

## **The Congregation at Prayer**

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer for the week following  
the Baptism of Our Lord (January 15<sup>th</sup> – January 21<sup>st</sup>)*

### **CATECHETICAL THEME:**

***What Is Repentance?***

#### **This Week's Catechetical Theme: What Is Repentance?**

When the Gospel is preached in all its sweetness, people will often fear that it will encourage lawless, sinful behavior. They say, "Won't people go on sinning so that grace would abound?" By no means! It is true, that people may increase in their sin even after hearing the Gospel; but it is not the fault of God's free grace that those people choose to live in such a way. Scripture teaches that the Gospel is rightly preached only in the context of the preaching of repentance. When repentance has been preached, through that Word the Holy Spirit will lead sinners to turn from their sin, and to hear the preaching of the Gospel—the free forgiveness of sins for Christ's sake. Of course, even the repentant sinner will continue to sin, but the repentant sinner will not become comfortable in his or her sin. What is repentance? Repentance has two parts: "One part is contrition, that is, terrors striking the conscience through the knowledge of sin. The other part is faith, which is born of the Gospel [Romans 10:17] (AC XII, 4-5)." John preached repentance. Peter preached repentance. Jesus preached repentance. All true preachers preach repentance in order to lead sinners to the forgiveness of sins found in the Gospel.

**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 the Office of the Keys?*

The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent.

*Where is this written?*

This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven." (John 20:22-23)

<b>Daily Readings</b>	<b>Catechetical Narrative</b>	<b>Second Reading</b>	<b>Psalm</b>
<b>Sunday</b>	<b>The Wedding at Cana John 2:1-11</b>		<b>Psalm 26</b>
<b>Monday</b>	<b>Repent and Be Baptized Acts 2:36-38</b>	<b>Exodus 4</b>	<b>Psalm 27</b>
<b>Tuesday</b>	<b>Bear Fruit in Keeping with Repentance Matthew 3:8-10</b>	<b>Exodus 5</b>	<b>Psalm 28</b>

<b>Wednesday</b>	<b>The Preaching of Repentance Matthew 3:1-2; 4:17-22</b>	<b>Exodus 6</b>	<b>Psalm 29</b>
<b>Thursday</b>	<b>More Joy in Heaven Luke 15:7</b>	<b>Exodus 7</b>	<b>Psalm 30</b>
<b>Friday</b>	<b>Repentance &amp; Forgiveness Luke 24:45-47</b>	<b>Exodus 8</b>	<b>Psalm 31</b>
<b>Saturday</b>	<b>2 Kings 5:1-15a</b>	<b>Romans 1:8-17</b>	<b>Psalm 32</b>

### Questions to Discuss in the Home

**Sun:** Reflect upon today's text and sermon. **Mon:** What does Peter preach to the crowd? What gifts does Peter promise Baptism will bestow? **Tues:** Does this passage encourage or discourage sinful behavior? What fruit is produce in repentance? **Wed:** What does John the Baptist preach? What does Jesus preach? Do you expect Jesus to preach the same message, or something different? Why does Jesus preach repentance (see Lk 24:47)? **Thurs:** Why is there joy in heaven when a sinner is brought to repentance? What does this teach us about the goal of preaching repentance? **Fri:** What message were Jesus' disciples given to preach? Is this the same message that Jesus, John, and Peter had preached? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

### Memory Verse

(Jesus) said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ should suffer and on the third day rise from the dead, and that repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in his name to all nations." (Luke 24:46-47)

### In Our Prayers this Week

**For Those Recovering from Surgery:** Marla Corry, Lynn Michael. **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:** Alan Kleiboeker, Rodney Tate (father of Randy Tate), 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. **Baptismal Birthday:** Lois Brink, Nathan Brink, Amanda Brink (1/17), Jackson Brammeier, Silas Jennings (1/19), Marilyn Edwards (1/20). **Anniversary:** Wayne & Jennifer Brink (1/18).

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

**Hymn of the Week:** The Only Son from Heaven (LSB 402)