

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Manitowoc, Wisconsin



BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH
Midweek Lent | February 21, 2024

BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH

The Right Tool for This Job

Lent: A Time of Catechetical Review

Already at the time of the Reformation, Lutheran churches would hold special services several times each year to review the catechism, a summary of key biblical teachings. Lent was almost always used as a time of catechetical review. We follow this Lutheran tradition this Lent by gathering for special midweek services under the following theme.

Baptized into His Death

St. Paul writes, “Don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death” (Romans 6:3). There is a connection between our baptism and Christ’s passion. This makes Lent the perfect season to learn anew all that which God’s Word tells us about Baptism. We will see how we were powerfully connected in our baptism to all Christ’s saving work. We will study again what our baptism means for our daily lives. And we will rededicate ourselves to the struggle of living the new life Baptism gives.

Today—Baptism: The Right Tool for This Job

Matthew 28:18-20

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 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.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Opening Hymn – Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing

CW 400

Stand

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

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

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

When you walk through fire, you shall not be burned.”

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Prayer

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.

Amen.

The New Life of Baptism

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.

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.

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?

I do, and I ask God to help me.

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

I do, and I ask God to guide me.

Then let us pray.

Prayer

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.

Amen.

Be seated

Response – God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

CW 679:1

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!

Reading

Matthew 28:18-20

¹⁸Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. ¹⁹Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰and teaching them to obey

everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Response – God’s Own Child, I Gladly Say It

CW 679:2

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 – Perfume, Plot, and Passover

Mark 14:1-26

14 Now the Passover and the Festival of Unleavened Bread were only two days away, and the chief priests and the teachers of the law were scheming to arrest Jesus secretly and kill him. ²“But not during the festival,” they said, “or the people may riot.”

³While he was in Bethany, reclining at the table in the home of Simon the Leper, a woman came with an alabaster jar of very expensive perfume, made of pure nard. She broke the jar and poured the perfume on his head.

⁴Some of those present were saying indignantly to one another, “Why this waste of perfume? ⁵It could have been sold for more than a year’s wages and the money given to the poor.” And they rebuked her harshly.

⁶“Leave her alone,” said Jesus. “Why are you bothering her? She has done a beautiful thing to me. ⁷The poor you will always have with you, and you can help them any time you want. But you will not always have me. ⁸She did what she could. She poured perfume on my body beforehand to prepare for my burial. ⁹Truly I tell you, wherever the gospel is preached throughout the world, what she has done will also be told, in memory of her.”

¹⁰Then Judas Iscariot, one of the Twelve, went to the chief priests to betray Jesus to them. ¹¹They were delighted to hear this and promised to give him money. So he watched for an opportunity to hand him over.

¹² On the first day of the Festival of Unleavened Bread, when it was customary to sacrifice the Passover lamb, Jesus' disciples asked him, "Where do you want us to go and make preparations for you to eat the Passover?"

¹³ So he sent two of his disciples, telling them, "Go into the city, and a man carrying a jar of water will meet you. Follow him. ¹⁴ Say to the owner of the house he enters, 'The Teacher asks: Where is my guest room, where I may eat the Passover with my disciples?' ¹⁵ He will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Make preparations for us there."

¹⁶ The disciples left, went into the city and found things just as Jesus had told them. So they prepared the Passover.

¹⁷ When evening came, Jesus arrived with the Twelve. ¹⁸ While they were reclining at the table eating, he said, "Truly I tell you, one of you will betray me—one who is eating with me."

¹⁹ They were saddened, and one by one they said to him, "Surely you don't mean me?"

²⁰ "It is one of the Twelve," he replied, "one who dips bread into the bowl with me. ²¹ The Son of Man will go just as it is written about him. But woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would be better for him if he had not been born."

²² While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take it; this is my body."

²³ Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and they all drank from it.

²⁴ "This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many," he said to them. ²⁵ "Truly I tell you, I will not drink again from the fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new in the kingdom of God."

²⁶ When they had sung a hymn, they went out to the Mount of Olives.

All of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death.

Hymn – What Grace is This

CW 395

Sermon

Matthew 28:18-20

Baptized into His Death: The Right Tool for this Job

Hymn – Baptismal Waters Cover Me

CW 657

Offering

Grades 7-8 sing “I Promise You” (4pm)



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Stand

Evening Prayers

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.

Amen.

Lord’s Prayer

Hear us as we pray as Jesus taught.

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

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.

Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn – Now Rest Beneath Night’s Shadow

CW 794:3,4

Lord Jesus, since you love me,
O 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.

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.



Musician: Ann Wilson

Worship Leader: Pastor Matt Zimpelmann