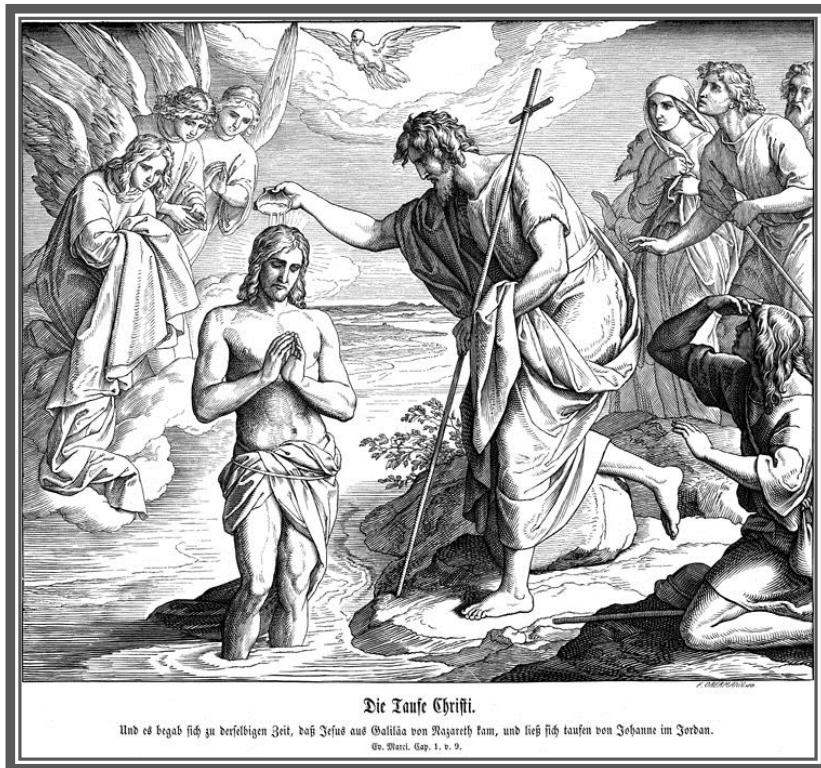




“Therefore we are buried with Him by Baptism into death, that, like as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life” (Romans 6:4).

Through Baptism we, Christians are made partakers of Christ, and of all the salvation which He has procured for us. *“As many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ”* (Galatians 3:27). What Christ has is ours. Jesus died and was buried for our sins as our Substitute. We are made partakers of this through Baptism. That is to say that the benefits of everything Jesus did for us are gained precisely there where God joins His word to simple water. By this Sacrament, we are dead and buried unto our sin, so that it can neither damn nor control us. *“Therefore we are buried with Him by Baptism into death.”* Christ, our Substitute, was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, and now



lives a new life – a life free from the burden of our sin. Through Baptism we are made partakers of this as well: *we* have a new life, free from the burden of our sin. By Baptism, then, we share not only in Christ’s death that earned our forgiveness, but we also share in His life that lasts forever.

“Even so we also should walk in newness of life.” What does *this* mean? It means that the old Adam in us, the sinful depravity and corruption which we have inherited from Adam our first earthly father, should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil lusts. Daily we Christians should repent of the sin which clings to us, and pray God to forgive it for Christ's sake. This kills the power of sin, because it is in repentance that we turn to God who forgives it on account of His Son, our Brother. And, again, as often as we turn to God in true sorrow, as often as He makes us glad again through His pardon, a new man should daily come forth and arise, who shall live before God in righteousness and purity. This new man, this new spiritual being and life, is in us Christians through the grace of Baptism which we have received. It is a new life lived by faith in him who lived for us. This new man should arise within us daily unto a godly life – daily here where we struggle on earth until it shall live forever in eternal glory, freed entirely from the old Adam forever. This is what our Baptism should signify to us Christians.

PRAYER: Lord, my God, who out of great mercy, through the washing of regeneration, did make me a partaker both of the death and of the life of my Savior, I pray You to bestow upon me the power of Your Holy Spirit, that I may daily die to sin, but live to You and serve You, until in the life to come I shall be wholly renewed and in perfect bliss. Amen.

