

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of Septuagesima Sunday
January 28, 2024, through February 4, 2024

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Let Him Deny Himself — This week’s verse is Jesus’ call to the baptismal life: “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me” (Luke 9:23). “Self-denial is central to faith in Christ, and such self-denial is the denial that a person’s own good works can in any way save him. It is God who works ‘daily contrition and repentance’ in us through His Word of Law and Gospel, so that we deny ourselves and our own righteousness and cling by faith to Christ alone for salvation. ‘Daily contrition and repentance’ is painful to us because it involves the killing of the flesh with all the appetites and desires of the Old Adam. As Christ suffered and died for our sin, so we who are joined to Christ by Baptism into His death die daily to self that we might walk in the new life of faith in Christ. The Law continually kills—crushing all our religious hypocrisy, self-righteousness, and pride; and the Gospel continually makes us alive—reviving repentant faith, comforting the troubled conscience, and giving us the strength to live in the freedom and joy of Christ’s forgiveness.” [Excerpt from Lutheran Catechesis: Catechist Edition, p. 230b]

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: I Wish to Give to You Out of My Love and Mercy.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Luke 9:23

If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself,
and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

Psalm 130 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord, when my soul is languishing in the depths of my sin, grant me faith to call upon You for forgiveness and the courage to wait upon Your word of mercy for comfort and peace; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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	101	103	105	107	109	112, 113	115	117, 118
Evening	102	104	106	108	110, 111	114	116	120, 121

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard—Matthew 20:1-16	
Monday	Jonah Is Swallowed by the Great Fish—Jonah 1:1—2:10	Romans 6:1-14
Tuesday	The Sign of Jonah—Matthew 12:38-45	Jonah 2:1-10
Wednesday	Jesus Walks on the Water—Matthew 14:22-36	Colossians 2:11-15
Thursday	Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet—John 13:1-15	1 Corinthians 6:9-11
Friday	Purification of Mary and Presentation—Luke 2:22-32	Hebrews 2:14-18
Saturday	The Power of the Word of God—Isaiah 55:10-13	2 Cor. 11:19—12:9

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

Collect for the week of Septuagesima Sunday:

O Lord, graciously hear the prayers of Your people that we who justly suffer the consequence of our sin may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness to the glory of Your name; 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 the Presentation of Our Lord: (February 2)

Almighty and ever-living God, as Your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in the substance of our flesh, grant that we may be presented to You with pure and clean hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, 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: *Mackenzie Dhein (1/28), Gwyneth Ferguson (1/31), Greta Hartwig (2/3).*

The Sick: *Rolf Berntsen (father of Nicole Aidich) with pneumonia; Mary Ellen Nitzsche, Sharon Murphy, and Dawn Fredrich (recovering from surgery); Charles Schwen in rehab; Al Gabel, in skilled nursing; Yet Ngor Wong (grandmother of Nicola Giordano) recovering from a stroke; Tom Smith (father of Christine Franklin), Rev. Dr. John Wille, Rev. Luke Boehringer, Jean Reuss, and Gabby Hartwig in cancer treatment;*

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

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

Hymn of the Week

“Dear Christians, One and All Rejoice” (stanzas 6-10)

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Looking forward to Sexagesima Sunday

February 4, 2024

Hymns: 823, 756, 427, 585

Isaiah 55:10-13: *The prophet Isaiah catechizes us on the power and efficacy of God’s Word. God’s Word gives life. It creates faith. It bestows the blessings of God in Christ, according to His good and gracious will. Everything depends upon God’s Word. God’s Word shall not return to Him void. It will accomplish the things for which He sends it. The Word of God is the power of God to salvation. It puts us to death in the preaching of repentance and it raises us to new life in the preaching of forgiveness. Let us give thanks for the power and all-sufficiency of God’s Word.*

2 Corinthians 11:19—12:9: *Paul’s ministry was under attack especially by the Jewish element within the Church that resisted salvation by faith alone. Paul speaks of his call to preach the Gospel, and the all sufficiency of Christ’s grace which is manifested in our sinful weaknesses. The grace of Christ alone sustains the Christian no matter what attacks his faith.*

Luke 8:4-15: *The seed that is planted in the ground appears so lifeless and insignificant, yet from the seed there springs forth new life. The Word of God is life-giving seed. It is planted into the soil of the human heart. It is the source of the new life of faith in Christ. Apart from the Word there is no faith, life, or salvation. Observe the way in which God sows the seed of the Word which is so different from the common human sower. He sows the Seed of the Word everywhere! It falls on the wayside, among the rocks, and among the thorns and thistles. This is not the way of the so-called “skilled sower.” To sow seed in this way would be such a waste by the world’s standards. But that is the way God operates. He preaches His Word, even where it might appear to be wasteful and useless, so great is His desire to shed the love of Christ abroad in the hearts of sinners. This parable teaches us that the miracle of faith is dependent upon the Word of God. It teaches us that the enemies of faith are Satan, persecution, and the riches of this world. With man it is impossible to overcome these threats to faith, but not with God; with God all things are possible, even deliverance from these enemies.*