

SAINT THOMAS CHURCH

Fifth Avenue · New York City

Sermon Outline

Holy Saturday, 16th April 2022

Lord Bishop Sentamu

5:30 p.m.

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Reading: Romans 6:3-11

Theme: Living a Jesus Christ Shaped Life

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“Do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? Therefore we have been buried with him by baptism into his death (Romans 6:3, 4a)”.

In the American Civil war a man called Mr Smith took the option of paying someone to fight in his place, under his name. His stand-in was killed, and Mr Smith was called up to fight or find another stand-in. A lawyer advised him to do neither. When he was summoned for treason, his lawyer claimed that he could not plead, because Mr Smith was dead. Since a stand-in was chosen to fight in his place, whoever died in battle would be Mr Smith: Mr Smith is dead! The Judge accepted the argument and Mr Smith was free.

“When we were baptized into Christ Jesus we were baptized into his death; and we were buried with him by baptism into his death.” Therefore when Jesus Christ, our stand-in died, we died with him.

Therefore baptism into Christ Jesus is baptism into his death and resurrection.

Jesus Christ’s death was death to sin and his resurrection was a resurrection to God. We too have died to sin and we have risen alive to God. (Romans 6:11).

Alive and living a Jesus Christ Shaped Life is a life that is IN CHRIST.

It is unthinkable that we would desire to live a life outside of Jesus Christ. It is unthinkable that a discharged prisoner would long to go back to his cell.

As the apostle Paul tells us in Romans 6:3, through our union with Christ Jesus our whole status has changed. *Our trust and baptism in Christ Jesus have severed us from the life of sinful self, cut us off from it irrevocably, cut a one way ticket for us, brought us to a point of no return, and committed us to the New Life - **the very Life of God.*** Our baptism into Christ stands between us and the life outside of Christ as a fireproof, unbreakable door between two rooms, closing upon the one and opening into the other.

WE HAVE DIED! WE HAVE RISEN! *How can we live again in what we have died to?* **We can not. We will not. We have died. We Have Risen. We are an Easter people and alleluia is our song. Amen.**