

Week 1:
Sept. 27

God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It

Romans 6:1–10; 1 Peter 3:18–22; Titus 3:4–7

(Lutheran Service Book 594)

“The main ideas of the hymn are taken directly from the section on Holy Baptism in Luther’s Small Catechism, which, in answer to the question “What benefits does Baptism give? says: “It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare”

1. God's own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!
He, because I could not pay it, gave my full redemption price.
Do I need earth's treasures many? I have one worth more than any
That brought me salvation free, Lasting to eternity!
2. Sin, disturb my soul no longer: I am baptized into Christ!
I have comfort even stronger: Jesus' cleansing sacrifice.
Should a guilty conscience seize me, since my baptism did release me
In a dear forgiving flood, sprinkling me with Jesus' blood?
3. Satan, hear this proclamation: I am baptized into Christ!
Drop your ugly accusation; I am not so soon enticed.
Now that to the font I've traveled, all your might has come unraveled,
And, against your tyranny, God, my Lord, unites with me!
4. Death, you cannot end my gladness: I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness to inherit paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes faith's assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine to make life immortal mine.
5. There is nothing worth comparing to this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring: Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising, still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ; I'm a child of paradise!

1. Read Romans 6:1–10. What does it mean that we were baptized into Jesus' death (v. 3)?
2. The Holy Spirit brought us to faith through Baptism and God's Word. Jesus rose from the dead; what parallel does Paul draw (v. 4)?
3. Read 1 Peter 3:18–22. During the days of Noah, God saved eight souls out of the world's population. Through God's direction, Noah built an ark, which floated over the waters in which the rest of the world drowned. What does Paul say (v. 21)?

4. Through God's mercy, He sent His Son, who lived a perfect life for us and died for our sins so that through faith in Him we might be justified (declared righteous by the Father). Read Titus 3:4–7. How is saving faith received (v. 5)?

5. Sometimes a baptized child dies. What gives comfort to his or her loved ones (v. 7)?

Answers:

1. Believers in the Gospel are baptized into Jesus' death and resurrection. His death killed our sins; they no longer accuse us before the heavenly Father. All people, including infants, have original sin, which, along with all other sin, is forgiven in Baptism; they become God's children. Through His resurrection, we have life in Him.

2. We, too, rise to "walk in newness of life." With the help of the Holy Spirit, we strive to live as Jesus taught: fleeing sin and doing what is right.

3. "Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you." Baptism saves. Baptism can be rejected to one's eternal detriment. For those who live their Baptism, it is a marvelous blessing; as the hymnist writes, "God's own child, I gladly say it: I am baptized into Christ!" (st. 1).

4. "By the washing of regeneration [Baptism] and renewal of the Holy Spirit." The Spirit works through Baptism and the Word.

5. Through Baptism, the child was an heir "to the [certain] hope of eternal life."