

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of the First Sunday after Trinity
 June 18, 2017 through June 25, 2017

Catechesis Notes for the Week— The Power of the Word in the Water — The Catechism states that “the Word of God in and with the water” of Holy Baptism is what gives Baptism its power to work “forgiveness of sins, rescue from death and the devil, and give eternal salvation to all who believe this.” Take away the Word and you have nothing but water; but with the Word you have life-giving water, rich in grace, and the washing of the rebirth in the Holy Spirit. Many Bible stories highlight the power of the Word in, with, and under the water of Baptism. By the Word of the Lord the heavens were opened for forty days and forty nights in the divine judgment of the great flood, and Noah and his family were saved through water. By the Word of the Lord, God saved the children of Israel through the water of the Red Sea and destroyed Pharaoh and his armies. By the Word of the Lord, the waters of the Jordan parted and Israel was drawn into the promised land. By the Word of the Lord, the water of the Jordan cleansed Naaman of his leprosy and even brought him to the faith that confessed that the God of Israel was, indeed, the Lord and the only true God. In all of these stories there are two common themes. First, the water was very very real, it was no symbol, and it carried both the condemnation and the salvation of God. Second, the Word of God itself was real and God joined Himself to the water by His Word in order to accomplish His saving work. To despise the water was to despise the Word. To despise the Word was to reject the water. The water and the Word were inseparably joined together by God. Why is this so important? It is by the Word in tangible water that we come to receive salvation and that we come to know that salvation with absolute and unshakeable certainty.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week. Use the Lutheran Service Book hymnal. Daily Prayer for Individuals and Families begins on page 294, including simple orders of prayer for Morning, Noon, Evening, and Close of Day.

Theme: Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart!

Invocation

In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Genesis 15:6

[Abraham] believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness.

Psalm 13 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Help us, O Lord, that we may not despair in the day of want and trouble, nor in the day of plenty abuse Your gifts or set our hearts upon things temporal, but in true faith and love wait patiently for another life, which, when all earthly griefs are past, You will give to all who believe in Christ, through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	119:137-152	122, 123	125, 126	128, 129	131, 132	135	137, 138	140, 141
Evening	119:153-176	124	127	130	133, 134	136	139	142, 143

Readings for the Week of the First Sunday after Trinity

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Second Reading
Sunday	The Rich Man and Lazarus—Luke 16:19-31	Luke 16:19-31
Monday	Two Demon-Possessed Men Are Healed—Matthew 8:28-34	Acts 9:1-43
Tuesday	Jesus Forgives and Heals a Paralytic—Matthew 9:1-8	Acts 10:1-33
Wednesday	Matthew the Tax Collector—Matthew 9:9-13	Acts 11:1-30
Thursday	A Girl Is Raised and a Woman Is Healed—Matthew 9:14-26	Acts 12:1-25
Friday	Two Blind Men Are Healed—Matthew 9:27-34	Acts 13:1-52
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday's readings	Acts 14:1-28
Sunday	Sunday's readings	Luke 14:16-24

The Catechism: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism— Part III

How can water do such great things?

Certainly not just water,
 but the word of God in and with the water does these things,
 along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water.
 For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism.
 But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water,
 rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit,
 as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three:

Third Grade +

He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying. [Titus 3:5-8]	Kindergarten + First Grade + Second Grade +
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Prayers: Collect for the Week, Catechism Prayers, and In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for the week of the First Sunday after Trinity:

O God, the strength of all who trust in You, mercifully accept our prayers; and because through the weakness of our mortal nature we can do no good thing, grant us Your grace to keep Your commandments that we may please You in both will and deed; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Prayer Concerning the Power of Baptism

Heavenly Father, You teach us that the Word of God in and with the water does great things, working forgiveness of sins, rescuing us from death and the devil, and giving us the gift of eternal salvation. Without Your Word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with Your Word our Baptism is life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit. Thank You for this precious teaching. Forgive us all doubt. Grant us firm faith to trust Your Word in the water, that every blessing of Baptism may be ours; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Benefits of Baptism

Heavenly Father, You saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom You poured out on us so generously in our Baptism through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. We give thanks to You for our Baptism into Christ and for the new life You have given us in Jesus. Renew us each day by the promises of our Baptism that we might know the certainty of salvation in Christ and live our lives in the joyful hope of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

In Our Prayers this Week

*Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil;
for the addicted and despairing,
the tortured and oppressed;
for those struggling with besetting sins.
Daniel and Crystal Preus united in holy matrimony
For the sick and recovering: Cindy Hirtz, and Lisa Eldridge, and Pat Loose (receiving treatment for cancer)
Elaine Boetcher in hospice care*

Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Hymn of the Week

"To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray"

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Looking forward to the Second Sunday after Trinity

June 25, 2017

Hymns: 904, Psalm 34:12-22, 510, 645, 646, 514, 832

Proverbs 9:1-10: *Repentance, which is a word describing the character of saving faith, involves a "change of mind" or a "different way of believing" about one's self and one's Lord. It involves the letting go of the self as god because of the belief in one's sin, and the laying hold of Christ as God because He is the only Savior. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom."*

Ephesians 2:13-22: *St. Paul teaches concerning the Church and the fellowship of Jew and Gentile together. The Jews and the Gentiles were formerly estranged from one another, but by the blood of Christ the two who were at enmity are now reconciled to each other by the forgiveness of sins. This reconciliation of grace that we share from our Lord has broken down both the wall of partition separating sinners from each other and the wall of partition separating us from God.*

Luke 14:15-24: *The parable of the Great Supper teaches us that the call of the Gospel to receive salvation in Christ is like an invitation which is rejected because people have "more important things to do." These "things" are really the false faiths of the flesh. They represent the idolatry of the sinful heart that believes in works or any other "god" for its life and salvation. If those who rejected would have believed in their true need for God's salvation they would have received the invitation with joy. Those who are helpless and needy receive the invitation and believe the Gospel. Those who believe they have no need reject the invitation and are excluded from salvation.*