

# The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For the Third Sunday after Epiphany

January 21, 2007 through January 28, 2007

**Catechesis Notes for the Week— The Baptismal Life**—What is the "baptismal life"? According to the catechism Baptism has daily significance in the life of every Christian. It defines who we are: Sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. But it also teaches us that we have the Old Adam, our sinful flesh, constantly about us who is an enemy of this faith. The Old Adam must be drowned and die. The New Man, Christ Himself, must rise up in us. This happens through the ministry of the Word, the preaching of repentance and the forgiveness of sins. The Old Adam is killed each time we hear the Law and say "Amen" to it: this is the sinner I am. The New Man arises in us each time we, as broken and contrite sinners, hear the Word of Absolution. When we hear that our sins are forgiven we are taken back to the central truth of our Baptism. This truth is not merely repeated as a bit of information, it is the power of God in our lives each day. This is what it means to live in our baptism daily.

## 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: God Makes Alive by Putting to Death.

### Invocation

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

### Apostles' Creed

Verse: James 5:16

Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed.  
The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.

### Psalm 121 and/or the appointed daily psalms for listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: O God, You have been our Father and our Patron, to You we lift up our eyes, knowing that our help and salvation come from You alone. Grant us a living trust in Your mercy and truth that our hearts do not fear when we must pass through the fire of trials or must wade through the waters of affliction, but always maintain a cheerful trust in Your help, 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	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 IV

What does such baptizing with water indicate? It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.	Third Grade +
Where is this written? St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six:	First Grade +
<b>We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that,</b>	Kindergarten +
<b>just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. [Rom. 6:4]</b>	Second Grade +

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

Day	First Reading—Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Second Reading
Monday	King Manasseh of Judah—2 Chronicles 33:1-20	Romans 14:1—15:3
Tuesday	King Josiah of Judah—2 Chronicles 34:1-28	Romans 15:4-33
Wednesday	Jeremiah the Priest Is Called to Be a Prophet—Jeremiah 1:1-19	Romans 16:1-27
Thursday	King Josiah Restores the Worship—2 Chronicles 34:29-33	1 Corinthians 1:10-31
Friday	King Josiah Celebrates the Passover—2 Chronicles 35:1-27	1 Corinthians 2:1-16
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday	1 Corinthians 4:6—5:5

**Prayers: Collects for the Week, Daily Themes for Prayer, In Our Prayers at Peace**

*Collect for the Week of the Third Sunday after the Epiphany of Our Lord:*

**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; true and godly worship throughout the world; and the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word.
- Monday:** Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; your calling and daily work; the unemployed; the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for government; and for peace.
- Tuesday:** Pray for deliverance against temptation; the addicted and despairing; the tortured and oppressed; and those struggling with besetting sins.
- Wednesday:** Pray for marriage and family; living together under the grace of Christ according to the Word of God; those adults who must rear their children alone; and godly schools, especially Peace Lutheran Academy, our church schools, and seminaries.
- Thursday:** Pray for the church and her pastors; for missionaries; fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of the Lord's body and blood.
- Friday:** Pray for the preaching of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; its spread throughout the whole world and our community; the persecuted.
- Saturday:** Pray for faithfulness to the end; the dying; the revival of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; receptive hearts for worship and study on the Lord's Day.

*In Our Prayers this Week*

*Those suffering in various stages of cancer: Ann Pagac, Frieda (Erna DeRidder's sister), Marvin Schmidt (brother of Arnold), and Tom DeRidder.*

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

**Hymn of Week**

**"The Only Son from Heaven" (stanzas 1 and 2)**

**402**

**Look forward to the Transfiguration of Our Lord**

**January 28, 2007**

**Hymns: 403, 413, 416, 414, 600**

**Exodus 34:29-35:** Why did the skin of Moses' face shine with the glory of God when he came down from the mountain with the two tablets of the testimony? It was not simply because he had seen the Lord, nor was it simply that he was delivering to Israel the written code of the Law, rather, Moses was delivering Christ to the people. Jesus Christ is the embodiment and fulfillment of both the Law and the Promises contained in what the Hebrews called "the Torah." All that Moses was given to deliver to the people in the Torah Jesus embodies and fulfills.

**2 Peter 1:16-21:** Peter makes it clear to the Church that the Apostles were not "duped" by clever "fables" concerning Jesus. They were "eye-witnesses of His majesty." They were with Him when He was baptized, they listened to Him preach and teach, they saw Him heal the sick and raise the dead, and they touched His hands and His side after His resurrection. Throughout their entire time with Jesus, the Word of the Father was proven true: "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." The Word of the Apostles corresponds to the Word of the Prophets. This Word of God is the only "light that shines in a dark place." It is the only way through which we come to know our Savior and it is trustworthy and sure.

**Matthew 17:1-9:** Moses and Elijah appeared with Jesus when His flesh was transfigured before Peter, James, and John, because Jesus, the Son of God, is the glory of the Old Testament Scriptures. Moses face shone like the Son because he proclaimed the Christ. Elijah was the fiery prophet who preached repentance and salvation because he proclaimed the Christ. The true Tabernacle, the place of the Lord's saving presence, is not any structure that man erects for himself, but the Son Himself who, in His suffering and death, is the fulfillment of every Word of the Law and the Prophets.