



# **Christ's Descent into Hell: John Paul II, Joseph Ratzinger, and Hans Urs von Balthasar on the Theology of Holy Saturday**

*Lyra Pitstick*

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Pope John Paul II and Joseph Ratzinger (now Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI) both held Hans Urs von Balthasar in high regard. Many assume that their praise of Balthasar indicates approval of his controversial theology of Holy Saturday, but this book by Lyra Pitstick shows that conclusion to be far from accurate.

Pitstick looks at what John Paul II, Ratzinger, and Balthasar have in fact said regarding the creedal affirmation that Christ "descended into hell," and she shows that there are radical differences in their views. She then addresses a number of important questions that follow from these differences.

This careful, concise exploration of what three of the twentieth century's most famous Catholic theologians had to say about Christ's descent into hell provides an accessible take on a difficult point of theological debate.

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