

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For the Second Sunday after Epiphany

January 14, 2007 through January 21, 2007

Catechesis Notes for the Week— The Power of 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 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.

Theme: In Baptism You Have Put on Christ.

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 for 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 Jesus Christ, our Savior. Cleanse us evermore with His blood that, with all Your saints, we may continually praise You; through 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

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 +

