

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For the Week of the Baptism of Our Lord

January 13 through January 20, 2019

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Praying the Psalms: Psalm 15—Prayer to Walk Uprightly in Faith—Throughout the Old Testament men like Enoch, Noah, and Abraham are said to “walk with God” and are, therefore, described as righteous and just. This is a description of what it means to follow Christ by faith. By faith we are justified, declared righteous; and by faith we live the Christian life. We enter into God’s house by the merits of Christ alone. The life of faith speaks the truth before God and the neighbor, confesses sin, lives in love for the neighbor, and seeks only the neighbor’s welfare. This is what we pray for because we believe in Him whose righteousness and salvation enables us to abide in the tabernacle of the Lord forever.

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.

Theme: This Is My Beloved Son in Whom I Am Well Pleased!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Mark 10:14-15

“Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.

Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it.”

Psalm 15 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, teach me to walk by faith in Your promises, to speak the truth that edifies others, and to live a life of love and mercy for the benefit of all that I may remain steadfast in Christ all the days of my life; through Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	19, 20	22	26, 27	30	32	33	35	37
Evening	21	23, 24	25	28, 29	31	34	36	38

Readings for the Week of the Baptism of Our Lord

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy OR use → → → → →	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	The Baptism of Our Lord—Matthew 3:13-17	Ezekiel 36:13-28	Romans 4:1-25
Monday	The Death of Elisha—2 Kings 13:10-25	Ezekiel 36:33—37:14	Romans 5:1-21
Tuesday	Israel Is Carried Away by the Assyrians—2 Kings 17:5-18 (19-41)	Ezekiel 37:15-28	Romans 6:1-23
Wednesday	King Uzziah of Judah—2 Chronicles 26:1-5, 16-23	Ezekiel 38:1-23	Romans 7:1-20
Thursday	Isaiah Is Called to Preach in Israel and Judah—Isaiah 6:1-13	Ezek. 39:1-10, 17-29	Rom. 7:21-8:17
Friday	King Hezekiah of Judah—2 Kings 18:1-8	Ez. 40:1-4, 43:1-12	Romans 8:18-39
Saturday	Look Ahead to Sunday’s Readings Sunday’s readings	Ez. 44:1-16, 23-29	Romans 9:1-18
Sunday	Look Ahead to Sunday’s Readings Sunday’s readings	Ez. 47:1-14, 21-23	Romans 9:19-33

The Catechism: the Sacrament of Holy Baptism—Part I and II

<p>What is Baptism? Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God’s command and combined with God’s word.</p>	Third Grade +
<p>Which is that word of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew:</p>	First Grade +
<p>“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” [Matt. 28:19]</p>	Kindergarten +
<p>What benefits does Baptism give? It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.</p>	Third Grade +

Which are these words and promises of God?

Second Grade +

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark:

**“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved,
but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”** [Mark 16:16]

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

Prayer of Thanksgiving for What Baptism Is

Heavenly Father, we give thanks to You for the gift of Holy Baptism whereby we are made disciples of our Lord Jesus Christ and given the gift of salvation. Teach us to believe that Baptism is not just plain water, but that it is the water included in Jesus' command to baptize the nations and combined with God's Word, in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Prayer of Thanksgiving for the Benefits of Baptism

Heavenly Father, we give thanks to You that, for Jesus' sake, Baptism works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as Your words and promises declare. Comfort us and strengthen our faith in Jesus with the promise that whoever believes in Him and is baptized will be saved; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer

Sunday: Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.

Monday: Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.

Tuesday: Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.

Wednesday: Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

Thursday: Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

Friday: Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

Saturday: Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.

In Our Prayers this Week

The families of James LaFore and Jeff Imse who mourn their deaths.

Carl Duwe in therapy at Linden Grove; Wayne Loose in therapy at Franciscan Woods; Hilde Fischer, recuperating.

Phyllis, sister of Rosie Kopting and Kim Loontjer in hospice care.

Collect for the week of 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

“Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered” (stanza 1-4)

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Looking forward to the Second Sunday After Epiphany

January 20, 2019

Hymns: 631, 402, 408, 394, 636, 873

Exodus 33:12-23: The Lord promises to go with Moses and His people Israel, “My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.” In the same way, the Lord promises His gracious presence will go with us and that our security rests upon Him who is “the Rock of our salvation.”

Ephesians 5:22-33: St. Paul teaches us that our marriages as Christians are but shadows of the ultimate marriage between Christ and His bride the Church. It is this marriage that is both eternal and the fulfillment of all that God desired for man in the creation of the world. By Holy Baptism, the washing of water and the Word, we are made bone of His bone and flesh of His flesh and share in all the life and love of Him who is the Church's Bridegroom.

John 2:1-11: The first miracle that Jesus performed was turning water into wine. Many might think of this miracle as an insignificant event. Not so! John writes: “This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee, and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.” What did the disciples learn to believe about the Messiah from this “sign”? They learned that God had not abandoned the sinful human race, but had come to rescue it – as the heavenly bridegroom who had come for His bride the Church. Just as sin came into the world within the institution of marriage by the transgression of the first man, Adam, and thereby infected the entire human race, so God “manifested His glory” through the second Adam, Jesus, who would reverse the effects of the fall and save mankind, marriage, and family from destruction. God had not abandoned the people He created or the institutions of marriage and family, but has come to redeem them. He is now the true Man and the true Bridegroom. In His body the Church He creates an eternal family of love in the forgiveness of sins.