

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the week of the Third Sunday after Epiphany
 January 27, 2008 through February 3, 2008

Catechesis Notes for the Week — “Fishers of Men” — In this week’s Gospel Jesus extends the call into the ministry to four men who had become His disciples through the ministry of John the Baptist. Like all of us, after their baptism they returned to their vocation as fishermen in the town of Capernaum on the Sea of Galilee. When Jesus said, “Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men” He was calling them to leave their vocation and enter into the Office of the Apostolic Ministry in which they would no longer fish in the way they had, but would now “fish for men” through the preaching of the Gospel. We are all called to bear witness to our Lord in whatever vocation God has given us, but there is the office of the Holy Ministry in which men are called to full time service in the preaching of the Gospel and administration of the Sacraments. The Church includes both the witness of laymen in their earthly callings and the witness of her ministers in fulltime service to the Church and the world.

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: Follow Me, and I Will Make You Fishers of Men!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;
 And the life which I now live in the flesh
 I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Psalm 27 and/or the appointed daily psalms for listed below.

Prayer on the Psalm: Lord, our God, You are merciful and kind, true and faithful, preserve us in Your Word and guard Your Church against all oppressors and blind leaders. Grant peace to our country and wisdom to our government to protect what is right and true, that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	110	62	13	96	116	85	61	103
Evening	66, 23	73, 8	36, 5	132, 134	26, 130	25, 40	138, 98	117, 139

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 +
We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death	Kindergarten +
in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. [Rom. 6:4]	Second Grade +

Readings for the week of the Third Sunday after Epiphany

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	Jesus Calls the Fishermen—Matthew 4:12-25	Zechariah 4:1-5:11	Romans 15:14-33
Monday	No School	Zechariah 6:1-7:14	Romans 16:17-27
Tuesday	Joseph Interprets Dreams in Prison—Genesis 40:1-23	Zechariah 8:1-23	2 Timothy 1:1-18
Wednesday	Joseph Interprets Pharaoh’s Dreams—Genesis 41:1-36	Zechariah 9:1-17	2 Timothy 2:1-26
Thursday	Joseph Becomes the Prince of Egypt—Genesis 41:37-57	Zechariah 10:1-11:3	2 Timothy 3:1-17
Friday	Joseph’s Brothers Journey to Egypt to Buy Food—Gen.42:1-24	Zechariah 11:4-17	2 Timothy 4:1-18
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday’s readings	Zechariah 12:1-13:9	Titus 1:1-2:6
Sunday	Look ahead to Sunday’s readings	Zechariah 14:1-21	Titus 2:7-3:15

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

Collect for the week of the Third Sunday after 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 sacrament 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 this Week

The preaching of the Gospel throughout the world.
Rev. Edwin Suelflow, recuperating from knee replacement surgery.
Don Weber, recuperating from leg by-pass surgery.

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

Hymn of Week

"In Peace and Joy I Now Depart" (stanzas 1-2)

938

Looking forward to the Transfiguration of Our Lord

February 3, 2008

Hymns: 414, 413, 416, 537, 417

Exodus 24:8-18: In this majestic scene upon Mount Sinai, the Lord confirmed the covenant He made with Israel through the sprinkling of blood. This sprinkling prefigured the sprinkling of the blood of the New Covenant that we receive in Holy Baptism and that we partake of in the Holy Supper. In this vision the glory of God is revealed to Moses. It was "like a consuming fire on the top of the mountain in the eyes of the children of Israel." This picture of God's glory was frightening and awesome to Israel, not because it was merely the display of God's raw power, but precisely because it was a manifestation of His overwhelming goodness, holiness, and love. Sinners tremble at the revelation of such glory because it is so fundamentally different from our nature as descendants of Adam. The Tablets of Stone and the Law of the Lord that Moses received included the Ten Commandments, to be sure, but it also included the promises of salvation and the ordinances of Israel's Divine Services through which the Lord would continually manifest His glory at the Tabernacle through the forgiveness of sins in the shedding of Lamb's blood. This revelation of glory finds its fulfillment in Jesus who was not only transfigured upon the Mount of Transfiguration, but who especially manifested His glory upon Mount Calvary in His crucifixion.

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.