

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Third Sunday after Epiphany  
January 27 through February 3, 2019

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — Praying the Psalms: Psalm 17—Prayer for Faithfulness to the Lord’s Word and Salvation—**Psalm 17 is an example of praying according to the First Petition, “Hallowed be Thy Name.” God’s Word and those who trust in it, pray according to it, and cling to the righteousness of Christ above all else will endure assaults from false teachers, slanderers of the truth, the arrogant and self-righteous. All of these enemies of God’s Word and of the faithful Christian are in league with Satan, the arch-enemy of the Gospel of Christ. David teaches us to cry out to the Lord for the strength He promises to give against the malevolent deceit of those who would assault the faith of Christians. He bids us to pray, not for the things of this world which will pass away, but for the righteousness of Christ and the gift of salvation that will never pass away.

## 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 Is Willing to Cleanse the Sinner!

### Invocation

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

### Apostles’ Creed

#### Verse: James 5:16

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.  
The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

#### Psalm 17 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on the Psalm:** O Lord Jesus, give ear to my prayer, uphold my steps, save those who trust in You, keep me as the apple of Your eye, hide me under the shadow of your wings, deliver my life from the wicked, preserve me in Your Word, and satisfy me with Your righteousness that I may awake in Your likeness in the resurrection of the body on the last day; 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	59	60, 61	65	66	68	71	73	75, 76
Evening	57, 58	62	63, 64	67, 70	69	72	74	77

### Readings for the Week of the Third Sunday after Epiphany

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy OR use → → → → →	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	Healing the Centurion’s Servant—Matthew 8:1-13	Zech. 4:1-5:11	Rom. 15:14-33
Monday	King Manasseh of Judah—2 Chronicles 33:1-20	Zech. 6:1-7:14	Rom. 16:17-27
Tuesday	King Josiah of Judah—2 Chronicles 34:1-28	Zech. 8:1-23	2 Tim. 1:1-18
Wednesday	Jeremiah the Priest Is Called to Be a Prophet—Jeremiah 1:1-19	Zech. 9:1-17	2 Tim. 2:1-26
Thursday	King Josiah Restores the Worship—2 Chronicles 34:29-33	Zech. 10:1-11:3	2 Tim. 3:1-17
Friday	King Josiah Celebrates the Passover—2 Chronicles 35:1-27	Zechariah 11:4-17	2 Tim. 4:1-18
Saturday	Look Ahead to Sunday’s Readings Sunday’s readings	Zechariah 12:1-13:9	Titus 1:1-2:6
Sunday	Look Ahead to Sunday’s Readings Sunday’s readings	Zechariah 14:1-21	Titus 2:7-3:15

### The Catechism: the Sacrament of Holy Baptism— Part IV

What does such baptizing with water indicate? It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.	Third Grade +
Where is this written? St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six:	First Grade +
<b>We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that,</b>	Kindergarten +
<b>just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life.</b> [Rom. 6:4]	Second Grade +

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

### **Prayer to Live in Daily Contrition and Repentance**

Heavenly Father, through Your Word and Spirit, You call us to daily contrition and repentance for our sin that the Old Adam in us might be drowned and die with all his sins and evil desires. Work true repentance in our hearts every day. Teach us to confess our sins and to flee to Christ for our life and salvation. By Your Word of forgiveness raise up the new man of faith in us that we might live before You in righteousness and purity forever; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving for New Life in Christ**

Almighty God, we give thanks to You for our baptism into Christ, where we were buried with Him through our baptism into His death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead, we too may live a new life. Grant us this new life, O Lord, that we might live faithfully and joyously as Your children in the blessed hope of everlasting life in Christ, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. 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 Third Sunday after Epiphany:**

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; 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**

**"Our Father, Who from Heaven Above" (stanzas 6-9)**

**766**

#### **Looking forward to the Fourth Sunday After Epiphany**

**February 3, 2019**

**Hymns: 724, 557, 575, 619, 724, 714**

**Jonah 1:1-17:** Unlike our Lord Jesus, Jonah resisted the call of the Lord to preach repentance and the forgiveness of sins to the Ninevites. He fled from the Lord's call on board a ship. The storm that engulfed the ship and threatened to destroy her is a picture of the judgment of God against sin. Jonah had been called to be prophet of salvation in the Lord's stead, and so Jonah had to be thrown into the raging sea. In this event, we see a picture of what the prophet who is greater than Jonah came to do. Our Lord Jesus would be plunged into the raging sea of sin, death, and the judgment of God's Law for us. He was swallowed up by the great sea creature of death. He satisfied the wrath of God, taking our place upon the cross, and there was a great calm—the calm of sins forgiven. This event is linked not only to Jesus' stilling of the storm upon the Sea of Galilee, but His ultimate mission of stilling the storm of divine judgment for us in His death and resurrection.

**Romans 8:18-23:** In the curse of the fall, the entire creation was subjected to futility and decay. God cursed the creation because of man's sin, and through the things that we suffer in this world we are taught our need for redemption. Yet it is not only sinful flesh who will be redeemed by the blood of Christ; the entire creation will be redeemed, restored, and made new through what Jesus has done. As St. Paul declared, "The creation itself also will be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God."

**Matthew 8:23-27:** Jesus arose from sleep and rebuked the winds and the sea, and there was a great calm. The miracle of the stilling of the storm is a picture of exactly what Jesus came to do in His suffering, death, and resurrection. The great tempest upon the Sea of Galilee, that threatened to destroy the disciples in their little boat, is a picture of the problem of sin, death and judgment that threatens to destroy us all. Jesus suffered what we deserve in order to rescue us from death, reconcile us to God, and give us the eternal peace of sins forgiven. So in the miracle of the stilling of the storm, we see the faithless and powerless disciples who are unable to save themselves from certain destruction. Jesus, who had entered into the boat and was asleep, arose from sleep and with a word brought about a great calm and rescued the disciples from death. Is this not a wonderful picture of how our Lord rose from the dead and with the Word of forgiveness calmed every accusation of the Law and bestowed upon us a great peace? "Who can this be, that even the winds and the sea obey Him?" He is the prophet greater than Jonah! He entered into the tempest of our sin and death and by His suffering and death He procured salvation for us all. Now, having risen from the dead, His Word gives peace and salvation to all who will receive it.