

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the 19th week after Trinity
(October 23rd– October 29th)*

CATECHETICAL THEME:

Baptismal Regeneration

This Week's Catechetical Theme: Baptism Regeneration

None of us chose the families we were born into. We didn't choose our parents, or our siblings, or the country in which we would live. In fact, none of us chose to be born at all! It was completely the will and work of God to form us in the womb of our mother, to bring us safely through birth, and to continue to preserve us throughout our earthly life. We have no difficulty acknowledging that our birth—our very life—is completely the work of God. And yet, some Christians struggle to understand that our spiritual birth, our new life in Christ, is also completely the work of God. This is the point that Jesus makes to Nicodemus when he tells him that, "unless one is born from above he cannot see the kingdom of God." Of course we cannot enter into our mother's womb and be born a second time. But that doesn't keep the Lord from giving us new birth by water and the Spirit through His work in Holy Baptism. This week we'll be reading portions of Scripture that reinforce the new birth God gives in Baptism.

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

The Ten Commandments & The Apostles' Creed

The Catechism: Baptismal Regeneration

How can water do such great things?

Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith, which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God's word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying."

(Titus 3:5-8)

Daily Readings	Catechetical Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	Jesus Heals a Paralytic Matthew 9:1-8		Psalm 92
Monday	Those Born of God Overcome 1 John 5:1-8	Genesis 8	Psalm 93

Tuesday	Wash Me from My Iniquity Psalm 51:1-12	Genesis 9	Psalm 94
Wednesday	Born from Above John 3:1-8 (9-15)	Genesis 10	Psalm 95
Thursday	Washing of Regeneration Titus 3:4-8a	Genesis 11	Psalm 96
Friday	The have Washed Their Robes Revelation 7:9-17	Genesis 12	Psalm 97
Saturday	Revelation 14:6-7	Romans 3:19-28	Psalm 98

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Sun: Reflect upon today's text and sermon. **Mon:** Everyone who believes is "born of God." What does this teach us about Holy Baptism? **Tues:** How does the language of verse two reinforce the work of God in Holy Baptism? **Wed:** Nicodemus seems confused. What does Jesus say brings new birth? (see verse 5) **Thurs:** What does verse five say happens in the washing of Holy Baptism? **Fri:** This vision of the faithful is glorious. How does verse 14 make a reference to Baptism? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

Memory Verse

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God." (John 3:5)

In Our Prayers this Week

For Those Who Mourn: Family & friends of Kathy Bookstaver (friend of Judy Kleiboeker). **For Those Recovering from Surgery:** Norman Kleiboeker, Lynn Michael, Adrienne Childress (mother of David Childress), Pat Borgelt (father of Angie Nolte). **For Those Undergoing Medical Treatments:** Beth Jones (daughter-in-law of Mike Jones), Joe Childress (father of David Childress), Beth Mayer (niece of Mia Zimmermann). **For Those in Need of Healing:** Rodney Tate (father of Randy Tate), Nancy Hutchinson (sister of Jerry Mines), Roger Zimmermann, Roger & Marilyn Sullens (father & mother of Linda Reckling). **For Those Who Are Dealing with Chronic Pain:** Barb Mueller, Sam Tepe (brother of Angie Siddell), Ariana Nolte, Randy Zimmermann, Connie Schilling. **Homebound Members:** Earlene Lange, Ruth Onken, Paul Schierschwitz, Marlene Schierschwitz. **Baptismal Birthdays:** Ron Michael, Karen Yardley, Braiden Yardley, Kaitylynn Hull (10/26). **Anniversaries:** Alan & Heather Kleiboeker (10/23), Paul & Judy Kleiboeker (10/25), Eric & Kathy Hanke (10/26), Sara & Adam Hanks (10/27).

The Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer From the Small Catechism
Hymn of the Week: Praise the Almighty (LSB 797)