

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Second Sunday after Epiphany  
January 15 through January 22, 2023

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Ministry of a Faithful Brother**—The lengthy account of Joseph from Genesis speaks of the overwhelming power of God's grace to sustain and guide us in our vocation as Christians. Through all the things that Joseph suffered, the Lord was with him and blessed him especially in suffering. Joseph is finally remembered by Pharaoh's butler and brought before the king of Egypt. **Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dreams**, detailing for Pharaoh not only what the future held—seven years of plenty, followed by seven years of famine—but also advising the heathen king for the benefit of the unbelieving nation of Egypt. Joseph served his neighbor faithfully for his neighbor's welfare. Pharaoh received Joseph's interpretation as the Word of the Lord. Once again, the Lord blessed Joseph. **Joseph Becomes the Prince of Egypt**, being raised up, not really by Pharaoh but by God to bring about God's salvation. The wise administration of the affairs of Egypt prepared them for the years of famine and enabled the Egyptians to be of service to others. In **Joseph's Brothers Journey to Egypt to Buy Food**, the hardship of famine draws them to Egypt and right into the hands of Joseph. Of course, many years have passed since they sold their brother into slavery. He is now dressed like an Egyptian. He speaks Egyptian. He uses an interpreter to communicate with his brothers. They do not recognize him. Joseph's apparent suspicion and harsh treatment of his brothers is not an act of vengeance or retribution. Rather, they needed a pastor—a faithful brother who could minister God's Word to them and bring them back to the Lord's salvation. **Joseph Feeds His Brothers and Sends Them to Jacob** out of love for them, to draw the truth from them, and to show them how much they needed to confess the truth that they have denied for years. In the midst of this week's narrative surrounding Joseph's faithful ministry to his brothers, we hear the **Confession of St. Peter**. Peter's confession, "You are the Christ, the Son of the living God!" is the ROCK upon which the Church is built. It is the pillar of truth, the foundation for our faith, and the ground of certainty and comfort. It is the confession of all true Christians today.

## 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: 1 Peter 3:18

Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit.

#### Psalm 67 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on the Psalm:** Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	82, 84	85	88	89	91	92	95, 96	98, 100
Evening	83	86	87	90	93	94	97	99

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>Epiphany 2:</b> Jesus Turns Water into Wine—John 2:1-11	
Monday	Joseph Interprets Pharaoh's Dreams—Genesis 41:1-36	John 6:48-59
Tuesday	Joseph Becomes the Prince of Egypt—Genesis 41:37-57	John 6:60-71
Wednesday	<b>The Confession of St. Peter:</b> Mark 8:27—9:1	2 Peter 1:1-15
Thursday	Joseph's Brothers Journey to Egypt to Buy Food—Gen. 42:1-24	John 7:1-9
Friday	Joseph Feeds Brothers, Sends Them to Jacob—Gen. 42:25-38	John 7:10-13
Saturday	Epiphany 3: 2 Kings 5:1-15a	Romans 1:8-17

### 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 +
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**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** (include the petitions below followed by the Lord's Prayer)

**Baptismal Anniversaries:** Lee Weber, Amy Gierach (1/15), Tyler Church, Holly Schneider, Donavan Alvarez (1/16), Julia Perry, Eunice Dissen (1/17), Nathanael Haga (1/18), Ruth Schneider (1/20), Kendall Westrich (1/21).

**Thanksgiving for healing mercies:** Bob Piper, Bob Rothe, and Carol Bender

**The Sick:** Mark Schneider undergoing right carpal tunnel and ulnar nerve surgery on Tuesday; Mark Gretzinger, undergoing back surgery on Tuesday; Sarah Mladenik (sister of Robin Theilacker) in rehab following a stroke; Rev. Jon Leider in rehab recovering from pneumonia; Peyton Locklair, Jamilyn Martin, Kathy Miller, Heather Peters, and Josiah Boehringer in cancer treatment.

**Hospice Care:** Rev. DuWayne Schneider (friend of the Koplings).

**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**

**"Songs of Thankfulness and Praise" (stanzas 1-2)**

**394**

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

**January 22, 2023**

**Hymns:** 596, 734, 594, 527, 571, 553

**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.