

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the Week of the Transfiguration of Our Lord
 January 21, 2024, through January 28, 2024

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Baptism Places Us in Christ — “If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation...” Holy Baptism places us *IN* Christ! This means that we are joined to Him. His death for sin has become our death for sin. His atonement for sin is our atonement. His righteousness covers our sin. His resurrection has become our own. By His forgiveness, life, and salvation we are a *NEW* creation. The old life of sin and death has passed away. In Christ we are a *NEW* creation. This means that you are a new man or woman, holy and righteous. God looks upon you and you are spotless, without sin! Christ has taken it all away and declared you righteous. It means that you are a new man and a new woman, a new husband and a new wife, a new father and a new mother because the old things have passed away with all their frailty, sin, and corruption, and all things have become new! You are a new creation in Christ! This is the gift of our Baptism and what it means to be “*IN* Christ!”

The Order of Meditation and Prayer

Theme: This Is My Beloved Son in Whom I Am Well Pleased!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: 2 Corinthians 5:17

If anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.

Psalm 77 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Lord God, our heavenly Father, in the perplexing problems and challenges of life, help us to remember Your loving-kindness of old and to look at the examples of Your faithfulness in the lives of the saints who have gone before us. Teach us to lay every burden upon You and to rest in Your promises of life and deliverance, through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	85	88	89	91	92	95, 96	98, 100	101
Evening	86	87	90	93	94	97	99	102

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Transfiguration of Our Lord—Matthew 17:1-9	
Monday	Noah and the Flood—Gen. 6:5, 13, 17-19; 7:11-12, 16-17, 21-23	Isaiah 54:4-10
Tuesday	Noah and the Flood—Genesis 8:1a, 15-22; 9:1-17	1 Peter 3:18-22
Wednesday	The Red Sea—Exodus 13:17—14:31 St. Timothy, Pastor and Confessor—Acts 16:1-5	Psalm 106:1-12
Thursday	Israel Crosses the Jordan—Joshua 1:1-2, 10-11; 3:1-17 The Conversion of St. Paul—Acts 9:1-22	Mark 1:1-15
Friday	Naaman's Leprosy Is Cleansed—2 Kings 5:1-14 St. Titus, Pastor and Confessor—Titus 1:1-9	Titus 3:3-8
Saturday	The Israelites Demand Water—Exodus 17:1-7	1 Cor. 9:24—10:5

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:

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]

Third Grade +

Kindergarten +

First Grade +

Second Grade +

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

Collect for the week of the Transfiguration of Our Lord:

O God, in the glorious transfiguration of Your beloved Son You confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of Moses and Elijah. In the voice that came from the bright cloud You wonderfully foreshowed our adoption by grace. Mercifully make us co-heirs with the King in His glory and bring us to the fullness of our inheritance in heaven; through the same Jesus Christ, 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.

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: Kendall Westrich 9/21), Beth Boehringer (1/22), Chloe Kenyon (1/23), Jody Ligrow, Alec Welch, Bob Gierach (1/24). **Wedding Anniversaries:** Larry and Tammy Haga (1/27).

The Sick: Sharon Murphy (surgery 1-22), Dawn Fredrich (recovering from surgery), Al Gabel, 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)

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

Hymn of the Week

“From God the Father, Virgin-Born” (stanzas 1-2)

401

Looking forward to Septuagesima Sunday

January 28, 2024

Hymns: 555, 761, 566, 827

Exodus 17:1-7: It was the Lord who sustained Israel throughout their wilderness pilgrimage. He sustained them with manna from heaven and with the water from the Rock. Paul tells us in First Corinthians that the Rock that followed them was Christ. Israel’s pilgrimage for forty years in the wilderness corresponds to the pilgrimage of the Church in this valley of sorrow. It is the Lord alone who sustains us by His grace. He gives us the true manna from heaven, His body and blood, in the Supper.

1 Corinthians 9:24—10:5: The baptismal life is a pilgrimage through this vale of tears to the resurrection to eternal life. In this week’s epistle, Paul describes it as a race. He calls us to temperance and a life of quiet repentance in which we discipline our bodies with the sure and certain Word of God. Most of us don’t realize that the Word of God that is studied, received, meditated upon, and believed has a positive effect not only upon our faith, but also upon our physical life in this world. Though the children of Israel had been redeemed from their slavery through the blood of the Passover Lamb and their baptism in the cloud and in the sea, and though they had eaten of the spiritual food the Lord provided, many of them died in impenitence. Paul’s warning calls us to receive the Lord’s Supper with repentant hearts and with a hunger and thirst for His strength. Paul’s teaching emphasizes that Christ’s body and blood are truly given to us in the Sacrament and that worthy reception of the Lord’s Supper requires a penitent faith in the Gospel.

Matthew 20:1-16: All the workers received the same wage regardless of when they were hired. What does this mean? All Christians receive the same gift of salvation regardless of when they come to faith. Why? Because salvation is based upon Christ’s work and not our own. According to human reason, salvation is unfair because it is not based on our works at all, but is given freely by grace for Christ’s sake. This is a parable of grace that teaches us that God shows no partiality in the bestowal of salvation. His gift is given solely on the basis of His undeserved love, and not because of a man’s works.