

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Second Sunday after Epiphany  
January 16 through January 23, 2022*

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — Psalm 142: A Prayer for Relief from Persecutors**—When we, as Christians, feel as if we are all alone, the Lord is with us. He who endured every form of persecution and testing for us, stands with us when our faith is assaulted by an entire world that is hostile to the Gospel. Psalm 142 is a fervent prayer for relief: “I cry out to the Lord...I pour out my complaint...I declare before Him my trouble...” The Lord wants us to lean upon Him. He knows everything we are facing and He knows what the future holds: “When my spirit was overwhelmed within me, then You knew my path.” All other helpers fail us. Only the Lord stands with us. “You are my refuge, my portion in the land of the living...Deliver me from my persecutors.” Our enemies and persecutors may be stronger than we, but they are not stronger than the Lord Jesus who has trampled sin, Satan, and death under His feet. Because we belong to Him, we are safe and the Lord shall deal bountifully with us for our good and the preservation of our faith.

## 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: Christ Redeems the Creation and Makes All Things New!

### 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 142 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.**

**Prayer on the Psalm:** O Lord, I have no strength of my own to stand up against persecutors and those who would destroy my faith. You alone are my fortress and defender. I lay all my troubles before You. Deliver me from those who rise up against me. Grant me quiet confidence in Your help and protection, and surround me with righteous believers with whom I may enjoy the comforting fellowship of faithful Christian brothers and sisters; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	92	95, 96	98, 100	101	103	105	107	109
Evening	94	97	99	102	104	106	108	110, 111

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>Jesus Turns Water into Wine—John 2:1-11</b>	
Monday	Hezekiah Purifies the Temple—2 Chronicles 28:22—29:36	2 Cor. 2:3—3:3
Tuesday	Hezekiah Celebrates the Passover—2 Chronicles 30:1—31:1 <b>Confession of St Peter—Mark 8:27—9:1</b>	2 Cor. 3:4-18
Wednesday	The Destruction of Sennacherib's Army—2 Chronicles 32:1-23	2 Cor. 4:1-18
Thursday	King Hezekiah's Life Is Extended—2 Kings 20:1-11	2 Cor. 5:1-21
Friday	King Hezekiah Receives Envoys from Babylon—2 Kings 20:12-21	2 Cor. 6:1—7:1
Saturday	Sunday's OT and Epistle—2 Kings 5:1-15a	Romans 12:16-21

### 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,**

**whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,**

**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]**

Kindergarten +

First Grade +

Second Grade +

**Prayers: Catechism Prayers, In Our Prayers at Peace, and the Collects 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.

**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:** Tyler Church, Holly Schneider, Donovan Alvarez (1/16), Julia Perry, Eunice Dissen (1/17), Nathanael Haga (1/18), Ruth Schneider (1/20), Kendall Westrich (1/21), Beth Boehringer (1/22).

**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. Ralph Fischer, who is hospitalized.

**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).

**Those Who Mourn:** The families of Jerry, cousin of Mark Goltermann, and Fern Warfel, sister-in-law of Carol Bender.

**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.

**Collect for the Confession of St. Peter (January 18)**

Heavenly Father, You revealed to the apostle Peter the blessed truth that Your Son Jesus is the Christ. Strengthen us by the proclamation of this truth that we too may joyfully confess that there is salvation in no one else; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism**

**Hymn of the Week**

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

**402**

**Looking forward to the Third Sunday after Epiphany**

**January 23, 2022**

**Hymns: 587, 401, 620, 531, 540, 825**

**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 12:16-21:** Undeserved mercy, loving-kindness, and compassion for the unworthy, and even the enemies of Christ, is what characterizes the Christian faith and life. It is because of the mercy that we have received in Jesus that moves us to bear with one another's burdens, to repay no one evil for evil, and to have regard for good things in the sight of all men. The call to faith in Christ is also the call not to avenge ourselves or to take revenge on those who have sinned against us. "If your enemy hungers, feed him; if he thirsts, give him a drink." These are the "coals of fire"—of divine mercy—that are heaped upon the enemy's head. The Gospel is, therefore, not proclaimed in word only, but also in the powerful demonstrations of God's grace in the way in which we treat our enemies.

**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 leprosy 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.