?

C: **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

M: Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

C: **I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended into hell. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

M: Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

C: **I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

PRAYER

M: Almighty God, we thank you for our fellowship in the household of faith with all who have been baptized into your name. Keep us faithful to our baptism, and so make us ready for that day when the whole creation shall be made perfect in your Son, our Savior Jesus 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 – John 3:1-8 (EHV)

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a member of the Jewish ruling council. ²He came to Jesus at night and said to him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher who has come from God, for no one can do these miraculous signs you are doing unless God is with him.”

³Jesus replied, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless someone is born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

⁴Nicodemus said to him, “How can a man be born when he is old? He cannot enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born, can he?”

⁵Jesus answered, “Amen, Amen, I tell you: Unless someone is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God! ⁶Whatever is born of the flesh is flesh. Whatever is born of the Spirit is spirit. ⁷Do not be surprised when I tell you that you must be born from above. ⁸The wind blows where it pleases. You hear its sound, but you do not know where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone who is born of the Spirit.”

Hymn

CW 737:5 God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It

**There is nothing worth comparing
To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring:
Even there I’ll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising,
Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ;
I’m a child of paradise!**

PASSION READING – Mark 14:66-15:15—Trial Before Pilate

⁶⁶While Peter was in the courtyard below, one of the servant girls of the high priest came there. ⁶⁷When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked directly at him and said, “You were also with the Nazarene, Jesus!”

⁶⁸But he denied it, saying, “I don’t know or understand what you are saying,” and he went out to the entryway. Then a rooster crowed.

⁶⁹When the servant girl saw him, once more she began to tell those standing there, “This is one of them.”

⁷⁰But again he denied it. After a little while those who were standing there said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them, because you are a Galilean.”

⁷¹But he began to curse and to swear, “I do not know this man you are talking about!” ⁷²Just then, the rooster crowed for the second time. Then Peter remembered what Jesus had said to him: “Before the rooster crows twice, you will deny me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

As soon as it was morning, the chief priests, along with the elders, the experts in the law, and the whole Sanhedrin, reached a decision. They bound Jesus, led him away, and handed him over to Pilate. ²Pilate asked him, “Are you the King of the Jews?”

He answered him, “It is as you say.”

³The chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴Pilate questioned him again, “Are you not going to answer anything? See how many charges they are bringing against you!”

⁵But Jesus still did not answer anything, so Pilate was amazed.

⁶At each Festival, Pilate used to release to the people one prisoner whom they requested. ⁷There was one named Barabbas, who was imprisoned with the rebels and had committed murder in the rebellion. ⁸The crowd came up and began to ask Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

⁹Pilate replied, “Do you want me to release the King of the Jews to you?” ¹⁰In fact, he knew that it was because of envy that the chief priests had handed him over.

¹¹But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have him release Barabbas to them instead.

¹²Again, Pilate replied to them, “Then what do you want me to do with the man you call the King of the Jews?”

¹³“Crucify him!” they shouted back.

¹⁴But Pilate said to them, “Why? What has he done wrong?”

But they shouted even louder, “Crucify him!”

¹⁵Since he wanted to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. After he had Jesus flogged, he handed him over to be crucified.

RESPONSE

M: All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus

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

Hymn

CWS 715 What Grace Is This!

**1 What grace is this! My Lord and King
Has set his face to suffering.
My God eternal dies to bring
Eternal life to me.**

**2 What grace is this—That very God
Would stoop to lift a cross of wood
And walk a road of rock and blood,
A sinner’s road, for me.**

**3 What grace is this! Though Lord of all,
He yields to Pontius Pilate’s law
And lets the Roman hammers draw
A rush of blood for me.**

**4 What grace is this! Rude agonies!
With common thieves he hangs and bleeds.
The sinless Son bears each misdeed.
He pays for all, for me.**

**5 What grace is this! Once wrapped in cloths
And gently laid in manger-trough,
He's taken, dead, from wretched cross
And wrapped again for me.**

**6 What grace is this? How can it be?
He wears this raw humility
To lift me to eternity.
Such grace—sweet grace—for me**

SERMON TEXT & THEME

John 3:1-8 ... Baptism Is Needed by All

Hymn

CW 295 Dearest Jesus, We Are Here

**1 Dearest Jesus, we are here,
Gladly your command obeying;
With this child we now draw near
In response to your own saying
That to you it shall be given
As a child and heir of heaven.**

**2 Lord, your Word is clear and plain,
And we will obey it duly:
“He who is not born again,
Heart and life renewing truly,
Born of water and the Spirit,
Can my kingdom not inherit.”**

**3 Therefore we have come to you,
In our arms this infant bearing.
Here we shall forgiveness view.
May this child, your mercy sharing,
In your arms be shielded ever,
Yours on earth and yours forever.**

**4 Gracious Head, your member own;
Shepherd, take your lamb and feed it;
Prince of Peace, make here your throne;
Way of Life, to heaven lead it.
Precious Vine, let nothing sever
From your side this branch forever.**

**5 Now into your heart we pour
Prayers that from our hearts proceeded.
Our petitions heav'nward soar;
May our warm desires be heeded!
Write the name we now have given;
Write it in the book of heaven!**

EVENING PRAYERS

M: Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who watch or work or weep this night, and give your angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, give rest to the weary, pity the afflicted, sooth the suffering, bless the dying—and all for your love's sake.

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: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with you all.

C: Amen.

Hymn

CWS 594:1-2 The Day You Gave Us, Lord, Is Ended

**1 The day you gave us, Lord, is ended;
The darkness falls at your request.
To you our morning hymns ascended;
Your praise shall sanctify our rest.**

**2 We thank you that your Church, unsleeping
While earth rolls onward into light,
Through all the world her watch is keeping
And never rests by day or night.**