

Lenten Series 2006: Baptized into His Death—Lord of Life Lutheran, Westfield, IN—3/22/06

Title: Baptized Apparel

Text: Colossians 3: 12-14

Intro: *Ills.: designer clothes*

Theme: It is not what we where or do on the outside that identifies us with Jesus, the Crucified, but that we have been clothed with Christ's life and heart and forgiveness which redeems who were are and why we do what we do.

Clothe yourself with Jesus' forgiving nature — durable wear—not easily stained

- Not easily stained by other's wrongs
 - A. Willing to let it go because of God's grace received by you
 - 1. **Ills.: we speak of "very forgiving materials"**
 - 2. *"Charisomai/to show oneself to be pleasant"*
 - B. Jesus was willing to forgive crucifiers because "did not know what they are doing"
- Recognizing and exposing MY sinful attempts to water down forgiveness
 - A. Excusing—"I'd like to forgive, but I'm, only human"
 - B. Delaying—"I'll forgive I'm not ready yet"
 - C. Perverting—"I'll forgive, but I'll never forget"
- In our baptism grace, connecting us to Jesus death/resurrection, modeling the divine
 - A. **Ills.: Living in the present**
 - B. "Just as" (13)— we do not diminish the Lord's standard for forgiveness but rejoice in its universal graciousness

Clothe yourself with long-suffering patience—Christian elastic

- Making our lives so unhappy because we are ruled by the short-comings of others
 - A. **Ills.: The chains we carry**
- Stretched but returning to shape
 - A. Jesus was stretched physically (on the cross) and emotionally (abuse dished out to him)
 - B. *"He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth." When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly. 1Pet 2: 22-23*
- By the power at work through Jesus resurrection in our baptism, "putting up with" (stretch) with another's shortcomings
 - A. Dealing with them with the Holy Spirit's fruit of "gentleness" (12)
 - B. Learn to "physically" practice "putting on Jesus": calm the spirit, lower the voice, trust in God's plan

Clothe yourself with heart-felt compassion—comforter to keep warm

- Climbing inside the other's skin
 - A. That is what Jesus did as he took on our life and our death
 - 1. Paul uses the word "*splankna*" — to have a gut feeling for
 - 2. **Ills.: the Human Touch**
 - B. That is the gift of God to us in Jesus through our baptism, he connects with our flesh and we with his power
- Putting on *kindness* (generosity) even when the other hasn't earned it
 - A. *For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself up as a ransom for all. 1 Tim. 2:5-6*
 - B. Having been clothed with the *love of Christ* in our baptism, we love because we have been loved
 - C. **Ills.: "I pray the Lord my clothes to keep"**

Col. 3:12-14

¹²And so, as those who have been chosen of God, holy and beloved, put on a heart of compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience; ¹³bearing with one another, and forgiving each other, whoever has a complaint against anyone; just as the Lord forgave you, so also should you. ¹⁴And beyond all these things put on love, which is the perfect bond of unity.

John 19:23-24

²³When the soldiers crucified Jesus, they took his clothes, dividing them into four shares, one for each of them, with the undergarment remaining. This garment was seamless, woven in one piece from top to bottom. ²⁴"Let's not tear it," they said to one another. "Let's decide by lot who will get it." This happened that the scripture might be fulfilled which said, "They divided my garments among them and cast lots for my clothing." So this is what the soldiers did.

Galatians 3:27

For all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ.