

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
for the Week of the Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
January 29, 2012, through February 4, 2012*

Catechesis Notes for the Week - Denying Self and Taking Up the Cross — This third week of meditation upon Holy Baptism leads us into the daily significance of our Baptism: “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.” Let us unpack these words. Contrition and repentance are part of what it means to believe in Christ and let go of the self for salvation. Contrition is that aspect of faith that realizes and believes that we have sinned against the God who loves us and it grieves our heart. The New Man of faith desires to love and trust in Christ above all things. Daily contrition recognizes that we still daily sin much and need His daily mercy and forgiveness. Repentance is that aspect of faith that not only confesses sin, but does so with the conviction that Christ alone is the Savior from that sin. Contrition and repentance desires to hear and receive Christ's forgiveness. It yearns to hear Christ's life-giving Word by which faith is strengthened, comfort is bestowed, and the New Man arises. The New Man is Christ Himself in us, joined by the Spirit with our spirit, who lives joyously and confidently in the everlasting “righteousness, innocence, and blessedness” of the cross. The New Man is born in us in Holy Baptism and daily arises from contrition and repentance by the Word of forgiveness. This is why it can be said that the Baptismal life of contrition and repentance leads us to confession and absolution and why confession and absolution is a return to our Baptism. Contrition and repentance, the renouncing of self in confession, the clinging to Christ's Word of grace that makes us alive, is what is taught by Jesus in this week's Bible verse: “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” (Luke 9:23)

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 Depart, Unclean Spirit and Make Room for the Spirit of Christ!

Invocation

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

Apostles' Creed

Verse: Luke 9:23

“If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.”

Psalm 111 and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below.

| Daily Psalms | Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday | Sunday |
|--------------|--------|--------|---------|-----------|----------|--------|----------|--------|
| Morning | 65 | 66 | 68 | 71 | 73 | 75, 76 | 78 | 80 |
| Evening | 63, 64 | 67, 70 | 69 | 72 | 74 | 77 | 79 | 81 |

The Catechism: Holy Baptism: What does such baptizing with water indicate? Where is this written?

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| <p><i>What does such baptizing with water indicate?</i> 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.</p> | 3rd+ |
| <p><i>Where is this written?</i> St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six:</p> | 1st+ |
| <p>We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death</p> | K+ |
| <p>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]</p> | 2nd+ |

Readings for the Week of the Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

| Day | Bible Readings for the Week | Additional Daily Readings |
|-----------|---|---------------------------|
| Sunday | Jesus Casts Out an Unclean Spirit—Mark 1:21-28 | Isaiah 61:1-11 |
| Monday | Repeat Sunday’s Gospel | Isaiah 62:1-12 |
| Tuesday | Jonah Is Swallowed by the Great Fish—Jonah 1:1—2:10 | Isaiah 63:1-14 |
| Wednesday | The Sign of Jonah—Matthew 12:38-45 | Is. 63:15-65:2 |
| Thursday | Jesus Walks on the Water—Matthew 14:22-36 | Luke 3:1-20 |
| Friday | Jesus Washes the Disciples’ Feet—John 13:1-15 | Luke 3:21-38 |
| Saturday | Catch up on Readings | Rom. 1:1-17 |

Daily Themes for Prayer

- Sunday:** For the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and the Sacraments
Monday: For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one’s calling and daily work; for the unemployed
Tuesday: For the addicted and despairing and those struggling with sin
Wednesday: For husbands and wives, parents and children, that they live in harmony according to God’s Word
Thursday: For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries
Friday: For the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying
Saturday: For faithfulness to the end; for receptive hearts and minds to God’s Word on the Lord’s Day

In Our Prayers This Week

*Katie Schuermann, recovering from surgery
 Bill Schmalzried, suffering from cancer
 Bob Lange, health issues*

Lord’s Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Small Catechism

Hymn of the Month

“To Jordan Came the Christ our Lord”

LSB 406 (st. 1 and 7)

*To Jordan came the Christ, our Lord,
 To do His Father’s pleasure
 Baptized by John, The Father’s Word
 Was given us to treasure.
 This heav’nly washing now shall be
 A cleansing from transgression
 And by His blood and agony
 Release from death’s oppression.
 A new life now awaits us.*

*All that the mortal eye beholds
 Is water as we pour it.
 Before the eye of faith unfolds
 The pow’r of Jesus’ merit.
 For here it sees the crimson flood
 To all our ills bring healing;
 The wonders of His precious blood
 The love of God revealing,
 Assuring His own pardon.*

Looking forward to the Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany

February 5, 2012

Hymns: LSB 727, 398, 636, 632, 766

Isaiah 40:21-31: *Isaiah proclaims the greatness of God and declares that only faith is needed to participate in the strength He so richly bestows and so powerfully enhances: “They who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles.”*

1 Cor. 9:16-27: *The apostle shows that his case is an exceptional one for the case of Gospel-preaching and he holds before them his own self-discipline as an example for their emulation.*

Mark 1:29-39: *Jesus heals Simon’s mother-in-law and makes a preaching trip through Galilee.*