

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Third Sunday after the Epiphany  
January 22, 2023 through January 29, 2023*

**Catechesis Notes for the Week— The Power of the Word in the Water** — 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 life-giving water, rich in grace, and the washing of the rebirth in the Holy Spirit. Many Bible Stories 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 no 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. 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: Galatians 3:26-27**

**“For in Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.”**

### Psalm 27 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	42, 43	45	48, 49	51	54, 56	59	60, 61	65
Evening	44	46, 47	50	52, 53	55	57, 58	62	63, 64

### 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:

Third Grade +

**He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit,**

Kindergarten +

**whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,**

First Grade +

**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]**

Second Grade +

**Readings for the Week of the Third Sunday after the Epiphany**

<b>Day</b>	<b>Bible Stories for the Family and Academy</b>	<b>Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299</b>	
Sunday	<b>Jesus Calls the Fishermen—Matthew 4:12-25</b>	Joel 2:1-17	Rom. 11:1-24
Monday	Exodus 16-18	Joel 2:18-32	Rom. 11:25-12:13
Tuesday	Exodus 19-21	Joel 3:1-21	Rom. 12:14-13:14
Wednesday	Exodus 22-24	Zech. 1:1-21	Rom. 14:1-23
Thursday	Exodus 25-27	Zech. 2:1-3:10	Rom. 15:1-13
Friday	Exodus 28-29	Zech. 4:1-5:11	Rom. 15:14-33
Saturday	Exodus 30-35	Zech. 6:1-7:14	Rom. 16:17-27

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

**Collect for 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**

Don Foltz, Hudson Haney, Mitch Grossman, Tim Finstad, Perrin King, Gordon Munson, Peg Munson, Taelor Slagle, Lee Wilson, Darlene Biehle, Kenneth Biehle, Henry Ostermann, Antonia Menendez, Grace Metoxen, Dante Pellegrino, Collene Pellegrino, Bobbie Sherrod, Jenny Jones, Eugene Kroeger

**Strength**

Norma Sandel, the Martin, Courtney, Bradshaw, Herbel, and Rice families, and Grace House Fort Worth

**Our Shut-ins**

Deena Strang

**Employment**

**Peace and Comfort**

**Expectant Mothers**

**Military and Over Seas**

Kyle Rohloff

**Seminarian**

John Schober

**Blessings**

**Mission / Ministries**

The missions we support and the future of our Academy

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

**Hymn of Week**

**"O Christ, Our True and Only Light"**

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