

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the 20th week after Trinity
(October 30th– November 5th)*

CATECHETICAL THEME:

How Can Water Do Such Great Things?

This Week's Catechetical Theme: How Can Water Do Such Great Things?

This week's catechetical focus would have us consider how the waters of Holy Baptism can do such great things of forgiving sins, rescuing from death and the devil, and giving eternal salvation. The Old Testament story of Naaman, one of this week's Bible narratives, helps to illustrate both the power of God's Word to accomplish what He promises, as well as the nature of faith, which receives what God desires to give. Naaman the leper needed healing. Through Elisha the prophet the LORD had promised to give that healing. At first, Naaman would reject what God had offered, the very thing that he needed. He wanted to see some miraculous sign, or to be able to contribute something to his healing. But by rejecting what God had offered, he would have remained in his leprosy. Thankfully, his servants talked some sense into him, and he would later receive what the LORD had promised. And though he had rejected, the LORD was faithful to His promise to deliver healing. The Word of the LORD, attached to water, was powerful, and did the very thing the LORD had promised it to do. This week we'll continue to discover how the Word of God can do such marvelous things in Holy Baptism. God bless your time in His Word!

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 | The Truth Will Set You Free John 8:31-36 | | Psalm 99 |
| Monday | The Washing of Rebirth and Renewal Titus 3:4-8a | Genesis 13 | Psalm 100 |
| Tuesday | He Might Sanctify and Cleanse Her Ephesians 5:25-27 | Genesis 14 | Psalm 101 |
| Wednesday | Naaman Is Washed 2 Kings 5:1-14 | Genesis 15 | Psalm 102 |
| Thursday | He Is a New Creation 2 Corinthians 5:17-21 | Genesis 16 | Psalm 103 |
| Friday | I Have Called You By name Isaiah 43:1 | Genesis 17 | Psalm 104 |
| Saturday | Genesis 1:1–2:3 | Ephesians 6:10-17 | Psalm 105 |

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Sun: Reflect upon today's text and sermon. **Mon:** Who does this passage teach has saved us? What word in the text makes us think of Holy Baptism? **Tues:** Who does the sanctifying and cleansing? What should the word "cleansing" make us think of? How is a person sanctified? From what is a person sanctified? **Wed:** Where was the power to heal Naaman? What would have happened if Naaman would have continued in his rejection? How does the water do such great things? **Thurs:** Baptism puts us into Christ (Romans 6). What does this passage indicate happens in Holy Baptism? How is this possible? **Fri:** How does this passage teach us to appreciate what happens when God's name is placed upon us in Holy Baptism? What is it important to have God's name upon us? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

Memory Verse

He saved us...by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ, our Savior. (Titus 3:5-6)

In Our Prayers this Week

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:** Tim Hanke (11/3), Sharon Hanke (11/4), Hunter Childress (11/5).

The Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer From the Small Catechism
Hymn of the Week: Salvation unto Us Has Come (LSB 555)