

Baptized into His Death:

A Sacrament, Not a Sign

March 20, 2024

ETERNAL LOVE LUTHERAN CHURCH

a member congregation of the Wisconsin Evangelical Lutheran Synod (WELS)

FOR OUR GUESTS

Thank you for being here. During your visit today, you will see and hear what we're all about: God's *eternal love* for us through his Son, Jesus Christ! Any directions for speaking or singing, standing or sitting, will be indicated in this folder or projected on the wall in front of you.

Restrooms: are available just outside the chapel doors down the hallway to the left.

Nursery: We encourage families to worship together. If an adult needs to step out of the chapel briefly with a child, the nursery is provided just outside the chapel near the restrooms.

For Kids: Activity sheets for young children are available on the bulletin table. Small bags with quiet activity items hang near the table.

CURRENT SERIES: BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH

St. Paul writes, "...do you not 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 SACRAMENT, NOT A SIGN

There are those who view Christian Baptism as an important sign, a symbolic representation of the way God washes away our sin. But Baptism doesn't represent something. Baptism *is* something. St. Peter says plainly, "Baptism... saves you" (1 Peter 3:21). Baptism is a sacrament. God has connected his saving work and Word with a common earthly element—water. As we wrap up our Lenten look at Baptism, let us remember what we are looking at when we see someone come to the font. That is not a sign. It is not symbolic. It is a miracle... a Holy Sacrament.

As we follow Christ and his suffering to the cross, today we read the account of Jesus' crucifixion, death, and burial in Mark 15:16-47.

OPENING HYMN

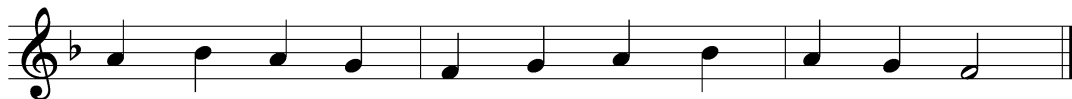
Sweet the Moments, Rich in Blessing



1 Sweet the mo - ments, rich in bless - ing, which be -
 2 Here we rest in won - der, view - ing all our
 3 Here we find the dawn of heav - en while up -
 5 Lord, in lov - ing con - tem - pla - tion fix our



fore the cross we spend, life and health and
 sins on Je - sus laid; here we see re -
 on the cross we gaze, see our tres - pass -
 hearts and eyes on you till we taste your



peace pos - sess - ing from the sin - ner's dy - ing friend.
 demp - tion flow - ing from the sac - ri - fice he made.
 es for - giv - en, and our songs of tri - umph raise.
 full sal - va - tion and your un - veiled glo - ry view.

STAND

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

Amen.

In Christ, God gives us water welling up for eternal life. With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation.

Lord, give us this water and we shall thirst no more.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give him thanks and praise.

PRAYER

Let us pray.

Blessed are you, sovereign God of all. To you be glory and praise forever. You are our light and our salvation. From the deep waters of death you have raised your Son to life in triumph. Grant that all who have been born anew by water and the Spirit may daily be renewed in your image, walk by the light of faith, and serve you in newness of life; through your anointed Son, Jesus Christ, to whom with you and the Holy Spirit we lift our voices of praise. Blessed be you, God—Father, Son and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God forever. Amen.

BE SEATED

HYMN

God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It



1 God's own child, I glad - ly say it: I am bap-tized
in - to Christ! He, be - cause I could not pay it, gave my
full re - demp-tion price. Do I need earth's trea - sures man - y?
I have one worth more than an - y that brought me sal -
va - tion free, last - ing to e - ter - ni - ty!

THE NEW LIFE OF BAPTISM

Those who are baptized are called to worship and serve God. Therefore I ask you: Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you proclaim by word and example the good news of God in Christ?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all people, loving your neighbor as yourself?

With the help of God, I will.

Will you acknowledge Christ's authority over human society, by prayer for the world and its leaders, by defending the weak, and by seeking peace and justice?

With the help of God, I will.

HYMN

God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

♪ 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?

PRAYER

Eternal God, our beginning and our end, preserve in your people the new life of baptism; as Christ receives us on earth, so may he guide us through the trials of this world and enfold us in the joy of heaven, where you live and reign, one God for ever and ever.

Amen.

PSALM 88

The congregation sings the refrains.

Refrain



What won - drous love is this, O my soul!

*Choir: LORD, you are the God who saves me;
day and night I cry out to you.
May my prayer come before you;
turn your ear to my cry.
I am overwhelmed with troubles
and my life draws near to death. **Refrain***

*Choir: Your wrath has swept over me;
your terrors have destroyed me.
You have taken from me friend and neighbor—
darkness is my closest friend.
But I cry to you for help, LORD;
in the morning my prayer comes before you.*

*Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. **Amen. Refrain***

SACRED HISTORY OF THE SUFFERING AND DEATH OF OUR LORD Mark 15:16–47

Soldiers Mock Jesus

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 kneeled down to pay homage to him.

The Crucifixion

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.

Jesus’ Death

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.

Jesus' Burial

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 TO THE WORD

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

HYMN

O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken

The congregation sings stanza four.

- 1 *O dearest Jesus, what law have you broken
that such sharp sentence should on you be spoken?
Of what great crime have you to make confession,
what dark transgression?*
- 2 *They crown your head with thorns, they smite, they scourge you;
with cruel mockings to the cross they urge you;
they give you gall to drink, they still decry you;
they crucify you.*

3 *Whence come these sorrows, whence this mortal anguish?
 It is my sins for which you, Lord, must languish;
 yes, all the wrath, the woe that you inherit,
 this I do merit.*

4 What pun - ish - ment so strange is suf - fered yon - der!

The Shep - herd dies for sheep that loved to wan - der;

the Mas - ter pays the debt his ser - vants

owe him, who would not know him.

SERMON

1 Peter 3:18–22

¹⁸...Christ also suffered once for sins in our place, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in flesh but was made alive in spirit, ¹⁹in which he also went and made an announcement to the spirits in prison. ²⁰These spirits disobeyed long ago, when God's patience was waiting in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In this ark a few, that is, eight souls, were saved by water. ²¹And corresponding to that, baptism now saves you—not the removal of dirt from the body but the guarantee of a good conscience before God through the resurrection of Jesus Christ. ²²He went to heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

You Have Been Brought to God

HYMN

Word and Water, Filled with Promise

Pastor will introduce the hymn by singing the first stanza.

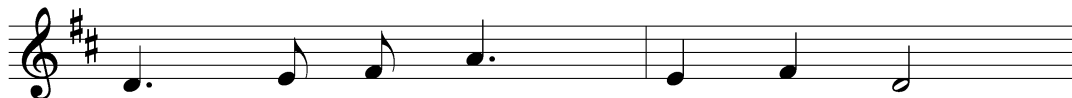
The congregation joins in singing stanzas two and four.



1 Word and wa - ter, filled with prom - ise, grant for - give - ness,
2 As the wa - ter res - cued No - ah, ark up - lift - ed
4 Let us al - ways, Lord, re - mem - ber that the wa - ter



cleanse, re - claim in the Fa - ther, Son, and Spir - it's
on the waves, so this wa - ter, by God's prom - ise,
and the Word bear your nev - er - fail - ing prom - ise:



ho - ly, pre - cious, sav - ing name.
al - so res - cues, al - so saves.
our sal - va - tion is as - sured.



Bless - ings pur - chased when our Sav - ior paid the aw - ful
Now by Je - sus' res - ur - rec - tion we be - fore our
Your bap - tis - mal ben - e - dic - tion ev - er show - er



ran - som price— all de - liv - ered in this wash - ing:
God ap - pear pure and sin - less, ful - ly right - eous,
from a - bove— all the Spir - it's grace in Je - sus,



peace and par - don, par - a - dise.
with a con - science crys - tal clear.
and, dear Fa - ther, all your love.

OFFERING

The members of Eternal Love congregation have joined together to do the Lord's work in this city and around the world. Guests need not feel obligated to participate in this offering which supports our church's ministry. If being here today was a blessing to you and you would like to support our ministry, you can scan here and enter your phone number or email address to donate. (Members, please use a phone number or email address that is currently on file with the church).



During this time, we ask that everyone take part in completing the worship register. Please fill in the requested information and pass the booklet to the end of the row. Thank you!

PRAYER

O God our Father, by your mercy and might the world turns safely into darkness and returns again to light. We place into your hands our unfinished tasks, our unsolved problems, and our unfulfilled hopes, knowing that only what you bless will prosper. To your great love and protection we commit each other and all those we love, knowing that you alone are our great defender.

Amen.

BLESSING

May God lead you in truth and steady your spirit. May Christ renew your joy and strengthen your will. May the Spirit teach you God's hidden wisdom and fill you with songs of rejoicing. We go in peace to love and serve the Lord,

In the name of Christ. Amen.

HYMN

Abide with Me

♪ **Abide with me, fast falls the eventide.
The darkness deepens; Lord, with me abide.
When other helpers fail and comforts flee,
help of the helpless, O abide with me.**

**I need thy presence ev'ry passing hour;
what but thy grace can foil the tempter's pow'r?
Who like thyself my guide and stay can be?
Through cloud and sunshine, O abide with me!**

I fear no foe with thee at hand to bless;
ills have no weight and tears no bitterness.
Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy victory?
I triumph still if thou abide with me.

Hold thou thy cross before my closing eyes;
shine through the gloom and point me to the skies.
Heav'n's morning breaks, and earth's vain shadows flee;
in life, in death, O Lord, abide with me!

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Minister: Pastor Dave Backus
Accompanist: Tessa Ray (from Immanuel, Greenville)
Choir Director: Clay Funk
Flute: Carol Gagnow

Sweet the Moments Rich in Blessing (CW 400)

Text: alt. Walter Shirley, 1725–1786; James Allen, 1734–1804 Tune: Erbaulicher Musicalischer Christen-Schatz, Basel, 1745, alt. Text and tune: Public domain.

God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It (CW 679)

Text: tr. Robert E. Voelker, b. 1957; Erdmann Neumeister, 1671–1756 Tune: Johann Caspar Bachofen, 1695–1755, alt. Text: © 1991 Robert E. Voelker. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840. Tune: Public domain.

Psalms of the Day (CW 88C)

Text: A General Selection of . . . Hymns and Spiritual Songs, 1811, ed. Stith Mead, alt. (refrain) Tune: Southern Harmony, 1835, ed. William Walker Setting: Bryan Gerlach Tune: Public domain Setting: © 2004 Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840.

O Dearest Jesus, What Law Have You Broken (CW 432)

Text: Johann Heermann, 1585-1647, tr. Catherine Winkworth, 1827-1878, st. 1-4, alt; Tune: Johann Crüger, 1598-1662. Text and tune: Public domain.

Word and Water, Filled with Promise (CW 647)

Text: Michael D. Schultz, b. 1963 Tune: Welsh Text: © 2021 Michael D. Schultz, admin. Northwestern Publishing House. Used by permission: OneLicense no. 703840. Tune: Public domain.

Abide with Me (CW 783)

Text: Henry F. Lyte, 1793-1847, alt. Public domain.

Holy Bible

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