

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Second Sunday after Epiphany  
January 14, 2024, through January 21, 2024

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — Holy Baptism: The Sacrament of Salvation!** “Jesus defines Holy Baptism as the new birth of water and the Spirit. This new birth is the miracle of faith in Christ. The Holy Spirit gives birth to faith in Christ through the seed of the Word of God that is implanted in the water. Faith in Christ and Holy Baptism are inseparable linked together as necessary for salvation. To say that Baptism is necessary for salvation is to say that Christ Jesus is necessary for salvation because He alone suffered and died for our sins, and He is the salvation given to us by the Holy Spirit in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. We cannot enter the kingdom of God apart from faith in Christ. “To be born” spiritually, therefore, is to be given the gift of faith in Christ. This gift of faith is born of water and the Spirit—Holy Baptism. Through the Word of God in Baptism, the Holy Spirit promises salvation in Christ and gives the gift of faith. Our sinful flesh can produce only sin and unbelief. But the Holy Spirit creates faith and declares us righteous for Jesus’ sake. This is why the Holy Spirit is called ‘the Lord and giver of life.’” [Excerpt from Lutheran Catechesis: Catechist Edition, p. 220a]

## 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. Daily Prayer for Individuals and Families begins on page 294 of Lutheran Service Book.

## Theme: We Beheld His Glory!

### 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 66 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

**Prayer on the Psalm:** Thanks and praise be to You, O God of all grace, because You have delivered our souls from the bondage of Satan and have saved us through the Red Sea of the blood of Your Son. Cleanse us evermore with His blood that, with all Your saints, we may continually praise You; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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	68	71	73	75, 76	78	80	82, 84	85
Evening	69	72	74	77	79	81	83	86

### Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	<b>The Wedding in Cana of Galilee—John 2:1-11</b>	
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	<b>The Confession of St. Peter—Mark 8:27-35</b>	2 Peter 1:1-15
Friday	The Pool of Bethesda—John 5:1-15	Isaiah 35:3-10
Saturday	The Glory of God Is Reflected in Moses’ Face—Exodus 34:29-35	2 Peter 1:16-21

### The Catechism: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism—Parts I and II

What is Baptism? Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God’s command and combined with God’s word.	Third Grade +
Which is that word of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew:	First Grade +
<b>“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.”</b> [Matt. 28:19]	Kindergarten +
What benefits does Baptism give? 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.	Third Grade +

Which are these words and promises of God?  
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]

Second Grade +

**Prayers: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, and In Our Prayers at Peace**

**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.

**Daily Themes for Prayer — “Let us pray...”**

- Sunday:** For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.
- Monday:** For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.
- Tuesday:** For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.
- Wednesday:** For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.
- Thursday:** For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ’s body and blood.
- Friday:** For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.
- Saturday:** For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God’s Word on the Lord’s Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ’s holy gifts.

**In Our Prayers this Week — “Let us pray for...”**

**Baptismal Anniversaries:** John Bender (1/14), Lee Weber, Amy Gierach (1/15), Tyler Church, Holly Schneider, Donavan Alvarez (1/16), Julie Perry, Eunice Dissen (1/17), Nathanael Haga (1/18), Ruth Schneider (1/20).

**The Sick:** Dawn Fredrich (surgery 1-16), Connie Pinzl, George Kaminski, Yet Ngor Wong (grandmother of Nicola Giordano); Rev. Dr. John Wille, Rev. Luke Boehringer, Jean Reuss, and Gabby Hartwig in cancer treatment; Charles Schwen in rehab.

**Those in Hospice:** Karen (Mark Thoni’s Aunt).

**Those Who Mourn:** family and friends of Duane Schmudlach and Rev. Dr. Wolf Knappe.

**Lord’s Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism.**

**Hymn of the Week**

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

**406**

**Looking forward to the Transfiguration of Our Lord**

**January 21, 2024**

**Hymns: 415, 414, 396, 413, 836**

**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 “eyewitnesses 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.