

The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the 22nd week after Trinity
(November 13th– November 19th)*

CATECHETICAL THEME:

The Liturgy of Holy Baptism

This Week's Catechetical Theme: The Liturgy of Holy Baptism

The Baptism of Jesus sometimes confuses us as much as it confused John the Baptizer himself. Why is the sinless Son of God coming to be baptized when he has no apparent need of being baptized? This made no sense to John, and if we fail to look closely at the words of the text, it might make no sense to us. But Jesus isn't baptized in order to be forgiven. He is baptized, as the text says, "to fulfill all righteousness" (Matt. 3:15). That is to say, Jesus was baptized to satisfy the demands of the Law, and to begin His work of putting himself in the place of sinners in order to save those sinners. Jesus brings only His righteousness, and he walks away from His Baptism with our sin upon him. For us, it is just the other way around. We bring only our sin to Baptism, and we walk away with Jesus' righteousness as our own. This is the blessed exchange, and is what pleases the Father. Indeed, it is also what opens heaven to Jesus, and to us! Enjoy the readings this week as they further teach us concerning the liturgy of 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:

What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God's command and combined with God's word.

Which is that word of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Daily Readings	Catechetical Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	The Parable of the Unforgiving Servant Matthew 18:21-35		Psalm 113
Monday	In the Name of... Matthew 18:21-35	Genesis 23	Psalm 114
Tuesday	Let the Little Children Come Luke 18:15-17	Genesis 24	Psalm 115

Wednesday	The Baptism of Our Lord Matthew 3:13-17	Genesis 25	Psalm 116
Thursday	Lois and Eunice 2 Timothy 1:1-5	Genesis 26	Psalm 117
Friday	The Lord Will Keep You Psalm 12:1-8	Genesis 22	Psalm 118
Saturday	Isaiah 65:17-25	1 Thessalonians 5:1-11	Psalm 119

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Sun: Reflect upon today's text and sermon. **Mon:** What two things go together in making disciples? Where do we see each person of the Holy Trinity present in our own baptism? **Tues:** Who was being brought to Jesus? Who was bringing them? What does Jesus do? **Wed:** Why was John confused? For what reason is Jesus baptized? Where do we see each person of the Holy Trinity present at Jesus' baptism? **Thurs:** Remember the two things that go together in making disciples (Monday). Which aspect of making disciples does this passage encourage? **Fri:** In Holy Baptism, the Lord makes a promise to us. What do verses 6-7 serve to teach us? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

Memory Verse

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3:16-17)

In Our Prayers this Week

For Those Expecting: Nicole Goolsby. **For Those Recovering from Surgery:** 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 & 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:** Raeshelle Braye (11/14), Blake Hanke (11/16), Alivia Childress, Jenson Langenhorst (11/18). **Anniversaries:** Melissa & Dale Winkeler (11/18).

The Lord's Prayer and Morning or Evening Prayer From the Small Catechism

Hymn of the Week: "As Surely as I Live," God Said (LSB 614)