

Didache Divine Service
Session 21—The Second Article of the Creed
8:30, 2:30, and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 5, 2023

1. **Divine Service, Setting 4 Liturgy, LSB p. 203ff.**
2. **Sermon: Jesus' Death and Burial, Matthew 27:45-66**

Second Article of the Creed: *"...He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. The third day He rose again from the dead."*

Now from the sixth hour until the ninth hour there was darkness over all the land. ⁴⁶ And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani?" that is, "My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?" ⁴⁷ Some of those who stood there, when they heard *that*, said, "This Man is calling for Elijah!" ⁴⁸ Immediately one of them ran and took a sponge, filled *it* with sour wine and put *it* on a reed, and offered it to Him to drink.

⁴⁹ The rest said, "Let Him alone; let us see if Elijah will come to save Him."

⁵⁰ And Jesus cried out again with a loud voice, and yielded up His spirit. ⁵¹ Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split, ⁵² and the graves were opened; and many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised; ⁵³ and coming out of the graves after His resurrection, they went into the holy city and appeared to many.

⁵⁴ So when the centurion and those with him, who were guarding Jesus, saw the earthquake and the things that had happened, they feared greatly, saying, "Truly this was the Son of God!"

⁵⁵ And many women who followed Jesus from Galilee, ministering to Him, were there looking on from afar, ⁵⁶ among whom were Mary Magdalene, Mary the mother of James and ^[n]Josef, and the mother of Zebedee's sons.

⁵⁷ Now when evening had come, there came a rich man from Arimathea, named Joseph, who himself had also become a disciple of Jesus. ⁵⁸ This man went to Pilate and asked for the body of Jesus. Then Pilate commanded the body to be given to him. ⁵⁹ When Joseph had taken the body, he wrapped it in a clean linen cloth, ⁶⁰ and laid it in his new tomb which he had hewn out of the rock; and he rolled a large stone against the door of the tomb, and departed. ⁶¹ And Mary Magdalene was there, and the other Mary, sitting ^[o]opposite the tomb.

⁶² On the next day, which followed the Day of Preparation, the chief priests and Pharisees gathered together to Pilate, ⁶³ saying, "Sir, we remember, while He was still alive, how that deceiver said, 'After three days I will rise.'" ⁶⁴ Therefore command that the tomb be made secure until the third day, lest His disciples come ^[p]by night and steal Him away, and say to the people, 'He has risen from the dead.' So the last deception will be worse than the first."

⁶⁵ Pilate said to them, "You have a guard; go your way, make *it* as secure as you know how." ⁶⁶ So they went and made the tomb secure, sealing the stone and setting the guard.

Today's Passion the Burial of Jesus' Body and His Bodily Resurrection from the Dead

The eternal Son of God became flesh in Mary's womb, He was born of the Virgin, He suckled at her breast, He humbled Himself in His body to experience every limitation of a human being for us, and He allowed the sin of the world to be imputed to His flesh and blood that He might offer His body and shed His blood for our salvation. The body of Jesus is at the center of God's work of salvation. By the body and blood of Jesus, God redeemed the physical, fleshly, created world from sin. By the power of Jesus' body and blood offered up in His death we shall be raised bodily from the dead.

This is why Jesus' body is at the center of our worship. We hear His Word, "Take, eat..." "Drink of it, all of you." His flesh is food indeed and His blood is drink indeed. By the body and blood of Jesus in the Sacrament we are in fellowship and communion with God who so loved the world that He gave His only Son. Whoever eats of His flesh and drinks of His blood has eternal life and God will raise him up with Christ on the last day.

The unbelieving Jews knew Jesus' teaching perhaps better than His own disciples. He foretold His death and He promised them that He would rise again to life. So the Jews asked Pilate to set a guard so that they wouldn't steal His body out of the tomb and claim that He had been raised. Pilate gave them permission and the guard was set. But those who did not have the strength to stand by Jesus at His arrest and trial would not have had the strength to steal His body and claim that He had risen. Christianity does not rest upon a lie. Sane men do not die for something that they know to be false.

Christianity rests upon the truth of Jesus' resurrection from the dead according to the Scriptures. The disciples, who had no strength when Jesus died, were transformed by the power of His Word when He was raised from the dead. Now, they who had no strength of their own to confess Him before men when He suffered would willingly confess Him in the face of persecution and suffer their own martyrdom after He had risen from the dead.

"To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood, and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever." Thus says the Lord Jesus, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold. I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death....Behold, I make all things new" (Rev. 1:5b-7)