

Luke 16:19-31

“There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father's house—for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’”

**Lord, Thee I love with All My Heart
(LSB 708:3)**

Lord, let at last Thine angels come,
To Abr'am's bosom bear me home,
 That I may die unfearing;
And in its narrow chamber keep
My body safe in peaceful sleep
 Until Thy reappearing.
And then from death awaken me,
That these mine eyes with joy may see,
 O Son of God, Thy glorious face,
 My Savior and my fount of grace.
Lord Jesus Christ, my prayer attend,
 my prayer attend,
And I will praise Thee without end.

From the Pastor,

Saint Augustine in His book, “On Christian Doctrine” writes that there are two deaths for a man, the one of the body, which the world well knows, and the death of the soul. The death of the body consists in “the dissolution of the former principle of life”, while the death of the soul consists in “the putting away of former habits and former ways of life, which comes through repentance.” In Christ we are promised a resurrection of both the body and soul. In death Christ took our sin upon himself and surely forgives us and raises our dead souls from the grave. We are promised that in repentance the old Adam is crucified with

Christ and dies and the new Adam rises. (Galatians 5:24) If this, our soul, is raised from the dead, we ought to also have hope that as Christ was also raised bodily, so on the last day we too will be raised to life bodily in glory with Him. Our mortal bodies shall put on immortality in Christ. (1 Cor. 15:50-53) But the one who's soul does not die to this world yet lives for it, like the rich, man shall not be raised to glory but to damnation. For he sought after the lesser things, putting that which was created above the Creator. He sought the things that perish rather than that which is imperishable and unchanging. So too the soul that does not “die and conform to the truth, falls when the body dies into a more terrible death.” Yet the one who has been drawn by Christ to the Father and who's faith clings to the cross has hope of everlasting life in an eternal home with their Lord Jesus Christ. This is a great comfort for us when trials and tribulations come for indeed in our baptism our soul has been drowned and we have been raised to a new life in Christ. And so even if death comes to our body, we have the hope also of being raised bodily to life everlasting.

O God, You are the strength of all who trust in You, and without Your aid we can do nothing. Grant us the help of Your grace that we may please You in both will and deed; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.