

Title: **From the Cross to the Throne: Jesus' (and Our) Victory through Suffering**  
Text: **1 Peter 3:18-22**

Find the sermon manuscript to follow along with online at [mercyhillchurch.org](http://mercyhillchurch.org).



## Big Idea

Because Jesus suffered, rose, and now reigns, we can have hope and follow Him from the cross to the throne as we're reminded of His saving grace through baptism.

### 1. The Cross: Christ's Descent as the S\_\_\_\_\_ S\_\_\_\_\_ (v.18)

(cf. Lev 17:11, Isa 53:5-6, Rom 3:23-25, 5:6-11, Eph 1:7, 1 Pet 2:24)

- S\_\_\_\_\_: "the righteous for the unrighteous"
- A\_\_\_\_\_ S\_\_\_\_\_: "suffered once for sins...being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit."
- R\_\_\_\_\_: "bring us (back) to God"

### 2. The Throne: Christ's Ascension as the V\_\_\_\_\_ K\_\_\_\_\_ (vv.19-20a, 22)

(cf. Col 2:15, 3:1-4, Eph 1:20-21, 2 Peter 2:4, Jude 6; Gen 6:1-4)

- "Right hand of God" = honor, a\_\_\_\_\_, and p\_\_\_\_\_  
(cf. Psalm 110:1, 118:15-16, Acts 2:3, Eph 1:20-22)
- 3 Major Interpretations of v.19:
  - 1) Christ descended into hell and offered salvation

2) Christ (pre-existing) preached through Noah

3) Christ's triumphal proclamation over evil spirits

### 3. The Ark & Baptism: God's M\_\_\_\_\_ (and Grace) over J\_\_\_\_\_ (vv.20b-21)

(cf. Gen 5:32 - 8:20; 1 Cor 10:2, Rom 6:3-11, Col 2:12, Heb 10:22)

- Both were the m\_\_\_\_\_, both were m\_\_\_\_\_ (persecuted), both saved by God's m\_\_\_\_\_, and both p\_\_\_\_\_ in t\_\_\_\_\_ & following God.
- Baptism saves us...t\_\_\_\_\_ the w\_\_\_\_\_ (resurrection) of Jesus Christ -- not through the act of baptism!
- Baptism is both a s\_\_\_\_\_ and a s\_\_\_\_\_ of the salvation Christ accomplished on the cross (v.18)



## Reflection Questions

- What kinds of difficulties, frustrations, challenges are you facing these days? What helps you to have hope in the mist of these difficulties?
- How would you explain or share what the gospel ("the good news") of Jesus is about? How does this morning's passage help articulate and clarify what the gospel is?
- How does knowing and remembering Jesus' suffering and victory encourage and empower you to persevere in living faithfully for him - even in the midst of suffering and difficulties?
- How does this passage help in your understanding of what baptism is - and isn't? Have you been baptized? If yes, why? If not, what's preventing you?
- What are some areas in your life where you need to be reminded that Jesus is the triumphant King?

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## Our Mission & Values

*Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.*

**FAITH:** The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate presses our church *upwards* in love

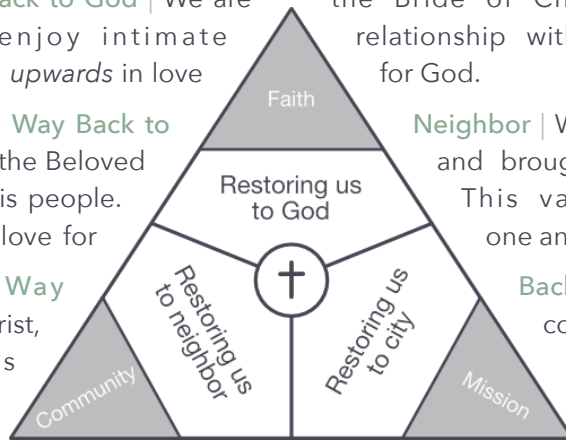
the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

**COMMUNITY:** The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. church *inwards* in love for

**Neighbor** | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal This value presses our one another.

**MISSION:** The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his value presses our in love for the

**Back to City** | We are commissioned by the ambassadors. This church *outwards* unbelieving.



## Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.  
We are so glad you've joined us today!

## Announcement Spotlight

### All Church Appreciation Lunch - 12/7!

Mercy Hill has so many wonderful people who keep all the various dimensions of our ministry thriving and fruitful. And we want to appreciate them! So immediately following the service on Sunday, December 7th, we are planning to have a special all church lunch (think Pizza My Heart pizza party, with salad, dessert, etc.) as a way of saying thanks. The whole church is invited to stay after and participate as we look to particularly appreciate those who have served in various capacities throughout this last year. We hope you can join us!

If you're planning to come, please help us prepare by RSVP'ing (scan the QR code below to find the link).

If you have any questions, please reach out to us at [info@mercyhillchurch.org](mailto:info@mercyhillchurch.org).

**Sunday Prayer Walk - Today!**

**Ladies Christmas Tea - 12/13/25**

**CityTeam Volunteer Opportunity - 12/20/25**

**Philippines Missions Trip - Two Ways to Support!**

Scan the QR code below for more info!

For clickable content and more announcements,



scan this code to head to our Communications Hub!

Or find it online at [mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub](https://mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub).