

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Manitowoc, Wisconsin



BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH
Midweek Lent | March 13, 2024

BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH

A Great Power and a Greater Gift

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—A Great Power and a Greater Gift

Titus 3:4-7

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 tool the Holy Spirit uses 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 savior 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.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Opening Hymn – Not All the Blood of Beasts

CW 398

Stand

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

Amen.

There is one body and one spirit.

There is one hope to which we were called;

one Lord, one faith, one baptism,

one God and Father of all.

Peace be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray.

Prayer

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.

Amen.

The New Life of Baptism

In baptism, God calls us out of darkness into his marvelous 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?

I renounce them.

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

I reject them.

Do you repent of the sins that separate you from God and neighbor?

I repent of them.

Do you turn to Christ as Savior and Lord?

I turn to Christ.

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his T cross. Do not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified.

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

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.

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

Titus 3:4-7

⁴ But when the kindness and love of God our Savior appeared, ⁵ he saved us, not because of righteous things we had done, but because of his mercy. He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, ⁶ whom he poured out on

us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,⁷ so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

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

CW 679:5

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!

Text: tr. Robert E. Voelker, b. 1957; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756
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Passion Reading – The Trial Before Pilate

Mark 14:66-15:15

⁶⁶ While Peter was below in the courtyard, one of the servant girls of the high priest came by. ⁶⁷ When she saw Peter warming himself, she looked closely at him.

“You also were with that Nazarene, Jesus,” she said.

⁶⁸ But he denied it. “I don’t know or understand what you’re talking about,” he said, and went out into the entryway.

⁶⁹ When the servant girl saw him there, she said again to those standing around, “This fellow is one of them.” ⁷⁰ Again he denied it.

After a little while, those standing near said to Peter, “Surely you are one of them, for you are a Galilean.”

⁷¹ He began to call down curses, and he swore to them, “I don’t know this man you’re talking about.”

⁷² Immediately the rooster crowed the second time. Then Peter remembered the word Jesus had spoken to him: “Before the rooster crows twice you will disown me three times.” And he broke down and wept.

15 Very early in the morning, the chief priests, with the elders, the teachers of the law and the whole Sanhedrin, made their plans. So they bound Jesus, led him away and handed him over to Pilate.

² “Are you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate.

“You have said so,” Jesus replied.

³ The chief priests accused him of many things. ⁴ So again Pilate asked him, “Aren’t you going to answer? See how many things they are accusing you of.”

⁵ But Jesus still made no reply, and Pilate was amazed.

⁶ Now it was the custom at the festival to release a prisoner whom the people requested. ⁷ A man called Barabbas was in prison with the insurrectionists who had committed murder in the uprising. ⁸ The crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them what he usually did.

⁹ “Do you want me to release to you the king of the Jews?” asked Pilate, ¹⁰ knowing it was out of self-interest that the chief priests had handed Jesus over to him. ¹¹ But the chief priests stirred up the crowd to have Pilate release Barabbas instead.

¹² “What shall I do, then, with the one you call the king of the Jews?” Pilate asked them.

¹³ “Crucify him!” they shouted.

¹⁴ “Why? What crime has he committed?” asked Pilate.

But they shouted all the louder, “Crucify him!”

¹⁵ Wanting to satisfy the crowd, Pilate released Barabbas to them. He had Jesus flogged, and handed him over to be crucified.

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

Hymn – Go to Dark Gethsemane

CW 425

Sermon

Titus 3:4-7

Baptized into His Death: A Great Power and a Greater Gift

Offering



ilutheran.org/imhere

Stand

Evening Prayers

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.

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

Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn – All Praise to Thee, My God, This Night

CW 789:1-2



Musician: Jason Muench

Worship Leader: Pastor Daniel Foelske (Trinity, Liberty)