

IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH
Manitowoc, Wisconsin



BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH
Midweek Lent | March 20, 2024

BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH

Baptism Is Needed by All

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 Is Needed by All

John 3:1-8

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.

ORDER OF SERVICE

Opening Hymn – Were You There

CW 426

Stand

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

Amen.

Praise God who made heaven and earth,
who keeps his promise forever.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Let us pray.

Prayer

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.

Amen.

The New Life of Baptism

I ask you, with the whole Christian Church, to confess your baptismal faith.

Do you believe in God the Father?

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

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

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

Let us pray.

Prayer

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.

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

John 3:1-8

3 Now there was a Pharisee, a man named Nicodemus who was a member of the Jewish ruling council. ² He came to Jesus at night and said, "Rabbi, we know that you are a

teacher who has come from God. For no one could perform the signs you are doing if God were not with him.”

³ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again.”

⁴ “How can someone be born when they are old?” Nicodemus asked. “Surely they cannot enter a second time into their mother’s womb to be born!”

⁵ Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. ⁶ Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. ⁷ You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’ ⁸ The wind blows wherever it pleases. You hear its sound, but you cannot tell where it comes from or where it is going. So it is with everyone born of the Spirit.”

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 – Death and Burial

Mark 15:16-47

¹⁶ The soldiers led Jesus away into the palace (that is, the Praetorium) and called together the whole company of soldiers. ¹⁷ They put a purple robe on him, then twisted together a crown of thorns and set it on him. ¹⁸ And they began to call out to him, “Hail, king of the Jews!” ¹⁹ Again and again they struck him on the head with a staff and spit on him. Falling on their knees, they paid homage to him. ²⁰ And when they had mocked him, they took off the purple robe and put his own clothes on him. Then they led him out to crucify him. ²¹ A certain man from Cyrene, Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus, was passing by on his way in from the country, and they forced him to carry the cross. ²² They brought Jesus to the place called Golgotha (which means “the place of the skull”). ²³ Then they

offered him wine mixed with myrrh, but he did not take it. ²⁴ And they crucified him. Dividing up his clothes, they cast lots to see what each would get.

²⁵ It was nine in the morning when they crucified him. ²⁶ The written notice of the charge against him read: THE KING OF THE JEWS.

²⁷ They crucified two rebels with him, one on his right and one on his left. ²⁹ Those who passed by hurled insults at him, shaking their heads and saying, "So! You who are going to destroy the temple and build it in three days, ³⁰ come down from the cross and save yourself!" ³¹ In the same way the chief priests and the teachers of the law mocked him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but he can't save himself! ³² Let this Messiah, this king of Israel, come down now from the cross, that we may see and believe." Those crucified with him also heaped insults on him.

³³ At noon, darkness came over the whole land until three in the afternoon. ³⁴ And at three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice, "*Eloi, Eloi, lema sabachthani?*" (which means "My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?").

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

³⁶ Someone ran, filled a sponge with wine vinegar, put it on a staff, and offered it to Jesus to drink. "Now leave him alone. Let's see if Elijah comes to take him down," he said.

³⁷ With a loud cry, Jesus breathed his last.

³⁸ The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom. ³⁹ And when the centurion, who stood there in front of Jesus, saw how he died, he said, "Surely this man was the Son of God!"

⁴⁰ Some women were watching from a distance. Among them were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James the younger and of Joseph, and Salome. ⁴¹ In Galilee these women had followed him and cared for his needs. Many other women who had come up with him to Jerusalem were also there.

⁴² It was Preparation Day (that is, the day before the Sabbath). So as evening approached, ⁴³ Joseph of Arimathea, a prominent member of the Council, who was himself waiting for the kingdom of God, went boldly to Pilate and asked for Jesus' body. ⁴⁴ Pilate was surprised to hear that he was already dead. Summoning the centurion, he asked him if Jesus had already died. ⁴⁵ When he learned from the centurion that it was so, he gave the body to Joseph. ⁴⁶ So Joseph bought some linen cloth, took down the body, wrapped it in the linen, and placed it in a tomb cut out of rock. Then he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb. ⁴⁷ Mary Magdalene and Mary the mother of Joseph saw where he was laid.

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

Hymn – Stricken, Smitten, and Afflicted

CW 430

Sermon

John 3:1-8

Baptized into His Death: Baptism Is Needed by All

Hymn – Dearest Jesus, We Are Here

CW 648

Offering

4pm – 2nd grade sings “I Will Sing of My Redeemer”



ilutheran.org/imhere

Stand

Evening Prayers

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.

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

Amen.

Be seated

Closing Hymn – The Day You Gave Us, Lord, Is Ended

CW 795:1-2



Musician: Ann Wilson

Worship Leader: Pastor Micah Martin (St. John's, Newtonburg)