

ASH WEDNESDAY: STUDENT

THE PENITENTIAL PSALMS: PSALM 6

THEME VERSE

“Turn, O LORD, deliver my life; save me for the sake of Your steadfast love.”
(Psalm 6:4)

TEXTS

Psalm 6
Small Catechism, Baptism, Fourth Part: *What does such baptizing with water indicate? Where is this written?*

INTRODUCTION

Lent is a time of intense instruction and prayer concerning our Lord's death and resurrection for us. This lesson addresses the connection between Holy Baptism and the ongoing struggle with sin in the life of every believer. Why must we struggle, and how does that struggle show itself to us? We struggle because we continue to live in a sinful world, and that struggle will be with us until we are reunited with our Father in heaven.

QUESTIONS

Q1. Read Psalm 6:1–2. What is God's attitude toward the psalmist (David) at this time? Why? See Deuteronomy 4:25, Genesis 6:6–7, and Psalm 5:5.

Q2. Read Psalm 6:3–5. What does David want God to do, and why does it seem so hard? How does David refuse to allow God off the hook in verse 4? Why does David look to God to answer his prayers?

Q3. Read Psalm 6:8–10. What is the result of God answering the prayer here? Who are the enemies of David? Who are your enemies? How might these enemies draw you away from the Gospel?

Q4. Read the Small Catechism, Baptism, Part Four: *What does such baptizing with water indicate?* Who is the Old Adam? What is contrition and repentance?

Q5. One could get the sense in Psalm 6 that this process of going to the Lord has happened before and that it will happen again. In light of this, what does Luther mean in the Small Catechism that contrition and repentance must happen *daily*?

Q6. Where in Psalm 6 do we find shadows of our Lord's Passion? How do we suffer from those same events as Christians today?

Q7. Coming back to Ash Wednesday, read Matthew 6:19–21. How might these words apply to contrition and repentance, confession and absolution, Law and Gospel?

Q8. Looking at the final words of Luther's explanation on Baptism, what does it mean to "live before God in righteousness and purity forever"? How can we confess those words every single day, when we fail every single day?

CATECHISM

What does such baptizing with water indicate?

It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: "We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life." [Rom. 6:4]

CONCLUSION

God is merciful. He acts according to His nature. While sin seeks to drive us away from God and to give our enemies a foothold on our lives, God shows steadfast love to us poor sinners. It is this character of God that David clings to, and it is this same character of God that we return to again and again in His words of confession and forgiveness.

O LORD, Deliver My Life A Psalm of David.

- 6 O Lord, rebuke me not in your anger,
nor discipline me in your wrath.
- 2 Be gracious to me, O Lord, for I am languishing;
heal me, O Lord, for my bones are troubled.
- 3 My soul also is greatly troubled.
But you, O Lord—how long?
- 4 Turn, O Lord, deliver my life;
save me for the sake of your steadfast love.
- 5 For in death there is no remembrance of you;
in Sheol who will give you praise?
- 6 I am weary with my moaning;
every night I flood my bed with tears;
I drench my couch with my weeping.
- 7 My eye wastes away because of grief;
it grows weak because of all my foes.
- 8 Depart from me, all you workers of evil,
for the Lord has heard the sound of my weeping.
- 9 The Lord has heard my plea;
the Lord accepts my prayer.
- 10 All my enemies shall be ashamed and greatly troubled;
they shall turn back and be put to shame in a moment.

DEUTERONOMY 4:25 ESV

²⁵ “When you father children and children's children, and have grown old in the land, if you act corruptly by making a carved image in the form of anything, and by doing what is evil in the sight of the Lord your God, so as to provoke him to anger,

GENESIS 6:6-7 ESV

⁶ And the Lord regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. ⁷ So the Lord said, “I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.”

PSALM 5:5 ESV

⁵ The boastful shall not stand before your eyes; you hate all evildoers.

MATTHEW 6:19-21 ESV - Lay Up Treasures in Heaven

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust[Ⓜ] destroy and where thieves break in and steal, ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.