

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of the Second Sunday after Epiphany
 January 20 through January 27, 2019

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Praying the Psalms: Psalm 16—The Messiah’s Prayer for Strength—All the psalms are prayed through faith in Jesus Christ and His victory for us. Psalm 16 is no exception. The words of this psalm belong in the mouth of Jesus. Peter makes this clear in his Pentecost sermon. This psalm was Jesus’ prayer as He faced the horror of the cross and death: “Preserve me, O God, for in You I put my trust... You are my Lord, My goodness is nothing apart from You!” For Jesus’ sake, this becomes our prayer as well. Even in the agony of His death upon the cross, Jesus confessed confidence in His Father who would raise Him from the dead and not allow Him to see corruption: “I have set the Lord always before me; because He is at My right hand I shall not be moved. Therefore My heart is glad, and My glory rejoices; My flesh also will rest in hope. For You will not leave My soul in Sheol, nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.” Because of Jesus’ atoning sacrifice upon the cross which the Father accepted, Jesus’ body did not undergo decay and it was impossible for death to hold Him. The Father raised His faithful Son from the dead and for Jesus’ sake the Father will raise us to life immortal. This is our hope and confidence in Christ: “In Your presence is fullness of joy; at Your right hand are pleasures forevermore.”

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: Jesus Manifested His Glory and His Disciples Believed in Him.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Galatians 3:26-27

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.
 For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

Psalm 16 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord Jesus, we thank You for Your victory over death and the grave. As You remained steadfast and faithful to the Father, even unto death, so grant us by Your grace and Spirit to remain steadfast in the faith. Grant us the comfort and firm hope of the resurrection of the body to life immortal, for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	37	40	42, 43	45	48, 49	51	54, 56	59
Evening	38	39, 41	44	46, 47	50	52, 53	55	57, 58

Readings for the Week of the Second Sunday after Epiphany

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy OR use → → → → →	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	Jesus Turns Water into Wine—John 2:1-11	Ez. 47:1-14, 21-23	Romans 9:19-33
Monday	Hezekiah Purifies the Temple—2 Chronicles 28:22—29:36	Joel 1:1-20	Romans 10:1-21
Tuesday	Hezekiah Celebrates the Passover—2 Chronicles 30:1—31:1	Joel 2:1-17	Romans 11:1-24
Wednesday	The Destruction of Sennacherib’s Army—2 Chronicles 32:1-23	Joel 2:18-32	Rom. 11:25-12:13
Thursday	King Hezekiah’s Life Is Extended—2 Kings 20:1-11	Joel 3:1-21	Rom. 12:14-13:14
Friday	King Hezekiah Receives Envoys from Babylon—2 Kings 20:12-21	Zech. 1:1-21	Rom. 14:1-23
Saturday	Look Ahead to Sunday’s Readings Sunday’s readings	Zech. 2:1-3:10	Rom. 15:1-13
Sunday	Look Ahead to Sunday’s Readings Sunday’s readings	Zech. 4:1-5:11	Rom. 15:14-33

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,	Kindergarten +
whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,	First Grade +
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]	Second Grade +

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

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.

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

Carl Duwe in therapy at Linden Grove; Wayne Loose in therapy at Franciscan Woods.

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

Collect for the week of the Second Sunday after Epiphany:

Almighty and everlasting God, who governs all things in heaven and on earth, mercifully hear the prayers of Your people and grant us Your peace through all our days; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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

"The Only Son from Heaven" (stanza 1-2)

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Looking forward to the Third Sunday After Epiphany

January 27, 2019

Hymns: 594, 401, 409, 596, 618, 598

2 Kings 5:1-15a: The cleansing of Naaman teaches us that the saving power of God rests solely with the Word of God and nowhere else. It was the Word of God, added to the water that cleansed Naaman of his leprosy. What role does faith play? Faith receives what the Word gives. The strength of faith is not in the act of believing, but in the Word that is believed. "Naaman's servants admonished him by directing him away from himself to the free offer of cleansing in the word of the prophet. As long as he held on to his own pride and relied upon his own wealth, he could not receive the Lord's cleansing and would remain a diseased man. His faith in himself did him no good. It was the word of the Lord, from the prophet, through his messenger and Naaman's servants, which finally brought Naaman to faith and moved him to let go of himself and receive the gift contained in the waters of the Jordan. The water had the power to cleanse Naaman of his leprosy, not because of his faith, but because of the Word of God. His faith merely received the gift which was promised in the Word. The Word of God gave the water its power to cleanse, and the Word of God brought Naaman to repentance and faith in order to receive that gift."

(Excerpt from Lutheran Catechesis, p. 218)

Romans 1:8-17: We are justified, declared righteous, by the faith which is in the Gospel of our dear Lord Jesus Christ. The Gospel teaches that we have a gracious God who has put away our sins for Christ's sake, so that God no longer holds them against us. It is this Gospel of which St. Paul, and the whole Church of Christ, is not ashamed, because it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes.

Matthew 8:1-13: It is the Lord's will, not only to save us poor miserable sinners, but to do so by taking our sin and corruption upon Himself to the death of the cross. Jesus manifested this grace of God by touching the unclean leprous man and saying, "I am willing [to take your sin and infirmity upon Myself], be cleansed." The Word "be cleansed" carried Jesus' forgiveness, life, and salvation to this poor man. It is the same for us. None of us are worthy to receive the salvation that our Lord so willingly desires to give us, but by His grace alone He comes to us. The centurion rightly confessed both his unworthiness as a sinner, and the all-sufficiency of Jesus' saving Word: "Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed." The Word of Christ, the Gospel, is the power of God for salvation to all who believe.