



# Light in Darkness: Hans Urs von Balthasar and the Catholic Doctrine of Christ's Descent into Hell

*Alyssa Lyra Pitstick*

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## **Light in Darkness: Hans Urs von Balthasar and the Catholic Doctrine of Christ's Descent into Hell**

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He descended into hell. Hans Urs von Balthasar, one of the most influential theologians of the twentieth-century, placed this affirmation of the Nicene Creed at the heart of his reflection on the world-altering events of Holy Week, asserting that this identification of God with the human experience is at the "absolute center" of the Christian faith. Alyssa Lyra Pitstick's "Light in Darkness", the first comprehensive treatment of Balthasar's theology of Holy Saturday, draws on the multiple yet unified resources of authoritative Catholic thinking on Christ's descent to challenge Balthasar's influential conclusions. This carefully argued, contrarian work is sure to spur debate across the theological spectrum.

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