



St. John Lutheran Church & School

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“It saves you by the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at God’s right hand—with angels, authorities and powers in submission to him”

[1 Peter 3:21,22]

It’s a big deal, a very big deal.

The other day, I was explaining baptism to a Christian who didn’t think baptism was very important. He felt that we Lutherans made it much more important than what it really is. He looked at baptism, as something we do just out of obedience to God. Unfortunately, I didn’t have the time or setting where I could explain what we have here in this passage is a reminder that Baptism is the act, commanded by Christ, which connects us to his very suffering, death and resurrection.

St. Paul says it correctly in Romans, *“Or don’t you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? ⁴ We were therefore buried with him by this baptism into his death, so that just as he was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too would also walk in a new life. ⁵ For if we have been united with him in the likeness of his death, we will certainly also be united with him in the likeness of his resurrection.”* [6:3-5]

At this time of year, when we review Christ’s path to the cross, his suffering and death; without baptism, we would be relegated to mere spectators of a horrible injustice. It would be just another historical tragedy, along with all the others in this planet’s history that make us sad.

But because we have been baptized into Christ, we are dragged along with Jesus, every humiliation and every beating along the way. We recognize and understand by faith that it is for our sins that he undergoes this suffering. It is for our sins, that he is killed, as a complete innocent—taking on our punishment. When he is shut into that vault, and the disciples leave brokenhearted for that upper room; we are left alone thinking, “Don’t give up, it’s not over, just wait, he will rise again.” We go to our homes after Good Friday’s service, somber, but knowing deep in our hearts that the time of celebration will come. It’s less than 3 short days away.

When Easter Sunday comes, we celebrate the resurrection of the Christ from the dead, and in doing so we also celebrate our resurrection to come. Because he has risen, so too, will we in our own time. That’s his promise to us. *“Because I live, you also will live.”* [John 14:19] And again, *“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.”*

[Mark 16:16]

His resurrection is a very big deal, because it means the payment he made for mankind’s sins has been paid and has been accepted. It is also a very big deal for each and everyone of us who have been baptized into his name; because it connects us to him and his salvation by faith—from the newborn infant in the ICU to the 104 year old Christian who patiently awaits his time for the resurrection.

Pastor Adomeit