

“Transformed!”

An Order of Service for an Observance of Life Sunday

Hymn: Christian Worship 176: “Come, Holy Ghost, God and Lord”

STAND

M: In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

From Martin Luther’s Small Catechism

M: What does Baptism do for us?

C: Baptism works forgiveness of sin, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

M: What are these words and promises of God?

C: 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.”

M: How can water do such great things?

C: It is certainly not the water that does such things, but God’s Word which is in and with the water and faith which trusts this Word used with the water.

For without God’s Word that water is just plain water and not Baptism. But with this Word it is Baptism, that is, a gracious water of life and a washing of rebirth by the Holy Spirit.

M: Where is this written?

C: Saint Paul says in Titus, chapter 3, “[God] 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.”

M: What does baptizing with water mean?

C: Baptism means that the Old Adam in us should be drowned by daily contrition and repentance, and that all its evil deeds and desires be put to death. It also means that a new person should daily arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

M: Where is this written?

C: Saint Paul says in Romans, Chapter 6, “We were...buried with [Christ] through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the death through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.”

Response

Christian Worship 272: "Create in Me a Clean Heart, O God"

Prayer of the Day

M: Let us pray:

Lord God, your Son came among us to serve and not to be served, and to give his life for the sins of the world. Transform us with his love to serve those whom the world offers no comfort and little help. Through us give hope to the hopeless, love to the unloved, peace to the troubled, and rest to the weary; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

BE SEATED

Reading

2 Chronicles 34:9-33 (NIV)

Renewed by the hearing of God's covenant, Josiah and his people commit to conforming their lives to the Word of God.

⁹Then the king called together all the elders of Judah and Jerusalem.³⁰He went up to the temple of the LORD with the people of Judah, the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the priests and the Levites—all the people from the least to the greatest. He read in their hearing all the words of the Book of the Covenant, which had been found in the temple of the LORD.³¹The king stood by his pillar and renewed the covenant in the presence of the LORD—to follow the LORD and keep his commands, statutes and decrees with all his heart and all his soul, and to obey the words of the covenant written in this book.

³²Then he had everyone in Jerusalem and Benjamin pledge themselves to it; the people of Jerusalem did this in accordance with the covenant of God, the God of their ancestors.

³³Josiah removed all the detestable idols from all the territory belonging to the Israelites, and he had all who were present in Israel serve the LORD their God. As long as he lived, they did not fail to follow the LORD, the God of their ancestors.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 1, Christian Worship p. 64

Reading

Romans 12:1-3 and 9-13 (NIV)

As we remember God's mercy for us in Christ, we are renewed in our zeal to be devoted to one another and our Lord in love.

12 Therefore, I urge you, brothers and sisters, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God—this is your true and proper worship. ² Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

⁹ Love must be sincere. Hate what is evil; cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be devoted to one another in love. Honor one another above yourselves. ¹¹ Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. ¹² Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. ¹³ Share with the Lord's people who are in need. Practice hospitality.

M: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

STAND

Verse of the Day

M: Alleluia. Be imitators of God as dearly loved children

C: and live a life of love. Alleluia.

Gospel

Luke 24:44-49 (NIV)

By opening our minds to the meaning of Scripture Jesus clothes us with power on high for ministries of compassion that desire to bring the message of Jesus' forgiveness to all people.

⁴⁴ He said to them, "This is what I told you while I was still with you: Everything must be fulfilled that is written about me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets and the Psalms."

⁴⁵ Then he opened their minds so they could understand the Scriptures. ⁴⁶ He told them, "This is what is written: The Messiah will suffer and rise from the dead on the third day, ⁴⁷ and repentance for the forgiveness of sins will be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. ⁴⁸ You are witnesses of these things. ⁴⁹ I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay in the city until you have been clothed with power from on high."

M: The gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise be to you, O Christ!

BE SEATED

Hymn of the Day: Christian Worship 460: “How Can I Thank You, Lord”

Sermon

STAND

Apostle’s Creed

BE SEATED

Prayer of the Church

M: Holy Spirit, Comfort True, open our minds to the wonder of the Messiah who was delivered over to death for our sins and was raised to life for our justification. Lead us to daily contrition and repentance that trusts ever more firmly baptism’s promise that our apathy, impatience and resentment for ministry are forgiven in Christ.

C: Raise us up each day in the new life of faith so that we are joyful in hope, patient in affliction, and faithful in prayer.

M: Holy Spirit, God and Lord, so fill our hearts with the assurance of salvation that we never lack zeal to be your witnesses. Awaken us to the opportunities to preach repentance and forgiveness in your name. If we cannot minister in those places, move us to support those who can with our gifts and prayers. Fill us with compassion for those in need and a love that is not idle.

C: Transform us by the renewing of our minds so that we may be devoted to you and one another in love.

M: Holy Spirit, Advocate and Guide, pour out your blessings on families, churches, schools, governments, health care agencies, and all other institutions you have established for our physical and spiritual good. We pray especially for the ministry of Christian Life Resources. Prosper it in their mission to use life and family issues to draw people closer to you. Give us all the courage to defend the sanctity of life and be advocates for the washing of rebirth and renewal that you give in baptism.

C: Help us test, approve, and accomplish everything that is according to your good, pleasing, and perfect will.

Special prayers and intercessions may follow.

M: Hear us Lord as we bring you our private petitions.

Silent Prayer

M: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of your love.

C: Amen.

Offering

Hymn: Christian Worship 500: "For Christian Homes, O Lord, We Pray"

STAND

Prayer:

M: Blessed Lord, you have given us your Holy Scriptures for our learning. May we so hear them, read, learn, and take them to heart, that being strengthened and comforted by your Holy Word, we may cling to the blessed hope of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Blessing:

M: Brothers and sisters, go in peace. Live in harmony with one another. Serve the Lord with gladness.

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look on you with favor and give + you peace.

C: Amen.

Closing Hymn: Christian Worship 467: "May the Mind of Christ My Savior"

BE SEATED

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