

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

For the Week of Quinquagesima (Third Sunday in Pre-Lent) & Ash Wednesday – February 23-29, 2020

Catechesis Notes for the Week: Baptism – “In the second place, since we know now what Baptism is and how it is to be regarded, we must also learn why and for what purpose it is instituted. We must learn what it profits, gives, and works. For this also we cannot find a better resource than Christ’s words quoted above, ‘He who believes and is baptized will be saved’ [Mark 16:16]. Therefore, state it most simply in this way: the power, work, profit, fruit, and purpose of Baptism is this – to save [1 Peter 3:21]. For no one is baptized in order that he may become a prince, but, as the words say, that he ‘be saved.’ We know that to be saved is nothing other than to be delivered from sin, death, and the devil [Colossians 1:13-14]. It means to enter into Christ’s kingdom [John 3:5], and to live with Him forever. Here you see again how highly and precious we should value Baptism, because in it we receive such an unspeakable treasure. This also proves that it cannot be ordinary, mere water. For mere water could not do such a thing. But the Word does it and, as I said above, so does the fact that God’s name is included in Baptism. Where God’s name is, there must also be life and salvation [Psalm 54:1]. So Baptism may certainly be called a divine, blessed, fruitful, and gracious water. Such power is given to Baptism by the Word that it is a washing of new birth, as St. Paul also calls it in Titus 3:5.” - *Large Catechism*

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 as you are able.

Theme: Behold, We Go Up to Jerusalem!

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed (pp. 68-69 in the front part of the *Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary*)

Verse: Acts 2:38

Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Psalm 31 (pray this Psalm each day and/or the appointed daily psalms listed below)

Prayer on the Psalm: Lord Jesus, who suffered men to slander You and to bear false witness against You, yet did not open Your mouth save only to pray for Your tormentors, shed abroad Your love in our hearts that we hate not them that hate us and speak evil against us, but enable us to love our enemies, being always ready to suffer wrong for Your name’s sake. Amen.

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	42	30	112	136	8	9	12

Catechism: The Blessings of Baptism

What does Baptism give or profit?

Baptism effects forgiveness of sins, delivers from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, just as the words and promises of God declare.

Third Grade +

Which are these words and promises of God?

Christ our Lord says, **Mark 16:16: “He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.”**

Second Grade +

Catechism Prayer: How grateful I am, O God, for the benefits You give in Baptism! In Baptism You forgive my sin, deliver me from death and the devil, and give eternal salvation to me and to all who believe what You have promised. Lord Jesus, You have said, *He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.* Having been baptized, let me continue to believe Your Word so that I may be saved! I ask through Jesus’ name, Amen.

Catechism Hymn: “*To Jordan Came Our Lord the Christ*” (stanzas 1 & 7)

Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary 247

Readings for the Week of Quinquagesima (The Third Sunday in Pre-Lent) & Ash Wednesday

Day	Bible Stories for the Family, School, OR use	Daily Lectionary Readings	
Sunday	A Blind Man Receives His Sight – Luke 18:31-43	Job 18:1-21	John 7:32-53
Monday	I AM Appears in the Burning Bush – Exodus 3:1-17	Job 19:1-12, 21-27	John 8:1-20
Tuesday	The Lord Goes with Moses to Egypt – Exodus 4:1-31	Job 20:1-23, 29	John 8:21-38
Wednesday	Jonah Preaches Repentance to the Ninevites – Jonah 3:1-10	Genesis 1:1-19	Mark 1:1-13
Thursday	Moses Goes to Pharaoh – Exodus 4:1-31	Genesis 1:20 – 2:3	Mark 1:14-28
Friday	The Lord Promises Deliverance – Exodus 6:1-13	Genesis 2:4-25	Mark 1:29-45
Saturday	Look ahead to Sunday’s Lessons	Genesis 3:1-24	Mark 2:1-17

Prayers: Catechism Prayers, In Our Prayers at Bethany & Concordia, and the Collect for the Week

Daily Themes for Prayer

- Sunday:** For the joy of the resurrection; for true and godly worship
Monday: For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for your vocations and daily work; for the unemployed
Tuesday: For aid against temptation and deliverance from sin; for the lonely, addicted, and depressed; for those enduring trial and affliction; for the aged and weak
Wednesday: For marriage and family; for government, nation and community; for peace
Thursday: For the church and her pastors; for the right use of Christ's Body and Blood
Friday: For missions and missionaries; for the persecuted; for the heathen
Saturday: For faithfulness to the end; for those who have lapsed or fallen away from the faith; for the sick and dying; for a heart receptive to God's Word.

In Our Prayers this Week

For Persecuted Christians this week: in Kenya, three Christians in Iran who recently began jail sentences, Chinese and Hong Kong Christians involved in protests, the family of Nigerian pastor Lawan Adimi who was recently murdered by Boko Haram.

Our Parish's shut-ins: Bob Green, Carla Chamberlain, Verna Jean Gove, Blane Hagen

Steve Schultz (Betty Link's nephew) who suffered a severe stroke.

Marilyn (Bette Nelson's sister) who has stage 4 cancer.

Robbie (brother of Shannon Whitemire's coworker) who is recovering from a bout of pancreatitis and an enlarged liver.

John Beckmann (Kristen Lawson's uncle) who has ALS.

Allison Dobbin (Erica Jacobsen's sister) who is suffering from a painful chronic condition.

Collect For faith to live in the promises of holy baptism

Merciful Father, through Holy Baptism You called us to be Your own possession. Grant that our lives may evidence the working of Your Holy Spirit in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, according to the image of Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior. Amen.

Collect For Those Suffering Persecution

Lord Jesus Christ, before Whom all in heaven and earth shall bow, grant courage that Your children may confess Your saving name in the face of any opposition from a world hostile to the Gospel. Help them to remember Your faithful people who sacrificed much and even faced death rather than dishonor You when called upon to deny the faith. By Your Spirit, strengthen them to be faithful and to confess You boldly, knowing that You will confess Your own before the Father in heaven, with whom You and the Holy Spirit live and reign, one God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for the week of Quinquagesima: Third Sunday in Pre-Lent (pray Sunday through Tuesday)

O Lord, we beseech You, mercifully hear our prayers, and having set us free from the bonds of sin, defend us from all evil; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

Collect for the week of Ash Wednesday (pray Wednesday through Saturday)

Almighty and everlasting God, You hate nothing that You have made and You forgive the sins of all who are penitent; create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of You, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one true God, now and forever. Amen.

Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer from the Catechism (Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary, front part, p. 36)

Hymn of the Week

"A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth"

Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary 331

Looking forward to Invocavit (First Sunday in Holy Lent)

March 1, 2020

Chief Hymn: Evangelical Lutheran Hymnary, 491

Genesis 3:1-24: Attack the Word of God so that Adam turns away from the source of life with God – that was Satan's aim. The result was sin – unbelief that separated us from God – and because of it we die and our relationship with God is destroyed. What Adam failed to be and to do, our Lord Jesus did for us. Our deliverance from Satan is bound up with the Son of God becoming man for us, suffering the death that we deserved by our sin, and faithfully trusting in His Father to the end. Where our father Adam wavered and fell, Jesus remained steadfast and immovable from His faith in the Father.

2 Corinthians 6:1-10: As long as we live, the Lord's call remains constant: "Now is the day of salvation! Come to Me!"

Matthew 4:1-11: "Man does not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." Every step of the way in His time of testing and temptation from the evil one, Jesus quoted Scripture and defended Himself and the honor of His Father with the Word of God. Even when Satan twisted and misused God's Word, Jesus countered by faithfully proclaiming God's Word in reply. As strange as it sounds to our ears, Jesus did not even rely upon Himself; instead, He relied solely upon His Father's good and gracious Word. He was faithful unto death that we might be rescued from every manifestation of unfaithfulness from our sinful nature.