

# The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer  
For the Week of the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany  
January 28, 2024 through February 4, 2024*

**Catechesis Notes for the Week— The Power of Baptism Is in the Word and Promise of God.** Baptism is not man's work; it is God's work. Baptism is not a symbol of a decision of a person's will to become a Christian; it is the action of God whereby He joins us to Christ and bestows upon us the salvation He won for us upon the cross. We know that Baptism is God's work—a Sacrament through which He bestows His grace—because of the Words and promises of God attached to Baptism. The Word makes it clear that Baptism has the power to save us from our sins. "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" (Acts 2:38-39). This passage makes it clear that baptism gives forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit. That promise is for old and young alike, as the Scriptures make clear. "The promise is to you and to your children..." What a wonderful promise. All who believe the promises of God have exactly what the promises declare. This is the meaning of Mark 16:16, "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." By faith in the promises of God attached to the waters of Baptism, we receive "forgiveness of sins, rescue from death and the devil, and eternal salvation." Baptism is a source of great comfort and the ground of our assurance.

## 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: Genesis 3:15

"I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."

#### 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	60, 61	65	66	68	71	73	75, 76	78
Evening	62	63, 64	67, 70	69	72	74	77	79

### The Catechism: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism—Part II

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 +
Which are these words and promises of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark:	Second Grade +
Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned. Mark 16:16	Kindergarten +

### Readings for the Week of the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	Jesus Casts Out an Unclean Spirit—Mark 1:21-28	Zech. 6:1-7:14	Rom. 16:17-27
Monday	Esau Comes to Meet Jacob—Genesis 32:1-21	Zech. 8:1-23	2 Tim. 1:1-18
Tuesday	Jacob Wrestles with God—Genesis 32:22-32	Zech. 9:1-17	2 Tim. 2:1-26
Wednesday	Jacob and Esau Meet—Genesis 33:1-11	Zech. 10:1-11:3	2 Tim. 3:1-17
Thursday	Jacob Returns to Bethel—Genesis 35:1-15	Zech. 11:4-17	2 Tim. 4:1-18
Friday	Jacob Returns to Isaac His Father—Genesis 35:16-20, 22b-29	Zech. 12:1-13:9	Titus 1:1-2:6
Saturday	Catch Up on Readings or Look Ahead to Sunday's Readings	Zech. 14:1-21	Titus 2:7-3:15

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

***Collect for the Week of the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany:***

**Almighty God, You know we live in the midst of so many dangers that in our frailty we cannot stand upright. Grant strength and protection to support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations; 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, 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***

*The family and friends of Florence Ashby, who passed away this 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***

***"Baptized into Your Name Most Holy"***

***LSB 590***