

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the First Sunday after Epiphany
January 12, through January 19, 2025

Catechesis Notes for the Week — **I Must Be About My Father's Business**—Jesus was the living pattern of the psalmist's words, "Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells" (Ps. 26:8). From the time of His infancy He lived faithfully under the Law. He was circumcised on the 8th day. He was presented to the Lord in the Temple at the age of 40 days. He observed every Sabbath. He journeyed to Jerusalem for every pilgrim feast. And at 12-years of age, as he begins to take on the responsibilities of a man, He is found in the Temple, both listening to the teachers and asking them questions. The adults who were charged with teaching the Word were amazed at the understanding and answers of the 12-year-old Jesus. To live in God's Word - this is the Father's business for Jesus and for us. There is no greater calling.

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: They Were Astonished at Jesus' Understanding and Answers!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Mark 10:14-15

"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God.

Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."

Psalm 100 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Lord, I love the habitation of Your house and the place where Your glory dwells. In the multitude of Your tender mercies prepare my heart that I may enter Your house to worship and confess Your holy name; 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	1, 2	5	8, 9	10	14, 15	18	19, 20	22
Evening	3	4, 6	7	11, 12	13	16, 17	21	23, 24

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	The Boy Jesus in the Temple—Luke 2:41-52	
Monday	King Hezekiah of Judah—2 Kings 18:1-8	2 Corinthians 1:1-2:2
Tuesday	Hezekiah Purifies the Temple—2 Chronicles 28:22-29:36	2 Corinthians 2:3-3:3
Wednesday	Hezekiah Celebrates the Passover—2 Chronicles 30:1-31:1	2 Corinthians 3:4-18
Thursday	The Destruction of Sennacherib's Army—2 Chronicles 32:1-23	2 Corinthians 4:1-18
Friday	King Hezekiah's Life Is Extended—2 Kings 20:1-11	2 Corinthians 5:1-21
Saturday	Sunday's OT and Epistle—Amos 9:11-15 Confession of St Peter—Mark 8:27-9:1	Romans 12:6-16

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 +
"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." [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: Collect for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, and In Our Prayers at Peace

Collect for the week of the First Sunday after the Epiphany:

O Lord, mercifully receive the prayers of Your people who call upon You and grant that they both perceive and know what things they ought to do and also may have grace and power faithfully to fulfill the same; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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: Kyle Knoerr, Kathy Stoltenberg, Sarah Meyle, Cheryl Fischer (1/13), John Bender (1/14), Lee Weber, Amy Gierach, Erin McComack (1/15), Tyler Church, Holly Schneider, Donovan Alvarez, Rebekah Torkelson (1/16), Julia Perry (1/17), Nathanael Haga (1/18).

Birth: Elise Jane Knutson, daughter of Brian and Heaven Knutson.

The Sick: Jon Bruss, hospitalized; Cathy Drahos, suffering with a concussion after a fall; Joanne McMiller (mother of Jim McMiller) with pneumonia; Mark Gretzinger, and Bob Corso recovering from surgery; Rachel Preus (wife of Samuel Preus), suffering with breast cancer during the third trimester of pregnancy; Kathy, sister of Peggy Lundberg, undergoing a heart scan for ongoing heart and abdominal pain; Scotty Fittshu in rehab; Tempy McCombe, Steven Jahnke, Diane (friend of the Petersen family), Rev. Luke Boehringer, Rev. David Groth, Jean Reuss, and Steve Hayes in cancer treatment.

Those in hospice: Bob Ruess, (Jennifer Duessler’s sister-in-law’s father).

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

Hymn of the Week

“Jesus, Once with Sinners Numbered” (stanzas 1-4)

404

Looking forward to the Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 19, 2025

Hymns: 636 (1-4), 408, 636 (5-8), 858, 862, 401

Amos 9:11-15: *The prophecy of the restoration of Israel and the Tabernacle of David after the exile is a prophetic picture of the restoration of the joyous kingdom of Christ in the resurrection. As they rejoiced to return to Jerusalem after the exile, so the Church will rejoice in the day of the resurrection when paradise will be restored. In that day “the mountains shall drip with sweet wine, and the hills shall flow with it.” When the captivity to sin and death finally ends, that which is broken down will be rebuilt, that which is uprooted will be replanted, and we shall ever be the glorious kingdom of Christ.*

Romans 12:6-16: *Every good gift in the Church and among Christians is to be used in self-less service to the Lord because of His undeserved grace and lovingkindness to us. Love flows from faith in Christ. The love that faith in Christ produces is without hypocrisy. It abhors what is evil. It is kind, affectionate toward those in need, not lagging in diligent service to others, patient in tribulation, steadfast in prayer, and generous in attending to the needs of the saints. The love that is borne of faith in Christ blesses the persecutor, rejoices with those who rejoice, and weeps with those who weep. In every way, the calling of the Christian considers others ahead of oneself, just as Christ gave Himself entirely for our welfare.*

John 2:1-11: *The first miracle that Jesus performed was turning water into wine. Many might think of this miracle as an insignificant event. Not so! John writes: “This beginning of signs Jesus did in Cana of Galilee and manifested His glory; and His disciples believed in Him.” What did the disciples learn to believe about the Messiah from this “sign”? They learned that God had not abandoned the sinful human race but had come to rescue it – as the heavenly bridegroom who had come for His bride the Church. Just as sin came into the world within the institution of marriage by the transgression of the first man, Adam, and thereby infected the entire human race, so God “manifested His glory” through the second Adam, Jesus, who would reverse the effects of the fall and save mankind, marriage, and family from destruction. God had not abandoned the people He created or the institutions of marriage and family but has come to redeem them. He is now the true Man and the true Bridegroom. In His body the Church He creates an eternal family of love in the forgiveness of sins.*