

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*The Week of The First Sunday after the Epiphany—the Baptism of Our Lord*

*January 11 through January 18, 2026*

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — The Baptism of Our Lord** — Christians should look to their Baptism every day for their identity and strength. Our Baptism means that we are the children of God; Christ's death for sin and resurrection for our justification is ours; Christ's righteousness clothes us and makes us acceptable to the Father; the Holy Spirit has been poured out into our hearts through Christ; and faith has been created in our hearts. What God has made us and given us in our Baptism also becomes the strength by which we live our lives, repent of sin, resist Satan, and enjoy the testimony of a clean conscience.

## **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: Jesus Is Baptized to Fulfill All Righteousness for Us.**

### **Invocation**

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

### **Apostles' Creed**

**Verse: Acts 2:38-39**

Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins;  
and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.  
For the promise is to you and to your children,  
and to all who are afar off,  
as many as the Lord our God will call.

**Psalm 72 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.**

**Prayer on Psalm 72:** O Eternal God and Father, You have revealed Your Son as the only Savior from sin and called us to the blessed knowledge of salvation. We thank You that You have preserved Your truth among us despite all the wiles and assaults of the Wicked One; and we beseech You, keep us evermore in purity of doctrine and send forth Your Word among all people, accompanying it with the effective working of Your Holy Spirit, that many may be brought to know Your Son and obtain the inheritance of everlasting life; 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	122, 123	125, 126	128, 129	131, 132	135	137, 138	140, 141	144
Evening	124	127	130	133, 134	136	139	142, 143	145

### **Bible Readings for the Week:**

	<b>Bible Narrative</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>
Sunday	<b>Baptism of Our Lord—Matthew 3:13-17</b>	
Monday	Jacob Returns to Isaac His Father—Genesis 35:16-20, 22b-29	John 6:22-26
Tuesday	Joseph's Brothers Sell Him into Slavery—Gen. 37:1-36	John 6:27-35
Wednesday	Judah and Tamar—Genesis 38:1-30	John 6:35-40
Thursday	Joseph Is a Slave in Egypt—Genesis 39:1-23	John 6:41-47
Friday	Joseph Interprets Dreams in Prison—Genesis 40:1-23	John 6:48-51
Saturday	Epiphany 2: Isaiah 49:1-7	1 Corinthians 1:1-9

**Catechism: Sacrament of Holy Baptism—What is Baptism? through Which are these words and promises of God?**

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 +

<i>What benefits does Baptism give?</i> 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 +
<i>Which are these words and promises of God?</i> Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: <b>“Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved,  but whoever does not believe will be condemned.”</b> [Mark 16:16]	Second Grade +

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

#### **Collect for the Baptism of Our Lord**

*Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same 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  
**Monday:** For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work  
**Tuesday:** For deliverance against temptation and evil and those struggling with besetting sins  
**Wednesday:** For marriage and family  
**Thursday:** For the Church and her pastors; and for fruitful and salutary use of the Lord’s Supper  
**Friday:** For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the persecuted and oppressed  
**Saturday:** For the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away from Christ

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

**Baptismal anniversaries:** Frank Koplting, Holly Venkitaswaran (1/11); Cheryl Fischer, Kyle Knoerr, Sarah Meyle, Kathy Stoltenberg (1/13); John Bender (1/14); Amy Gierach, Erin McComack, Lee Weber (1/15); Donovan Alvarez, Tyler Church, Holly Schneider, Rebekah Torkelson (1/16); Julia Perry (1/17).

**The sick:** Phyllis Grover (Robin Oehlert’s sister) suffering with end-stage COPD; Cindy Kunkel, recently diagnosed with Parkinson’s Disease; Doreen Corso, recovering from hip replacement surgery; Terry O’Neill, and Mark Anderson in rehab.

**In cancer treatment:** Michael Piper (Bob Piper’s Brother), Melissa Brendel, Michael Gehl (friend of the Brusses), Mary O’Flyng (acquaintance of the Rothes), Tim Francis (brother of Cheri LaFore); Loretta Lampen; Ivy Kunkel, Tracy Espinosa, Ken Hinckle, Gary Luderman, Diane Bulawa, and Rev. Luke Boehringer.

**Those Who Mourn:** The family and friends of Don Fell and Steven Schaefer (son of Bill Schaefer).

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

#### **Hymn of the Week**

#### **“To Jordan’s River Came Our Lord” (stanzas 1-4)**

405

#### **Looking forward to the Second Sunday after Epiphany**

January 18, 2026

#### **Hymns: 434, 402, 600, 534, 630, 702**

**Isaiah 49:1-7:** The prophet Isaiah predicts Christ’s coming. The words of this chapter belong in the very mouth of Jesus: “From the matrix of My mother He has made mention of My name. And He has made My mouth like a sharp sword ... And now the Lord says, Who formed Me from the womb to be His Servant, To bring Jacob back to Him, so that Israel is gathered to Him (For I shall be glorious in the eyes of the Lord, and My God shall be My strength).” In these words we see that the Son of God enters into the world to be the man that we and Adam were not: the man of total faith, love, and devotion to the Father’s will. By His faithfulness from the womb to His suffering and death upon the cross He redeems the world and delights His Father.

**1 Corinthians 1:1-9:** The Apostle Paul begins his first epistle to the Corinthian Christians by reminding them that they have been called to faith by the testimony of the Gospel of Jesus Christ by which they lack no good gift. The Gospel declares us righteous for Jesus’ sake. By the Gospel “Grace and peace” is given to us “from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” By the “testimony of Christ”—all that He has done for us which is proclaimed to us in the Gospel that we believe—we “come short in no gift” and eagerly await the revelation of Jesus Christ on the last day. This Gospel that we hear and believe is able to “confirm” us in the faith as the righteous children of God. “God is faithful, by whom [we] were called into the fellowship of His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.”

**John 1:29-42a:** After John baptized Jesus he understood and believed more fully who Jesus really was and how He would be the Savior for people. John’s confession summarized Jesus’ entire mission: “Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” In His Baptism Jesus aligned Himself with sinful humanity and took responsibility for making atonement for our sin when, in His Baptism, God the Father declared Him to be the sin bearer for us. Jesus’ baptism declared Him to be the Christ, anointed by the Holy Spirit, and the One who is the fulfillment of all the hopes of Israel. John continued to declare that Jesus was the Lamb of God and this message moved Andrew to confess to his brother, “We have found the Messiah.” The heart of the Messiah’s work is that He is the innocent Lamb of God who makes atonement for the sin of the world through His death upon the cross. This message converts the heart of sinners and draws them to Christ as His disciples.