

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Baptism of Our Lord
January 10 through January 17, 2021*

Catechesis Notes for the Week —Psalm 105:1-22—A Song of Thankfulness for the Lord’s Faithfulness—Psalm 105 begins with a call to give thanks, confess the Lord’s deeds among His people, and to sing to Him for His faithfulness. The psalmist recounts the Lord’s faithfulness in calling Abraham to faith and in protecting and preserving the patriarchs throughout their sojourn in Canaan before they were established as a nation. According to His covenant with Abraham, the Lord blessed Abraham, causing His blessing to come upon those who blessed the patriarchs and protecting the patriarchs from those who would do them harm. “Do not touch My anointed ones and do My prophets no harm” was the Lord’s Word of protection around the children of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as they sojourned in the land and settled in Egypt during the days of Joseph. Never did He abandon them but remained true to His promise of life and salvation for them. The same is true for us who are called by the Lord’s name in baptism and grafted into Christ Jesus, our righteousness, life, salvation, and protection from all harm.

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Pray and confess 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: Baptized into Christ!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: John 3:5-6

**Most assuredly, I say to you,
unless one is born of water and the Spirit,
he cannot enter the kingdom of God.
That which is born of the flesh is flesh,
and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.**

Psalm 105:1-22 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, as You were faithful to the patriarchs in preserving them from harm and in blessing them according to Your covenant, so teach us to rely upon Your promises, to sing of Your faithfulness, and to tell others of all Your wondrous works of salvation, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	51	54, 56	59	60, 61	65	66	68	71
Evening	52, 53	55	57, 58	62	63, 64	67, 70	69	72

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Baptism of Our Lord—Matthew 3:13-17	
Monday	The Baptism of Our Lord—Matthew 3:1-6, 13-17	Isaiah 42:1-9
Tuesday	Behold the Lamb of God—John 1:19-34	Leviticus 16:21-24
Wednesday	Nicodemus Comes to Jesus by Night—John 3:1-16	Numbers 21:4-9
Thursday	The Woman at the Well—John 4:1-30, 39-42	Jeremiah 2:9-13
Friday	The Pool of Bethesda—John 5:1-15	Isaiah 35:3-10
Saturday	The Lord Shows Moses His Glory—Exodus 33:12-23	Ephesians 5:22-33

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

<i>What is Baptism?</i> Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God’s command and combined with God’s word.	Third Grade +
<i>Which is that word of God?</i> Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew:	First Grade +
“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]	Kindergarten +

<p><i>What benefits does Baptism give?</i> 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 +
<p><i>Which are these words and promises of God?</i> 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]</p>	Second Grade +

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.

In Our Prayers this Week

Baptismal Birthdays: Holly Venkitaswaren, Frank Koplring (1/11), Kyle Knoerr, Sarah Meyle, Kathy Stoltenberg (1/13), John Bender (1/14), Lee Weber (1/15).

The sick:

All those recovering from the Coronavirus.
Jim Von Dissen, nephew of Eunice Dissen, hospitalized for pneumonia and other medical issues.
Zack, friend of Angela Christopherson, recuperating from brain surgery.
Duane Perry in therapy.
Jeremy LaFore and his family as he battles ALS.
Jim Nitzsche, Brian Nienabor, Roger Laubenstein, Jill Franklin, and Allison Witte in treatment for cancer.

The bereaved: The family of Allan Gabel who mourn the death of Allan’s brother John.

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

“To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord” (stanzas 1 and 4)

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Looking forward to the Second Sunday after Epiphany	January 17, 2021
Hymns: 394, 399, 408, 631, 533, 412	
Exodus 33:12-23: <i>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.”</i>	
Ephesians 5:22-33: <i>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.</i>	
John 2:1-11: <i>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.</i>	