

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week after the Baptism of Our Lord
January 14, 2018 through January 21, 2018*

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: Baptized into Christ

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:17

**If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation;
old things have passed away;
behold, all things have become new.**

Psalm 111 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: *Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.*

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	115	117, 118	119:1-24	119:49-72	119:89-112	119:137-152	122, 123	125, 126
Evening	116	120, 121	119:25-48	119:73-88	119:113-136	119:153-176	124	127

Readings for the Week after the Baptism of Our Lord

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy OR use → → → → → →	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	The Wedding in Cana of Galilee—John 2:1-11	Ezekiel 36:33—37:14	Romans 5:1-21
Monday	Noah and the Flood— Gen. 6:5, 13, 17-19; 7:11-12, 16-17, 21-23	Ezekiel 37:15-28	Romans 6:1-23
Tuesday	Noah and the Flood—Genesis 8:1a, 15-22; 9:1-17	Ezekiel 38:1-23	Romans 7:1-20
Wednesday	The Red Sea—Exodus 13:17—14:31	Ezek. 39:1-10, 17-29	Rom. 7:21-8:17
Thursday	Israel Crosses the Jordan—Joshua 1:1-2, 10-11; 3:1-17	Ez. 40:1-4, 43:1-12	Romans 8:18-39
Friday	Naaman's Leprosy Is Cleansed—2 Kings 5:1-14	Ez. 44:1-16, 23-29	Romans 9:1-18
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday's readings	Ez. 47:1-14, 21-23	Romans 9:19-33
Sunday	Sunday's readings	Joel 1:1-20	Romans 10:1-21

The Catechism: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism—Part III

<p><i>How can water do such great things?</i> 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:</p>	Third Grade +
<p>He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,</p>	Kindergarten +
<p>whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,</p>	First Grade +
<p>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]</p>	Second Grade +

Prayers: Catechism Prayers, In Our Prayers at Peace, Collect for the Week, and In Our Prayers at Peace

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.

In Our Prayers this Week

- Elsie Neumann, recuperating from recent hospitalization.
- Eunice Rankin, recuperating from open heart surgery.
- Doug Pom, suffering with a blood infection.
- Tedd Carlson, recuperating from knee surgery.
- Gilbert Leon, Walter Schmudlach, Henry Fuchs in treatment for cancer.

Collect for the Baptism of Our Lord

Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

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

Hymn of the Week

"From God the Father, Virgin-Born" (stanzas 1-2)

Looking forward to the Transfiguration of Our Lord **January 21, 2018**

Hymns: 874, 413, 639, 810, 414, 415

Exodus 34:29-35: *Why did the skin of Moses' face shine with the glory of God when he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony? It was not simply because he had seen the Lord, nor was it simply that he was delivering to Israel the written code of the Law; rather, Moses was delivering Christ to the people. Jesus Christ is the embodiment and fulfillment of both the Law and the Promises contained in what the Hebrews called "the Torah." All that Moses was given to deliver to the people in the Torah Jesus embodies and fulfills.*

2 Peter 1:16-21: *Peter makes it clear to the Church that the apostles were not "duped" by clever "fables" concerning Jesus. They were "eye-witnesses of His majesty." They were with Him when He was baptized, they listened to Him preach and teach, they saw Him heal the sick and raise the dead, and they touched His hands and His side after His resurrection. Throughout their entire time with Jesus, the Word of the Father was proven true: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." The Word of the Apostles corresponds to the Word of the Prophets. This Word of God is the only "light that shines in a dark place." It is the only way through which we come to know our Savior and it is trustworthy and sure.*

Matthew 17:1-9: *Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus when His flesh was transfigured before Peter, James, and John, because Jesus, the Son of God, is the glory of the Old Testament Scriptures. Moses' face shone like the Son because he proclaimed the Christ. Elijah was the fiery prophet who preached repentance and salvation because he proclaimed the Christ. The true Tabernacle, the place of the Lord's saving presence, is not any structure that man erects for himself, but the Son Himself who, in His suffering and death, is the fulfillment of every Word of the Law and the Prophets.*