

## Explore the Theme — Lent is about Baptism

we begin Lent and by our Lenten observance we take care to water the seeds we have planted  
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***The seed is in the ground; we rest in hope as darkness does its work; and during this season of Lent we water the earth that nurtures our seeds. What seeds do I water?***

### “Lent is about baptism.”

... Water is a tricky element ...  
too much water wipes out almost all of creation. Following the flood, God makes a covenant not only with Noah, but also with all “bodily creatures” that such widespread destruction will not come again through water ...

### Yet death by water is part of the sacramental sign of baptism ....

Baptism is a spiritual drowning that is quite physically felt as we struggle to surrender the last breath of our old selves. Arising again above the surface, we gasp in *ruah*, the Spirit of God, who causes the flood waters to recede, who brings order from the watery chaos, who is breathed into and animates us (Gen. 1-2) ....



**Lent may not be where we want to go.** We may fear that rather than confronting our temptations in 40 days of desert we will instead drown in them. The Spirit teaches us God’s paths, of which the psalmist sings. These paths lead to the wild water of baptism, to the stark sands of the desert. On these paths we learn to trust in God’s promise that we’ll not be destroyed, to believe that God’s salvation will lift us from death to resurrection once again, to rejoice that water is not only a symbol of death but also a sacrament of life. Amanda Osheim, *Daily Theology.org*

