



PROVISIONS FOR THE JOURNEY

1. THE WORD OF PROMISE: THE GOSPEL

The Enchiridion =

Spangenberg:

“Impress some comforting passages from the Scripture and the gospel on your memory...Collect them as provisions [for the journey] and always carry them with you in your heart, just as a soldier carries his arrows in the quiver and has them ready to use whenever he needs them.”⁴⁵

⁴⁵ Spangenberg, *Ibid.*, pg. 61

Passages Encouraging Us to Prepare

- Stay Awake – Matthew 25
- Your Adversary the Devil...resist him – 1 Peter 5:8-9
- Put on the whole armor of God – Ephesians 6:10-17

For the Devil

- The gates of hell... – Matt. 16:18
- Power to tread on snakes..over the enemy – Lk. 10:19
- The One who is in us is greater than the one who is in the world – 1 Jn. 4:4
- God is faithful, and he will not let you be tested beyond... – 1 Cor. 10:13

For Illness

- God is our refuge – Ps. 46
- The Lord reproves those He loves – Pr. 3:11-12
- If we suffer with Him – Rom 8:17-18
- **“Thy will be done”**

For Death

- The day of death is better than the day of birth – Ecc. 7:1
- The dead will hear the voice of the Lord – Jn. 5:25
- Death has been swallowed up – 1 Cor. 15:55-57; Hos. 13:14
- We do not want you to be uninformed about those who have fallen asleep... – 1 Thess. 4:13-14
- Christ is my life, death is my gain. I desire to depart and be with Christ. – Phil. 1:21-23

For Persecution and Affliction

- Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his holy people – Ps. 116:15
- The righteous will stand with great boldness – Wisdom 5:1, 4-5
- Blessed are the persecuted – Matt. 5:10
- Do not fear those who can kill the body – Matt. 10

For Hell

- I shall redeem them from hell – Hos. 13:14
- Whoever believes has eternal life... – Jn. 3:18
- Anyone who hears my Word and believes Him who sent me has eternal life – Jn. 5:24
- I am the Resurrection and the Life – Jn. 11:25-26
- There is no condemnation... Rom. 8:1, 9-11
- The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and the pains of death will not touch them – Wisdom 3:1
- Whoever keeps my word will never see death – Jn. 8:51

Gerhard:

“When your heart is gravely distressed and you hear the voice of the pastor announcing the remission of sins in the name of Christ, know that you have heard Christ Himself...the pastor, in his own voice, speaks on behalf of Christ. If uncertainty wants to creep into your heart concerning this, listen carefully to the words of Christ... *He that hears you, hears me* (Luke 10:16). *It is not you that speak, but the Spirit of my Father* (Matt. 10:20). Listen to the words of John the Baptist, *I am the voice of one crying* (John 1:23). Truly I tell you, it is another that preaches and cries by me. The office is mine but the force and benefit of the office depends on another.”⁴⁶

“They are words indeed but these words are more certain and more durable than the sky you behold with your eyes and the earth you stand upon with your feet. Heaven and earth shall pass away but My words shall not pass away, says the Truth (Luke 21:33)...He who locks away this Word and clings to it with a true faith shall be saved forever.”⁴⁷

God has given you not only His Word but also added sacraments by His Word, which are, in a sense, the Word made visible – the visible signs of an invisible grace, and seals of divine promises, instituted to confirm and nourish your faith.⁴⁸

⁴⁶ Gerhard, *Ibid.*, pg. 27

⁴⁷ Gerhard, *Ibid.*, pg. 28

⁴⁸ Gerhard, *Ibid.*, pg. 28; Cf. Augustine, *On the Gospel of John*, 80.3

2. BAPTISM

Spangenberg:

“You should recall your baptism and how you bound yourself through it to God. To be precise, you want to repudiate the devil and all his gang, and to believe in God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and to demonstrate this faith as well, with the fruits of faith toward other people, to mortify the Old Adam, the sinful flesh, and to subdue the evil desire and longings, and from day to day become a new creature of God.”⁴⁹

What does such baptizing with water mean?

Such baptizing with water means that the old Adam in us should, by daily contrition and repentance, be drowned and die with all sins and evil lusts; and that a new man daily come forth and arise, who shall live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written?

St. Paul writes, Romans 6:4: “We are buried with Christ by baptism into death, that just as He was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

Spangenberg:

“In your baptism you have received a promise signed and sealed **that your temptation, cross, suffering, and death do not belong to you**, but they are Christ’s temptation cross, suffering, and death. That means, as Christ has conquered all of them, and in the end he rose from the dead and lives eternally, so in the very same way you shall conquer the devil, death, sin, and hell and every evil in the name of God, and wake again on the Last Day from the dead and live with Christ eternally.”⁵⁰

⁴⁹ Spangenberg, *Ibid.*, pg. 68-69

⁵⁰ Spangenberg, *Ibid.*, pg. 69

Baptized Into Thy Name Most Holy | 242

Ich bin getauft auf deinen Namen
J. J. Rambach, 1693-1735
Tr. C. Winkworth, 1827-78, alt.

1. *Baptized into Thy name most holy,
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
I claim a place, though weak and lowly,
Among Thy seed, Thy chosen host.
Buried with Christ and dead to sin,
Thy Spirit now shall live within.*

3. *And I have vowed to love and fear Thee
And to obey Thee, Lord, alone;
Because the Holy Ghost did move me,
I dared to pledge myself Thine own,
Renouncing sin to keep the faith
And war with evil unto death.*

6. *Depart, depart, thou prince of darkness!
No more by thee I'll be enticed.
Here is indeed a tarnished conscience,
But sprinkled with the blood of Christ.
Away, vain world! O sin, away!
Lo, I renounce you all this day.*

7. *And never let my purpose falter,
O Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,
But keep me faithful to Thine altar
Till Thou shalt call me from my post.
So unto Thee I live and die
And praise Thee evermore on high.*

God's Own Child I Gladly Say It | 246

Lasset mich voll Freuden sprechen
E. Neumeister, 1671-1756
Tr. R. E. Voelker, 1991

4. *Death, you cannot end my gladness;
I am baptized into Christ!
When I die, I leave all sadness
To inherit Paradise!
Though I lie in dust and ashes
Faith's assurance brightly flashes:
Baptism has the strength divine
To make life immortal mine.*

3. THE LORD'S SUPPER

Spangenberg:

“Think about the power of the holy sacrament of the body and blood of Christ that you have received, and cast all other concerns, burdens, fears, and tribulations into the lap of the Christian church...”⁵¹

Communion means we do not die alone – Hebrews 12:1-2

^{12:1} Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us get rid of every burden and the sin that so easily ensnares us, and let us run with patient endurance the race that is laid out for us. ²Let us keep our eyes fixed on Jesus, who is the author of our faith and the one who brings it to its goal. In view of the joy set before him, he endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of God's throne.

Gerhard:

Who is more dear to God than His only-begotten Son?
...What is more dear to the Son of God than His body and blood or the assumed human nature, which is united to Him in a personal and indissoluble union? ...Therefore by eating the body of Christ and drinking His blood you are most closely joined to God...⁵²

5. *There is nothing worth comparing
To this lifelong comfort sure!
Open-eyed my grave is staring;
Even there I'll sleep secure.
Though my flesh awaits its raising,
Still my soul continues praising:
I am baptized into Christ;
I'm a child of Paradise!*

I Walk in Danger All the Way | 252

Jeg gaar i Fare, hvor jeg gaar
H. A. Brorson, 1694-1764
Tr. D. C. Ristad, 1863-1938, alt.

4. *I walk with angels all the way;
They shield me and befriend me.
All Satan's pow'r is held at bay
When heav'nly hosts attend me.
They are my sure defense,
All fear and sorrow, hence!
Unharm'd by foes, do what they may,
I walk with angels all the way.*

5. *I walk with Jesus all the way;
His guidance never fails me.
Within His wounds I find a stay
When Satan's pow'r assails me,
And, by His footsteps led,
My path I safely tread.
In spite of ills that threaten may,
I walk with Jesus all the way.*

Agnus Dei | pg. 79

Martin Luther

*O Christ the Lamb of God, You take away the
sin of the world, have mercy on us.
O Christ the Lamb of God, You take away the
sin of the world, have mercy on us.
O Christ the Lamb of God, You take away the
sin of the world, grant us Your peace.
Amen.*

⁵¹ Spangenberg, *Ibid.*, pg. 69; Note the remix of 1 Peter 5:7 “Cast all your anxiety on Him.” Spangenberg is combining it with Hebrews 12:1 and the promise that we are surrounded by a host of faithful witnesses. In Holy Communion, Christ is made flesh through the bread and wine, and is made flesh through the church itself.

⁵² Gerhard, *Ibid.*, pg. 33

“Food transforms into the substance of our own bodies... We do not, however, change Him into what we are, rather He changes us unto what He is.

...Indeed, in the Holy Supper, you are offered **salutary provision for your journey**, which is called a viaticum. You are presented **a creedal symbol of the future resurrection** in which the right of friendship and hospitality in that heavenly homeland is confirmed for you. Christ says, *Whoever feeds on my flesh and drinks my blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day* (John 6:54).

Without doubt, when we feed on this—which Ignatius calls **the medicine of immortality, the antidote against death, and the purification of evil**—we will live in God through Christ.⁵³

Spangenberg:

It is better that I am unworthy than that God is not faithful...Think about the innocent Lamb of God...through His grace and mercy all sins are extinguished by necessity as a spark of fire is extinguished in the immensity of the sea.”⁵⁴

Christ, who is ever faithful, humbled and humiliated himself and has come to you. He is both host and guest. He has fed you with his holy body for the eternal hunger, and he has given you to drink of his precious blood for the eternal thirst. He has chosen your soul as his dwelling place and lodging so that he can care for you, can do battle and fight for you, so that no foe nor misfortune can harm you, and so that you lack nothing on your way but that in God’s protection and care you will be carried by the holy angels into eternal life.”⁵⁵

Agnus Dei | 41

O Lamm Gottes, unschuldig
N. Decius, 1485- aft. 1546
Tr. composite

*Lamb of God, pure and holy,
Who on the cross didst suffer,
Ever patient and lowly,
Thyself to scorn didst offer.
All sins Thou borest for us,
Else had despair reigned o'er us:
Thy peace be with us, O Jesus! O Jesus!*

I Come, O Savior, to Thy Table | 313

Ich komm zu deinem Abendmahl
F. C. Heyder, 1677-1754, abr.
Tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, St. Louis, 1941

13. *Who can condemn me now? For surely
The Lord is nigh, who justifies.
No hell I fear, and thus securely
With Jesus I to heaven rise.*

Refrain:

*Lord, may Thy body and Thy Blood
Be for my soul the highest good!*

14. *Though death may threaten with
disaster,
It cannot rob me of my cheer,
For He who is of death the Master
With aid and comfort e'er is near.
(Refrain)*

15. *My heart has now become Thy dwelling,
O blessed, holy Trinity.
With angels I, Thy praises telling,
Shall live in joy eternally.
(Refrain)*

⁵³ Gerhard, Ibid., pg. 33

⁵⁴ Spangenberg, Ibid., pg. 71

⁵⁵ Spangenberg, Ibid., pg. 81

Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Bestowed |

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Herr Jesu Christ, du hast bereit't
S. Kinner, 1603-68
Tr. H. Bartels, b. 1929

*6. Lord, I believe, dear Lord, I trust;
Help for faith's weakness give me!
See, I but ashes am and dust;
Ne'er of Your Word deprive me!
Your Baptism, Supper, and Your Word
My comfort here below afford;
Here lies my heart's true treasure.*

*8. Lord Christ, to You be highest praise
For this blest Supper given!
While 'gainst it men bold falsehood raise,
Keep it for us from heaven!
Help that Your body and Your blood
May be my soul's consoling food
In my last moments! Amen.*

Nunc Dimittis | pg. 124, 128

*Lord, now You let Your servant depart
in peace, according to Your word;
For my eyes have seen Your salvation which
You have prepared before the face of all
people, a Light to lighten the Gentiles,
and the glory of Your people Israel.*

The Sacraments contend with death, sin, and hell.

Luther:

“Fifth, we must earnestly, diligently, and highly esteem the holy sacraments, hold them in honor, freely and cheerfully rely on them, and so balance them against sin, death, and hell that they will outweigh these by far. We must occupy ourselves much more with the sacraments and their virtues than with our sins. However, we must know how to give them due honor and we must know what their virtues are. I show them due honor when I believe that I truly receive what the sacraments signify and all that God declares and indicates in them, so that I can say with Mary in firm faith, “Let it be to me according to your words and signs” [Luke 1:38]. Since God himself here speaks and acts through the priest, we would do him in his Word and work no greater dishonor than to doubt whether it is true. And we can do him no greater honor than to believe that his Word and work are true and to firmly rely on them.”

Who Knows When Death May Overtake Me | 483

Wer weiss, wie nahe mir mein Ende
Ä. Juliane, 1637-1706, abr.
Tr. The Lutheran Hymnal, St. Louis, 1941

8. *Once in the blest baptismal waters
I put on Christ and made Him mine;
Now numbered with God's sons and
daughters,
I share His peace and love divine.
My God, for Jesus' sake I pray
Thy peace may bless my dying day.*

9. *His body and His blood I've taken
In His blest Supper, feast divine;
Now I shall never be forsaken,
For I am His, and He is mine.
My God, for Jesus' sake I pray
Thy peace may bless my dying day.*

10. *Then may death come today, tomorrow,
I know in Christ I perish not;
He grants the peace that stills all sorrow,
Gives me a robe without a spot.
My God, for Jesus' sake I pray
Thy peace may bless my dying day.*

11. *And thus I live in God contented
And die without a thought of fear;
My soul has to God's plans consented,
For through His Son my faith is clear.
My God, for Jesus' sake I pray
Thy peace may bless my dying day.*