

Didache Divine Service
Session 16—Baptism and Its Daily Significance in the Life of a Christian
8:30, 2:30, and 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, March 1, 2023

1. **Divine Service, Setting 4 Liturgy, LSB p. 203ff.**
2. **Catechetical Sermon on Holy Baptism and the St. Matthew Passion:
Jesus Is Anointed at Bethany, Matthew 26:2-16**

CATECHISM—THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY BAPTISM:

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.*

1. Baptism has daily significance in the life of the Christian because it joins us to Jesus' death and resurrection.
2. Baptism means dying and rising, crucifixion and resurrection, in Christ in our daily life. It means living IN Christ, IN His death and resurrection. How does that happen?
3. **"Contrition and repentance"** means godly sorrow for sin (a sorrow that God works in us through His Word) and **"repentance"** means turning away from ourselves to Jesus for forgiveness (it is the faith that God also creates in our hearts through the Word).
4. **The Old Adam** is the sinful nature; baptism forgives sin, but the corruption of sin remains a part of us throughout our lifetime that we might be continually fleeing to Jesus for the comfort and strength of His forgiveness and love. [We see this devotion in Mary who anointed Jesus for His burial.]
5. When the Old Adam is drowned and dies in daily contrition and repentance we are experiencing the fact that we are joined to Jesus' death for our sins; and when the New Man daily emerges from the death of contrition and repentance through the forgiveness of sins we are experiencing the power of Jesus' resurrection and the fact that we are joined to His new life.
6. The comfort of this dying and rising with Christ is that it means that we "live before God in righteousness and purity forever"—for this life and for the life to come.

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*

1. In our baptism, we were buried with Christ and joined to His death which forgives sin.
2. The result of sins forgiven is that we are raised from the dead with Christ through the glory of the Father.
3. The Father's glory is the death and resurrection of His Son in love for us by which we are joined in our baptism and by which we live the new life of forgiveness in Christ.
4. It is this "new life" of dying and rising with Christ that we see in Mary who anointed Jesus' body for burial. She lived the baptismal life of total love and devotion for Christ who gave His life for her and to whom she was inseparably joined.

Jesus Is Anointed at Bethany: Matthew 26:2-16

[Jesus] said to His disciples, ²“You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified.”

³Then the chief priests, the scribes, and the elders of the people assembled at the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, ⁴and plotted to take Jesus by trickery and kill *Him*. ⁵But they said, “Not during the feast, lest there be an uproar among the people.”

⁶And when Jesus was in Bethany at the house of Simon the leper, ⁷a woman came to Him having an alabaster flask of very costly fragrant oil, and she poured it on His head as He sat at the table. ⁸But when His disciples saw *it*, they were indignant, saying, “Why this waste? ⁹For this fragrant oil might have been sold for much and given to *the poor.*”

¹⁰But when Jesus was aware of *it*, He said to them, “Why do you trouble the woman? For she has done a good work for Me. ¹¹For you have the poor with you always, but Me you do not have always. ¹²For in pouring this fragrant oil on My body, she did it for My burial. ¹³Assuredly, I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.”

¹⁴Then one of the twelve, called Judas Iscariot, went to the chief priests ¹⁵and said, “What are you willing to give me if I deliver Him to you?” And they counted out to him thirty pieces of silver. ¹⁶So from that time he sought opportunity to betray Him.

The Passion of Our Lord begins with the announcement of the Passover and Jesus' anointing for burial. Jesus is the true Passover Lamb. He must be slaughtered upon the altar of the cross. His blood must be shed to cover our sin with forgiveness. It is to His death that we are joined in our baptism and by the forgiveness of Jesus' we are raised with Him every day of our lives until the final trumpet sounds and the sin is forever destroyed in the resurrection of the body on the last day. In Mary, the woman who anointed Jesus' body with very costly fragrant oil in the house of Simon the leper, we see the devotion of a baptized Christian. In contrition and repentance she anointed His body. It was an act of love in contrition, repentance, and faith in Jesus her Savior. In that act, a miracle of God's grace, she confessed her sin and her total dependence upon Jesus for forgiveness and new life. Mary was joined to Jesus in her baptism. And wonder of wonders, Jesus says that she was anointing His body for burial. Is it possible that she knew and understood and believed more than the disciples did at that moment? Jesus says so, for “wherever this Gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be told as a memorial to her.” And what is this memorial? It is a memorial to what Jesus' forgiving grace can do in the heart and life of a baptized Christian. No matter what she would suffer in the days ahead this woman would not be separated from Him who gave His life for her. That is the miracle and daily significance of our Baptism. There is no greater gift than to be joined to Him in our Baptism to which we die daily to self and rise with Him to resurrection and eternal life.