

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Baptism of Our Lord
January 9 through January 16, 2022*

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 141: An Evening Prayer—Psalm 141 is an evening prayer in which we cry out to the Lord to guard our lips from speaking falsehood or harmful words, and in which we ask Him to deliver our hearts from the practice of evil. Our prayer is like ascending incense when it is offered out of faith in God’s merciful protection in Christ alone. We pray that the Lord would defend us from lying words and overthrow the plots of those who are set against us. If we take matters into our own hands, we will surely fail. But reliance upon the Lord alone carries with it the promise of His absolute protection from our enemies and deliverance from every evil that is set against us. There are many traps and snares laid out for us by the wicked, but the Lord delivers those whose eyes are fixed upon Him. He alone is our refuge and deliverer from all evil.

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 Was Anointed with the Holy Spirit.

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 141 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, I call to You; come to me quickly. Set a watch before my mouth and guard the door of my lips. Let me not be occupied in wickedness with evil doers. My eyes are turned to You, O God; in You I take refuge. Strip me not of my life, for Jesus is My Savior and Redeemer, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	78	80	82, 84	85	88	89	91	92
Evening	79	81	83	86	87	90	93	94

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Baptism of Our Lord—Matthew 3:13-17	
Monday	The Boy Jesus in the Temple—Luke 2:41-52	Deut. 6:4-9
Tuesday	Israel Is Carried Away by the Assyrians—2 Kings 17:5-18 (19-41)	1 Corinthians 15:1-28
Wednesday	King Uzziah of Judah—2 Chronicles 26:1-5, 16-23	1 Cor. 15:28-58
Thursday	Isaiah Is Called to Preach in Israel and Judah—Isaiah 6:1-13	1 Cor. 16:1-24
Friday	King Hezekiah of Judah—2 Kings 18:1-8	2 Cor. 1:1—2:2
Saturday	Sunday’s OT and Epistle—Amos 9:11-15	Romans 12:6-16

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

<p><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.</p>	Third Grade +
<p><i>Which is that word of God?</i> 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><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

The Office of the Ministry: *The Lord’s blessing upon our calling of an Associate Pastor and Headmaster.*

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

Thanksgiving for Healing Mercies: Jeremy LaFore for continued recovery from paralysis; Gabby Hartwig for a reprieve from cancer, even as she continues to undergo therapeutic treatment.

The Sick: *All those in the congregation suffering with Covid.* Barb Lavann, mother of Cheryl Gretzinger, hospitalized with congestive heart failure.

Cancer Treatment: Nancy Thiele, friend of Polly Joubert and Jon and Marty Bruss, diagnosed with acute leukemia, Aburuyeba Amaso (breast cancer), Jim Nitzsche (lung cancer); James Loker (liver cancer), Josiah Boehringer (childhood cancer).

Hospice Care: Fern Warfel, sister-in-law of Carol Bender

Those Who Mourn: Family of Marge Trimberger who mourn her death.

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)

404

Looking forward to the Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 16, 2022

Hymns: 402, 408, 860, 636, 845, 873

Amos 9:11-15: *The prophecy of the restoration of Israel and the Tabernacle of David after the exile is a prophetic picture of the restoration of the joyous kingdom of Christ in the resurrection. As they rejoiced to return to Jerusalem after the exile, so the Church will rejoice in the day of the resurrection when paradise will be restored. In that day “the mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and the hills shall flow with it.” When the captivity to sin and death finally ends, that which is broken down will be rebuilt, that which is uprooted will be replanted, and we shall ever be the glorious kingdom of Christ.*

Romans 12:6-16: *Every good gift in the Church and among Christians is to be used in self-less service to the Lord because of His undeserved grace and lovingkindness to us. Love flows from faith in Christ. The love that faith in Christ produces is without hypocrisy. It abhors what is evil. It is kind, affectionate toward those in need, not lagging in diligent service to others, patient in tribulation, steadfast in prayer, and generous in attending to the needs of the saints. The love that is borne of faith in Christ blesses the persecutor, rejoices with those who rejoice, and weeps with those who weep. In every way, the calling of the Christian considers others ahead of oneself, just as Christ gave Himself entirely for our welfare.*

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.*