

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Third Sunday after Epiphany
January 22 through January 29, 2023

Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Gift of Faithful Pastors — This week gives us opportunity to meditate upon three minor festivals that commemorate the gift of pastors. **St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor**, became a catechumen of Paul on Paul's second missionary journey. His Jewish mother and grandmother are credited with teaching him the Scriptures from childhood. Timothy continued with Paul and became a fellow minister of the Gospel who would train other men to be pastors. **The Conversion of St. Paul** commemorates the grace of God that calls obstinate, self-righteous sinners to repentance and faith. Saul of Tarsus met the Lord Jesus on the road to Damascus, Syria. He had letters in hand from the Sanhedrin in Jerusalem to arrest those who called on the name of the Lord Jesus. This embittered Pharisee and persecutor of the Church became, by the grace of God, a faithful apostle of the Gospel he once tried to destroy. **St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor**, was a Greek convert to the Christian faith from Antioch, Syria. Titus assisted Paul in the distribution of funds collected to assist the poor, suffering Church of Judea. Like Timothy, Titus was an envoy of the Apostle Paul to many of the churches throughout Asia and Greece. He assisted in the training of pastors in those cities and would end his life as the bishop of Crete.

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: By the Word of Jesus We Are Healed!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ;
it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;
and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God,
who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Psalm 97 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm O Lord, we rejoice in and give thanks that You have made known Your salvation in all the earth, Your righteousness is our salvation, and You have remembered us in mercy and faithfulness. Grant us to love You above all things and to hate what is evil. Preserve our souls from every assault of the evil one and cause the light of Your salvation to shine forth in all the earth; 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	98, 100	101	103	105	107	109	112, 113	115
Evening	99	102	104	106	108	110, 111	114	116

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Epiphany 3: Jesus Heals the Centurion's Servant—Matt. 8:1-13	
Monday	Benjamin Returns with His Brothers to Egypt—Genesis 43:1-34	John 7:14-18
Tuesday	St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor: Acts 16:1-5	1 Timothy 6:11-16
Wednesday	The Conversion of St. Paul: Acts 9:1-22	Galatians 1:11-24
Thursday	St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor: Titus 1:1-9	Acts 20:28-35
Friday	Joseph's Cup Is Found in Benjamin's Sack—Genesis 44:1-17	John 7:25-31
Saturday	Transfiguration: Moses Reflects the Glory of God—Ex. 34:29-35	2 Peter 1:16-21

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 +
We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death	Kindergarten +
in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. [Rom. 6:4]	Second Grade +

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

In Our Prayers this Week (include the petitions below followed by the Lord's Prayer)

Baptismal Anniversaries: Beth Boehringer (1/22), Chloe Kenyon (1/23), Jody Ligrow (1/24), Bob Gierach (1/24), Mackenzie Dhein (1/28).

Wedding Anniversaries: Larry and Tammy Haga (1/27).

The Sick: Jan Wollin hospitalized after a fall; Cindy Hirtz recovering from cancer surgery; Mark Schneider and Mark Gretzinger recovering from surgery; Sarah Mladenik (sister of Robin Theilacker) in rehab following a stroke; Mike Ferguson, 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 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.

Collect for the Feast of St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor: (January 24)

Lord Jesus Christ, You have always given to Your Church on earth faithful shepherds such as Timothy to guide and feed Your flock. Make all pastors diligent to preach Your holy Word and administer Your means of grace, and grant Your people wisdom to follow in the way that leads to life eternal; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen

Collect for the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul (January 25)

Almighty God, You turned the heart of him who persecuted the Church and by his preaching caused the light of the Gospel to shine throughout the world. Grant us ever to rejoice in the saving light of Your Gospel and, following the example of the apostle Paul, to spread it to the ends of the earth; 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 Feast of St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor (January 26)

Almighty God, You called Titus to the work of pastor and teacher. Make all shepherds of Your flock diligent in preaching Your holy Word so that the whole world may know the immeasurable riches of our Savior, Jesus Christ, 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

"God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It" (stanzas 1-2)

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Looking forward to the Transfiguration of Our Lord

January 29, 2023

Hymns: 815, 413, 415, 680, 631, 414

Exodus 34:29-35: Why did the skin of Moses' face shine with the glory of God when he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony? It was not simply because he had seen the Lord, nor was it simply that he was delivering to Israel the written code of the Law; rather, Moses was delivering Christ to the people. Jesus Christ is the embodiment and fulfillment of both the Law and the Promises contained in what the Hebrews called "the Torah." All that Moses was given to deliver to the people in the Torah Jesus embodies and fulfills.

2 Peter 1:16-21: Peter makes it clear to the Church that the apostles were not "duped" by clever "fables" concerning Jesus. They were "eye-witnesses of His majesty." They were with Him when He was baptized, they listened to Him preach and teach, they saw Him heal the sick and raise the dead, and they touched His hands and His side after His resurrection. Throughout their entire time with Jesus, the Word of the Father was proven true: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." The Word of the Apostles corresponds to the Word of the Prophets. This Word of God is the only "light that shines in a dark place." It is the only way through which we come to know our Savior and it is trustworthy and sure.

Matthew 17:1-9: Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus when His flesh was transfigured before Peter, James, and John, because Jesus, the Son of God, is the glory of the Old Testament Scriptures. Moses' face shone like the Son because he proclaimed the Christ. Elijah was the fiery prophet who preached repentance and salvation because he proclaimed the Christ. The true Tabernacle, the place of the Lord's saving presence, is not any structure that man erects for himself, but the Son Himself who, in His suffering and death, is the fulfillment of every Word of the Law and the Prophets.