

**IMMANUEL EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
Manitowoc, Wisconsin



**BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH**  
Midweek Lent | March 6, 2024

# BAPTIZED INTO HIS DEATH

## A Sacrament, not a Sign

### 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 Sacrament, not a Sign

*1 Peter 3:18-22*

Signs and symbols. These are artifacts that represent something larger. Take thirteen red and white stripes with fifty-stars on a field of blue. That flag is more than just colored cloth sewn together. It represents something—the history, values, and ideals of the United States of America. That shiny piece of metal on the man-in-blue’s chest is more than decoration. It is a sign, marking that police officer as one who has authority, as well as the duty to protect and serve. Signs and symbols are important because they represent something larger.

There are those who view Baptism as an important sign, a symbolic representation of the way God washes away our sin. They could not be more wrong. Baptism doesn’t represent something. Baptism *is* something. St. Peter says plainly, “Baptism... saves you” (1 Peter 3:21). Baptism isn’t a sign. Baptism is a sacrament. God has connected his saving work and Word with a common earthly element—water. As we begin 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.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

**4pm – “Jesus, Thank You”**

*Sung by Kindergarten*

**Opening Hymn – Alas! And Did My Savior Bleed**

*CW 410*

*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.**

Let us pray.

**Prayer**

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.

**Amen.**

## **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.**

Then let us pray.

## **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.**

*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

*1 Peter 3:18-22*

<sup>18</sup> For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. <sup>19</sup> After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— <sup>20</sup> to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, <sup>21</sup> and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also—not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, <sup>22</sup> who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him.

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

*CW 679:4*

Death, you cannot end my gladness:  
I am baptized into Christ!  
When I die, I leave all sadness  
to inherit paradise!  
Though I lie in dust and ashes  
faith’s assurance brightly flashes:  
Baptism has the strength divine  
to make life immortal mine.

## Passion Reading – The Trial Before the High Priest

*Mark 14:43-65*

<sup>43</sup> Just as he was speaking, Judas, one of the Twelve, appeared. With him was a crowd armed with swords and clubs, sent from the chief priests, the teachers of the law, and the elders.

<sup>44</sup> Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: “The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard.” <sup>45</sup> Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, “Rabbi!” and kissed him. <sup>46</sup> The men seized Jesus and arrested him. <sup>47</sup> Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear.

<sup>48</sup> “Am I leading a rebellion,” said Jesus, “that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me? <sup>49</sup> Every day I was with you, teaching in the temple courts, and you did

not arrest me. But the Scriptures must be fulfilled.”<sup>50</sup> Then everyone deserted him and fled.

<sup>51</sup> A young man, wearing nothing but a linen garment, was following Jesus. When they seized him, <sup>52</sup> he fled naked, leaving his garment behind.

<sup>53</sup> They took Jesus to the high priest, and all the chief priests, the elders and the teachers of the law came together. <sup>54</sup> Peter followed him at a distance, right into the courtyard of the high priest. There he sat with the guards and warmed himself at the fire.

<sup>55</sup> The chief priests and the whole Sanhedrin were looking for evidence against Jesus so that they could put him to death, but they did not find any. <sup>56</sup> Many testified falsely against him, but their statements did not agree.

<sup>57</sup> Then some stood up and gave this false testimony against him: <sup>58</sup> “We heard him say, ‘I will destroy this temple made with human hands and in three days will build another, not made with hands.’” <sup>59</sup> Yet even then their testimony did not agree.

<sup>60</sup> Then the high priest stood up before them and asked Jesus, “Are you not going to answer? What is this testimony that these men are bringing against you?” <sup>61</sup> But Jesus remained silent and gave no answer.

Again the high priest asked him, “Are you the Messiah, the Son of the Blessed One?”

<sup>62</sup> “I am,” said Jesus. “And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Mighty One and coming on the clouds of heaven.”

<sup>63</sup> The high priest tore his clothes. “Why do we need any more witnesses?” he asked. <sup>64</sup> “You have heard the blasphemy. What do you think?”

They all condemned him as worthy of death. <sup>65</sup> Then some began to spit at him; they blindfolded him, struck him with their fists, and said, “Prophecy!” And the guards took him and beat him.

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

## **Hymn – He Stood Before the Court**

*CW 408*

## **Sermon**

*1 Peter 3:18-22*

Baptized into His Death: A Sacrament, Not a Sign

## Offering

*Please sign in to service using QR code below or black binder at the end of your pew*



*ilutheran.org/imhere*

*Stand*

## Evening 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.**

## 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**

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.**

*Be seated*

## **Closing Hymn – God, Who Made the Earth and Heaven**

*CW 787:1-2*



**Musician:** Joel Putz

**Worship Leader:** Pastor Jacob Hoff (First German, Manitowoc)