

Good Friday 2020
John 19

30When Jesus had received the sour wine, he said, “It is finished,” and he bowed his head and gave up his spirit.

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen!

On account of what Jesus finished and then He gave up his spirit, Dr. Martin Luther taught the Church that there is MORE to learn and rejoice in, regarding our Baptism into Christ—more than we have time for in our life. Well, our Father and our God has given us THIS time, THIS Friday. What for? For something GOOD!

To rejoice and learn MORE of our Baptism into Christ Crucified, now Risen, Ascended, Serenely Ruling every last, little thing in heaven and on earth: for His baptized. And He comes, quickly!

This is THE DAY—the BAH-BUL sez!—Read the acts of the Apostles, chapters 1 through 8, and beyond! When Good Friday comes around, start the WATER FLOWING!

Holy Baptism - First

What is Holy Baptism?

Holy Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God’s command and combined with God’s word.

Which is that word of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (Matthew 28:19)

Holy Baptism - Second

What benefits does Baptism give?

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.” (Mark 16:16)

Holy Baptism - Third

How can water do such great things?

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God’s word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: “He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.” (Titus 3:5–8)

Holy Baptism - Fourth

What does such baptizing with water indicate?

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes in Romans, chapter six: “We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.” (Romans 6:4)

‘New life’ is ‘Gospel Life.’

And that does NOT mean, ‘A new, ANOTHER, running start at THE SAME OLD, SAME OLD! ORIENTING OURSELVES TOWARD GOD!’

Y’all should smell that devil’s stench a mile away! The odor is so strong in our world, we’ve become desensitized to it—our Old Adam. But the New Man knows what’s trash and what’s treasure,

what's Moses and Law and nothing but condemnation; and what is Jesus Christ and Grace and Truth and nothing but this: ONE Man, on ONE cross, giving up ONE Spirit, accomplishing IT ALL: ALONE! "I lay down my Life; I pick it up; and it is for the world, for 'whoever'!"

So you're just being hassled, dear baptized sheep, bathed, NO NEED FOR A FULL WASHING ANYMORE—the Lord waves you OFF of anyone talking about YOU and what YOU have been doing and what YOU are presenting to the—ugh!—what YOU are showing the WER-ULLD! Like, Who CARES?! Not NEW Man! Not baptized Man!

O...N...L...Y: ONLY pay ANY attention to those who want to point out a spot or blemish ON YOU—and even then, first turn on some sort of water source; the gizmos which have had surgically attached to our hands have LOVELY babbling brook sounds, rainfall, waves on the beach: lovely, lovely water.

To remind you of the Sacrament of our Water!

Jesus has his OWN commandments, statutes, mandates. Let Moses be Moses and Jesus be Jesus. Moses is OLD. Jesus Christ: New.

So take 'suggestions,' 'recommendations,' 'advice,' 'counsel,'—we've got a ZILLION of these words in Old Man-speak!

Take them ONLY, when you are looking DOWN to see Heaven, down to see Jesus, your Lord, your Servant, your First, your Last. Oh! Right! The WATER! Jesus-water! Spirit-Water!

We're recording this for Good Friday on Maundy Thursday—and all the lessons are dancing together.

Here is JESUS' mandate: Love one another the way ONE has loved y'all. ATTACH yourself to each other, as THAT ONE MAN attached Himself, to the world—
WHICH...WOULD...NOT...HAVE...HIM!

Howzat? 'It is finished!' And you, you, you—friend, enemy, stranger—church, yes, AND THE WORLD: you are FORBIDDEN to think of God as 'out to get you!' 'Heaven is over THERE, and YOU are over HERE, DOWN HERE—now, how YOU gonna get over there, up there, there?!'

To blazes with any thought that Heaven is WASTING it's Breath on digging down DEEP into the ALREADY rescued world---
'Now, WHO is REAAAALLLY with Jesus, with heaven, with the good angels? And WHO, is—Hey! YOU, there! How will YOU answer for YOU?!'

Old Adam sez: 'Well, if you're thinking of wrongdoing, don't look HERE. Or, at least, compare me to ALL THESE PEOPLE I COULD TELL YOU ABOUT—or....better!...LOOK AT THE CONDITION OF THE WORLD! I SAY about ME that, well, I'll come off well in that comparison.'

SOOO Old. P-yoo!

New Adam sez: 'I don't answer for me. That's been done and finished. And you too—dear interrogator!—you too need not answer for yourself, ever again. I am baptized into Christ. And what AUTHORITY GOD can muster nowadays, counts THAT WASHING as ME...CLEAN...FOR GOOD! Hey! You! There's water everywhere. I'm sure pastor is free to come baptizin'!'

The New is not like the Old, IN...ANY...WAY!

The Old will drag along on, until the end. Think of the suffering YOU STILL CAUSE Christ Crucified when your Old Adam stinks it all up with sin: (Here comes Moses!)

Frinstance: When you do not do what the Small Catechism of Doctor Martin Luther teaches of the command ‘Honor your father and your mother.’ ‘We should fear and love God so that we do not despise or anger our parents, AND OTHER AUTHORITIES—but honor them, serve and obey them, love and cherish them!’

On the day we commemorate our Baptism into Christ—and also think on Him laying down His Life for us, the OOMPH of our Baptism—

We can NOW, NEW, bear with Moses reminding us we still have the sin-denying, finger-pointing, and unbearable creep inside.

Frinstance: When you see the governor speaking for your God regarding this crisis we are all in: you cherish him, right? Meaning, you smile! Right?

You serve him? You honor him? You attach yourself to him and his ruling and well-being?

Moses sez: even yer BAPTISMal washing is hogwash, if you despise those your Jesus has planned from forever to rule over you.

The President? You cherish him, right? ‘Ah! There’s God’s servant! Always makes me smile!’

Can you imagine if the last word on us, when Christ returns, would be Moses, instead of Jesus?

‘Are you prepared for real heat? Think of your elected leaders? Getting WARM? Bothered, upset inside—burning? Something smell? Guess where YOU belong!’

But Moses is NOT the final word on us—even, the Gospel tells us, when we despise our authorities, and find UNTHINKABLE that we would CHERISH THEM! Lord, have mercy on us!

(Umm. A question: Who needs to be saved by grace? Besides your poor pastor?)

The final word belongs to Christ. And that word is, ‘That’s all finished! The day of: What do YOU have to say about YOU!’

‘My sheep hear MY voice! My lambs! May sheep! And they will NOT follow the stench, the voice that tyrannizes the Old Adam. They will only follow My Voice. And My Voice says: through your pastor’s Holy Absolution, and by Your Holy Baptism at MY authority: I answer for you! You answering for YOU: that day is over!’

Oh! And I give you—whenever My stand-ins, John Bel, Donald, Sharon, give the all-clear!—

On that day, I give you My Body and My Blood, to forgive y’all—each one, yet together.

(But that’s what we plan to record on Saturday for our Easter joy! Risen, He still feeds, still forgives.)

It’s Friday.

This Friday is Good because His Baptism is Good! He counts you clean: your Jesus, your Shepherd, your Savior, your Friend, your Brother, your King, your Father, your God!

Sing with the children! They learn best! And they're just
STARTING!

"I am baptized! Happy Day!"

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.