

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the week of the Third Sunday after the Epiphany
January 21, 2024 through January 28, 2024*

Catechesis Notes for the Week—The Large Catechism Speaks on Holy Baptism – “Baptism is a very different thing from all other water, not by virtue of the natural substance but because here something nobler is added. God Himself stakes his honor, His power, and His might on it. Therefore it is not simply a natural water, but a divine, heavenly, holy, and blessed water—all by virtue of the Word, which is a heavenly, holy Word which no one can sufficiently extol, for it contains and conveys all the fullness of God ... ‘He who believes and is baptized shall be saved.’ To put it most simply, the power, effect, benefit, fruit, and purpose of Baptism is to save...To be saved, we know, is nothing else than to be delivered from sin, death, and the devil and to enter into the kingdom of Christ and live with him forever. Faith must have something to believe—something to which it may cling and upon which it may stand. Thus faith clings to the water and believes it to be Baptism in which there is sheer salvation and life, not through water, as we have sufficiently stated, but through its incorporation with God’s Word and ordinance and the joining of His name to it. When I believe this, what else is it but believing in God as the one who has implanted his Word in this external ordinance and offered it to us so that we may grasp the treasure it contains?” (Excerpts from the Large Catechism, Tappert Ed.)

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.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse of the week: 1 Timothy 3:16-17

All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.

Psalm 62 and/or the appointed daily psalms as listed below

Prayer on the Psalm: Heavenly Father, God of all grace, govern our hearts that we may never forget Your blessings but steadfastly thank and praise You for all Your goodness in this life until, with all Your saints, we praise You eternally in Your heavenly kingdom; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	40	42, 43	45	48, 49	51	54, 56	59	60, 61
Evening	39, 41	44	46, 47	50	52, 53	55	57, 58	62

The Catechism: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism—Part I

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 +
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 +

Readings for the Week of the Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	Jesus Calls the Four Fishermen—Mark 1:14-20	Joel 1:1-20	Rom. 10:1-21
Monday	The Children of Jacob—Genesis 29:31-30:24	Joel 2:1-17	Rom. 11:1-24
Tuesday	Laban Agrees to Divide the Livestock with Jacob—Genesis 30:25-43	Joel 2:18-32	Rom. 11:25-12:13
Wednesday	Jacob Flees from Laban—Genesis 31:1-21	Joel 3:1-21	Rom. 12:14-13:14
Thursday	Laban Pursues Jacob—Genesis 31:22-42	Zech. 1:1-21	Rom. 14:1-23
Friday	Laban’s Covenant with Jacob—Genesis 31:43-55	Zech. 2:1-3:10	Rom. 15:1-13
Saturday	Catch Up on Readings or Look Ahead to Sunday’s Readings	Zech. 4:1-5:11	Rom. 15:14-33

Prayers: Collect for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at Victory in Christ

Collect for the Week of the Third Sunday after the Epiphany:

Almighty and everlasting God, mercifully look upon our infirmities and stretch forth the hand of Your majesty to heal and defend us; 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

- Sunday:*** *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*
- Monday:*** *Pray 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:*** *Pray for deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*
- Wednesday:*** *Pray 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:*** *Pray 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 sacraments of Christ's body and blood.*
- Friday:*** *Pray 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:*** *Pray 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 at Victory in Christ this Week

Healing

Cindy Witherspoon, Cliff Johnson, Audrey Stoneburner, Joseph Menendez, Michael Clarke, Arlene Davis, Darin Mitchell, Liz Lovato, Melissa Rodgers, Connie Smith, Ella Littlefield, Tommy Rodhe, Hudson Haney, Gordon Munson, Kenneth Biehle, Henry Ostermann, Dante Pellegrino, Collene Pellegrino, Bobbie Sherrod, Jenny Jones, Eugene Kroeger

Strength

Angel Menendez, and the Martin, Courtney, Bradshaw, Herbel, and Menendez families

Our Shut-ins

Emily Snipes, Deena Strang, Coy Warfield

Peace and Comfort

Florence Ashby, who is in hospice, and the family and friends of Paul Lovato, who passed away last week

Expectant Mothers

Whitney Crutcher

Military and Over Seas

Kyle Rohloff

Seminarians

Justin Chester, Dan Hollister, Tanner Sawall, John Schober

Mission / Ministries

Our Academy and the missions we support

Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism

Hymn of Week

"God's Own Child, I Gladly Say It"

LSB 594