

Journey to Easter (Day 2) **- Thursday, February 18**

1 Peter 3:18–22

Christ also suffered NIV

For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive in the Spirit. After being made alive, he went and made proclamation to the imprisoned spirits— to those who were disobedient long ago when God waited patiently in the days of Noah while the ark was being built. In it only a few people, eight in all, were saved through water, and this water symbolizes baptism that now saves you also— not the removal of dirt from the body but the pledge of a clear conscience toward God. 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.

Discussion: 1 Peter 3 offers a powerful reminder of the power of baptism, which is not simply the removal of a smudge or two from the body, but a participation in the sin-forgiving, death-conquering, life-giving power of Jesus’ resurrection. In this season of the year, take time to consider your baptism. Remember that it is God’s

saving power at work in your life, placing you in right relationship with God in heaven. But in the same way that Jesus’ life and ministry resulted in suffering, so will yours. Every Christian travels the rough and chaotic waters of life in the ark of baptism, tossed about by waves large and small, but ultimately assured that the God of heaven will ultimately bring us to a good resting place.

Today’s Prayer:

Heavenly Father, thank you for sealing us with baptism. Help us trust in your kindness, even as we sway uneasily on life’s chaotic waves. Amen

Source: Luther Seminary St. Paul MN 2021 Lenten Devotion “Awesome Mystery”

Image: submitted by the Fredericks

