

1 Peter 3:18-22, CSB

For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive by the Spirit, in which he also went and made proclamation to the spirits in prison who in the past were disobedient, when God patiently waited in the days of Noah while the ark was being prepared. In it a few—that is, eight people,—were saved through water.

Baptism, which corresponds to this, now saves you (not as the removal of dirt from the body, but the pledge of a good conscience toward God) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God with angels, authorities, and powers subject to him.

Pastor: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God!

"Every Christian knew that sooner or later he might have to testify to his faith at the cost of his life."

- Stephen Neill

Forecast victory, don't
fear defeat, because
of the *journey* on
which Christ is taking
believers.

Forecast victory, don't
fear defeat, because
of the *judgment* from
which Christ has
rescued believers.

2 Peter 2:4-5, 9 (CSB)

For if God didn't spare the angels who sinned but cast them into hell, and delivered them in chains of utter darkness to be kept for judgment; and if he didn't spare the ancient world, but protected Noah, a preacher of righteousness, and seven others, when he brought the flood on the world of the ungodly; . . . then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment. . .

“Our most merciful Father . . . sent his only Son into the world and laid upon him the sins of all men, saying: Be thou Peter that denier; Paul that persecutor, blasphemer and cruel oppressor; David that adulterer; that sinner which did eat the apple in Paradise; that thief which hanged upon the cross; and briefly, be thou the person which hath committed the sins of all men; see therefore that thou pay and satisfy for them.”

- Martin Luther

Matthew 7:13-14, CSB

“Enter through the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the road broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who go through it. How narrow is the gate and difficult the road that leads to life, and few find it.”

Forecast victory, don't
fear defeat, because
of the *triumph* Christ
will share with
believers.

Benediction

Pastor: As followers of Jesus Christ,
living in this world—
which some seek to control,
and others view with despair—
we declare with joy and trust:

All: Our world belongs to God!

Pastor: We rejoice in the goodness of God,
renounce the works of darkness,
and dedicate ourselves to holy living.

**All: As covenant partners,
set free for joyful obedience,
we offer our hearts and lives
to do God's work in the world.**

Pastor: With tempered impatience,
eager to see injustice ended,
we expect the Day of the Lord.
We are confident that the light
which shines in the present darkness
will fill the earth when Christ appears.

**All: Come, Lord Jesus.
Our world belongs to you.**

Pastor: The God of peace will soon crush Satan under your feet! (Romans 16:20).

Go in peace!