



BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH

THE RIGHT TOOL FOR THIS JOB

Wednesday, March 20, 2024
Baptized into His Death

Service Theme

The Right Tool for This Job

Set a beautiful piece of marble before the world's best sculptor. Nothing comes of it unless he has the right tools. If he tries to fashion something from that rock with bare hands, he is doomed to nothing but frustration, split nails, and bloody fingertips. He needs a hammer and a set of chisels. He needs the right tools. If your car is broken down, you cannot fix it with kitchen utensils. If you need heart surgery, pray the surgeon has more than a jigsaw and lock-wrench. To do a job well, you don't just need tools. You need the right tools. Jesus has asked his disciples to make disciples. Think of what that means. He is asking us to call people out of unbelief into the light of Christ. How does one raise the spiritually dead? You need the right tool. And that is what Christ has given us in Baptism. It is the right tool for this job that Christ has given to his Church.

Hymn

CW 114:1-4 Christ, the Life of All the Living

**1 Christ, the Life of all the living,
Christ, the Death of death, our foe,
Who, thyself for me once giving
To the darkest depths of woe—
Through thy suff'rings, death, and merit
I eternal life inherit.**

**Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto thee.**

**2 Thou, ah, thou hast taken on thee
Bonds and stripes, a cruel rod;
Pain and scorn were heaped upon thee,
O thou sinless Son of God!**

**Thus didst thou my soul deliver
From the bonds of sin forever.
Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto thee.**

**3 Thou hast borne the smiting only
That my wounds might all be whole;
Thou hast suffered, sad and lonely,
Rest to give my weary soul;
Yea, the curse of God enduring,
Blessing unto me securing.**

**Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto thee.**

**4 Heartless scoffers did surround thee,
Treating thee with cruel scorn,
And with piercing thorns they crowned thee.
All disgrace thou, Lord, hast borne
That as thine thou mightest own me
And with heav'nly glory crown me.**

**Thousand, thousand thanks shall be,
Dearest Jesus, unto thee.**

ORDER OF SERVICE

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

C: **Amen.**

M: The LORD says, "Fear not, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine.

C: **When you pass through the waters, I will be with you.**

M: When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned."

C: **Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.**

M: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you.**

PRAYER

M: God, who as at this time taught the hearts of your faithful people by sending to them the light of your Holy Spirit: grant us by the same Spirit, given us in our baptism, to have a right judgment in all things and evermore to rejoice in his holy comfort; through the merits of Christ Jesus our Savior, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: **Amen.**

THE NEW LIFE OF BAPTISM

M: Fellow redeemed, by your baptism you were not only made sons and daughters of our heavenly Father, but also brothers and sisters to each other. Rejoice in the family of believers.

C: Brothers and sisters, I rejoice with you in the new life of baptism. Together we will give thanks and praise to God and proclaim the good news to all the world. I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

M: As brothers and sisters, you have a solemn responsibility to one another. Therefore, I ask you, in the presence of God and one another, do you intend: to live among God's faithful people, to hear the word of God and share in the Lord's Supper, to proclaim the good news of God in Christ through word and deed, to serve all people, following the example of Christ, to live according to the will of Christ, walking in all his commands, and to strive for justice and peace in all the earth, and especially in our Christian family?

C: I do, and I ask God to help me.

M: Do you sincerely intend to love, support and pray for one another in your life in Christ?

C: I do, and I ask God to guide me.

PRAYER

M: Merciful Father in heaven, we thank you for the blessing of Baptism by which you offer and grant the forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation. Make us willing to carry out our responsibilities to those who have been baptized so that all of us may finally come to the blessed joys of heaven, through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

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 – Matthew 28:18-20 (EHV)

¹⁸Jesus approached and spoke to them saying, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and gather disciples from all nations by baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and by teaching them to keep all the instructions I have given you. And surely I am with you always until the end of the age.”

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 15:16-47—Death and Burial

¹⁶The soldiers led him away inside the palace, which is the Praetorium, and called together the whole cohort of soldiers. ¹⁷They put a purple robe on him, twisted together a crown of thorns, and put it on him. ¹⁸The soldiers began to salute him, “Hail, King of the Jews!” ¹⁹They kept hitting him on the head with a reed and spitting on him. They also knelt down to pay homage to him.

²⁰When they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothing on him. Then they led him out to crucify him.

²¹A certain man, Simon of Cyrene (the father of Alexander and Rufus), was passing by on his way in from the country. They forced him to carry Jesus’ cross. ²²They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha, which means, “The place of a skull.” ²³They tried to give him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴They crucified him. And they divided his garments, casting lots for them to decide what each of them would take.

²⁵Now it was the third hour when they crucified him. ²⁶The superscription stating the charge against him read, “The King of the Jews.” ²⁷They also crucified two criminals with him, one on his right and one on his left.

²⁹Those who passed by ridiculed him, shaking their heads and saying, “Ha! You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, ³⁰save yourself! Come down from the cross!”

³¹In the same way, the chief priests along with the experts in the law mocked him among themselves. “He saved others,” they said. “He cannot save himself. ³²Let the Christ, the King of Israel, come down now from the cross so that we may see and believe!”

Those who were crucified with him also insulted him.

³³When it was the sixth hour, darkness came over the whole land until the ninth hour. ³⁴At the ninth hour Jesus shouted with a loud voice, “*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*” which means, “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?”

³⁵When some of those standing there heard this, they said, "Listen, he's calling Elijah!"

³⁶Someone ran, filled a sponge with sour wine, put it on a stick, and gave it to him to drink. They said, "Leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down."

³⁷Jesus cried out with a loud voice and breathed his last.

³⁸The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹When the centurion who stood facing him saw how he cried out and breathed his last, he said, "Truly this man was the Son of God!"

⁴⁰There were also women watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joses, and Salome. ⁴¹When he was in Galilee, they followed him and served him. Many other women also came up with him to Jerusalem.

⁴²It was already evening, and since it was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath), ⁴³Joseph from Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, boldly went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. ⁴⁴Pilate was surprised that he was already dead. He summoned the centurion and asked him if Jesus had been dead for a long time. ⁴⁵When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he granted the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶Joseph bought a linen cloth, took him down, and wrapped him in the linen cloth. He laid him in a tomb that had been cut out of rock, and he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joses were watching where the body was laid.

RESPONSE

M: All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus

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

Hymn

CW 127 Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

**1 Stricken, smitten, and afflicted,
See him dying on the tree!
'Tis the Christ, by man rejected;
Yes, my soul, 'tis he, 'tis he.
'Tis the long-expected Prophet,
David's Son, yet David's Lord;
Proofs I see sufficient of it:
'Tis the true and faithful Word.**

**2 Tell me, as you hear him groaning,
Was there ever grief like his?
Friends through fear his cause disowning,
Foes insulting his distress,
Many hands were raised to wound him,
None would intervene to save,
But the deepest stroke that pierced him
Was the stroke that Justice gave.**

**3 If you think of sin but lightly
Nor suppose the evil great,
Here you see its nature rightly,
Here its guilt may estimate.
Mark the sacrifice appointed;
See who bears the awful load—
'Tis the Word, the Lord's Anointed,
Son of Man and Son of God.**

**4 Here we have a firm foundation,
Here the refuge of the lost;
Christ's the rock of our salvation,
His the name of which we boast.
Lamb of God, for sinners wounded,
Sacrifice to cancel guilt—
None shall ever be confounded
Who on him their hope have built.**

SERMON TEXT & THEME

Matthew 28:18-20 ... **The Right Tool for This Job**

Hymn

CWS 739 Baptismal Waters Cover Me

**1 Baptismal waters cover me
As I approach on bended knee;
My Father's mercy here I plead,
For grievous sins of thought and deed.**

**2 I look to Christ upon the tree,
His body broken there for me;
I lay before him all my sin,
My darkest secrets from within.**

**3 Lord, may your wounded hand impart
Your healing to my broken heart;
Your love alone can form in me
A heart that serves you joyfully.**

**4 From your own mouth comes forth a
word;
Your Shepherd speaks, but you are heard;
Through him your hand now stretches out,
Forgiving sin, destroying doubt.**

**5 Baptismal waters cover me;
Christ's wounded hand has set me free.
Held in my Father's strong embrace,
With joy I praise him for his grace.**

EVENING PRAYERS

M: Lord Jesus, through the power of the Holy Spirit, fill my mind even as I sleep. Every hurt that has ever been done to me, heal that hurt. Every hurt that I have ever caused another person, heal that hurt. All the relationships that have been damaged in my whole life that I am not aware of, heal those relationships.

To that end, if there is anything that I need to do, if I need to go to a person because he or she is still suffering from my hand, bring to my awareness that person. Help me to forgive as you have forgiven me. Remove whatever bitterness may be in my heart, Lord, and fill me wholly with your love.

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 blessed and holy Trinity make you strong in faith and love, defend you on every side, and guide you in truth and peace, now and forevermore.

C: Amen.

Hymn

CW 587:3-4 Now Rest Beneath Night's Shadow

**3 Lord Jesus, since you love me,
Oh, spread your wings above me
And shield me from alarm.
Though Satan would assail me,
Your mercy will not fail me;
I rest in your protecting arm.**

**4 My loved ones, rest securely,
For God this night will surely
From peril guard your heads.
Sweet slumbers may he send you
And bid his hosts attend you
And through the night watch o'er your beds.**