

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the Second Sunday after Epiphany
January 19, through January 26, 2025

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Baptism's Power is in the Word — The Catechism states that "the Word of God in and with the water" of Holy Baptism is what gives Baptism its power to work "forgiveness of sins, rescue from death and the devil, and give eternal salvation to all who believe this." Take away the Word and you have nothing but water; but with the Word you have a life-giving water, rich in grace, and the washing of the rebirth in the Holy Spirit. The Bible Stories for this week continue to highlight the power of the Word in, with, and under the water of Baptism. By the Word of the Lord the heavens were opened for forty days and forty nights in the divine judgment of the great flood and Noah and his family were saved through water. By the Word of the Lord, God saved the children of Israel through the water of the Red Sea and destroyed Pharaoh and his armies. By the Word of the Lord, the waters of the Jordan parted, and Israel was drawn into the promised land. By the Word of the Lord, the water of the Jordan cleansed Naaman of his leprosy and even brought him to the faith that confessed that the God of Israel was, indeed, the Lord and the only true God. In all of these stories, there are two common themes. First, the water was very very real, it was not a symbol, and it carried both the condemnation and the salvation of God. Second, the Word of God itself was real, and God joined Himself to the water by His Word in order to accomplish His saving work. To despise the water was to despise the Word. To despise the Word was to reject the water. The water and the Word were inseparably joined together by God. Why is this so important? It is by the Word in tangible water that we come to receive salvation and that we come to know that salvation with absolute and unshakeable certainty.

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.

Theme: Jesus Manifested His Glory!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Galatians 3:26-27

You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus.

For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

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	22	26, 27	30	32	33	35	37	40
Evening	23, 24	25	28, 29	31	34	36	38	39, 41

Bible Readings for the Week:

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Jesus Turns Water into Wine—John 2:1-11	
Monday	King Hezekiah Receives Envoys from Babylon—2 Kings 20:12-21	2 Corinthians 6:1-7:1
Tuesday	King Manasseh of Judah—2 Chronicles 33:1-20	2 Corinthians 7:1-18
Wednesday	King Josiah of Judah—2 Chronicles 34:1-28	2 Corinthians 8:1-24
Thursday	Jeremiah the Priest Is Called to Be a Prophet—Jeremiah 1:1-19	2 Corinthians 9:1-15
Friday	St Timothy, Pastor—Acts 16:1-5	
Saturday	Sunday's OT and Epistle—2 Kings 5:1-15a Conversion of St Paul—Acts 9:1-22	Romans 12:16-21

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 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 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.

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: Ruth Schneider (1/20), Kendall Westrich (1/21), Beth Boehringer (1/22), Chloe Kenyon (1/23), Jody Ligrow, Alec Welch, Bob Gierach, Josef Aidich (1/24).

The Sick: Harry (neighbor of Ben & Betsy Banasik) undergoing surgery for kidney cancer; Jon Bruss recovering after hospitalization; Bennett Kütemeier, Cathy Drahos, suffering with a concussion; Pat Rothe, Joanne McMiller (mother of Jim McMiller) recovering from pneumonia; Rev. Bob Johnson, Mark Gretzinger, Bob Corso, Cassandra Duessler recovering from surgery; Rachel Preus (wife of Samuel Preus), suffering with breast cancer during pregnancy; 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

“The Only Son from Heaven” (stanzas 1-2)

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Looking forward to the Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 26, 2025

Hymns: 635, 551, 620, 616, 734, 825

2 Kings 5:1-15a: The cleansing of Naaman teaches us that the saving power of God rests solely with the Word of God and nowhere else. It was the Word of God, added to the water that cleansed Naaman of his leprosy. What role does faith play? Faith receives what the Word gives.” (Excerpt from Lutheran Catechesis, p. 218)

Romans 12:16-21: Undeserved mercy, loving-kindness, and compassion for the unworthy, and even the enemies of Christ, is what characterizes the Christian faith and life. It is because of the mercy that we have received in Jesus that moves us to bear with one another’s burdens, to repay no one evil for evil, and to have regard for good things in the sight of all men. The call to faith in Christ is also the call not to avenge ourselves or to take revenge on those who have sinned against us. “If your enemy hungers, feed him; If he thirsts, give him a drink.” These are the “coals of fire”—of divine mercy—that are heaped upon the enemy’s head. The Gospel is not proclaimed in word only, but also in the powerful demonstrations of God’s grace in the way in which we treat our enemies.

Matthew 8:1-13: It is the Lord’s will, not only to save us poor miserable sinners, but to do so by taking our sin and corruption upon Himself to the death of the cross. Jesus manifested this grace of God by touching the unclean leprous man and saying, “I am willing [to take your sin and infirmity upon Myself], be cleansed.” The Word “be cleansed” carried Jesus’ forgiveness, life, and salvation to this poor man. It is the same for us. None of us are worthy to receive the salvation that our Lord so willingly desires to give us, but by His grace alone He comes to us. The centurion rightly confessed both his unworthiness as a sinner, and the all-sufficiency of Jesus’ saving Word: “Lord, I am not worthy that You should come under my roof. But only speak a word, and my servant will be healed.” The Word of Christ, the Gospel, is the power of God for salvation to all who believe.