

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
 For the week of the Second Sunday in Lent
 February 17, 2008 through February 24, 2008

Catechesis Notes for the Week — Born Again — The term “born again” refers to Holy Baptism. Jesus’ defines this new birth as being “born of water and the Spirit.” Those who do not believe that Baptism is a Sacrament, through which God bestows the Holy Spirit and Christ’s forgiveness, believe that being “born again” refers to a decision of their will to become a believer. This is false teaching. Jesus’ speaks in the passive voice: “You must be born again” means that something must happen to you. Just as a child is conceived and born, the gift of life is exactly that, a gift, so also is the new life of faith a gift—it is a spiritual gift of God through water and the Word. The apostle John spoke of this spiritual rebirth at the beginning of His Gospel when he said that the “children of God” are “born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.” Born Again is a good term, it is a biblical term, but it refers not to “the will of man” but to the supernatural and spiritual gift of God.

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: We Are Born Again through Our Baptism into Christ!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Acts 2:41a, 42

Those who gladly received his word were baptized ...
 and they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship
 in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

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

Prayer on the Psalm: O Lord Jesus, teach us to look to You in faith at all times and to believe, with certainty, that You will preserve us from all evil, that we might know the consolation of Your eternal love and protection, in Your holy name we pray. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	84	119:73-80	34	5	38	22	43	84
Evening	42, 32	121, 6	25, 91	27, 51	126, 102	107, 130	31, 143	42, 32

The Catechism: The Sacrament of the Altar—What is the Sacrament of the Altar? Where is this written?

What is the Sacrament of the Altar? It is the true body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ under the bread and wine, instituted by Christ Himself for us Christians to eat and to drink.	First Grade +
Where is this written? The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write: Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.” In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”	Second Grade + Kindergarten +

Readings for the week of the Second Sunday in Lent

Day	Bible Stories for the Family and Academy	Daily Prayer Readings from LSB, p. 299	
Sunday	Nicodemus Comes to Jesus by Night—John 3:1-17	Gen. 16:1-9, 15-17:22	Mark 6:1-13
Monday	Jacob Blesses His Sons -Gen. 49:1(2-27) 28-50:14	Genesis 18:1-15	Mark 6:14-34
Tuesday	Joseph Shows Mercy to His Brothers-Gen. 50:15-26	Genesis 21:1-21	Mark 6:35-56
Wednesday	PASSION: Jesus Prays in the Garden -Mt. 26:36-56	Genesis 22:1-19	Mark 7:1-23
Thursday	The Birth of Moses—Exodus 1:1—2:10	Genesis 24:1-31	Mark 7:24-37
Friday	No School—Faculty In Service	Gen. 24:32-52,61-67	Mark 8:1-21
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday’s readings	Genesis 27:1-29	Mark 8:22-38
Sunday	Look ahead to Sunday’s readings	Gen.27:30-45,28:10-22	Mark 9:1-13

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

Collect for the Second Sunday in Lent:

O God, You see that of ourselves we have no strength. By Your mighty power defend us from all adversities that may happen to the body and from all evil thoughts that may assault and hurt the soul; 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

*For faith to believe and rejoice in the gift of our Baptism
Todd and Dawn Fredrich celebrating their 20th wedding anniversary on February 20.
Janelle Davey, undergoing medical tests this week.
Tammy Haga's father in ICU for low blood pressure.
Rudy Heling, receiving therapy at Pewaukee care center after a broken hip.
Don Weber, recuperating from leg by-pass surgery.
Lorraine Jones, Palmer Watson's sister, in hospice care.*

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

Hymn of Week

"When in the Hour of Deepest Need" (Stanzas 1 and 5)

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Looking forward to the Third Sunday in Lent

February 24, 2008

Hymns: 849, 824, 423, 761, 699

Exodus 17:1-7: *Because of the people's sin, Moses was commanded to strike the Rock with his rod, so that the people would receive water to save them. This scene is a type of what happened to our Lord, who is the Rock of our salvation. Because of our sin and rebellion against God, Jesus was struck upon the altar of the cross for our salvation. Out of Jesus' side there flowed the water and the blood of salvation; through His piercing we receive the water of life that saves us from our sin. Let us receive the water of life in repentance and faith, lest we perish like those Jews who rejected this gift in their impenitence and unbelief in the wilderness.*

Romans 5:1-8: *"Justification" means to be declared righteous for Jesus' sake through faith in Him. This declaration that we are "righteous for Jesus' sake" is what gives us peace with God and free access to Him. It is because we are justified by His grace and not by our works that we are bold to endure tribulations because through our tribulations God is teaching us a perseverance that leads to the hope of the resurrection and eternal life in Christ. We can be certain of our justification because it is based entirely upon what God has done for us in Christ: "God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

John 4:5-26 (27-30, 39-42): *Jesus' encounter with the Samaritan woman at the well teaches us that He is the Savior of all people, especially those who are the most unworthy and the most outcast of society. Samaritans were half-breed Jews who did not believe in the worship at the Temple in Jerusalem. Even more than this, the Samaritan woman is portrayed as a notorious sinner who had had many adulterous relationships. When Jesus is shown to be the Savior of all people, it does not mean that He does not take sin seriously. Quite to the contrary, Jesus exposes this woman's sin that she might be drawn to Him for forgiveness. The awesome reality of the Gospel is that, even though she is such a notorious sinner, the Lord really does love her and really does desire to save her from her sin by offering to her the water of life. Jesus' ministry of Law and Gospel to this woman resulted in her conversion. She was brought to repentance and faith in Christ. Out of this repentant faith in Christ, she then began to speak boldly of Him to others who need His salvation. This is always the way it is for those who have been touched by Christ's salvation.*