

The Congregation at Prayer

A guide for daily meditation and prayer the week following

Third Sunday after the Epiphany – January 26, 2025

Simple orders can be found on pages 294-298 in LSB or you may use the following order

Invocation

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

Psalm 84

Verse of the Month

Psalm 139:14 "I will praise Thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvelous are Thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well."

10 Commandments & Apostles' Creed

Hymn of the Week

Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me (LSB 756)

Reading from Holy Scripture

Members may choose...

- *Read the Bible in a year (church website) or children's The Story Bible (CPH)*

- *Readings appointed from the Daily Lectionary (LSB p. 299-304)*

Looking forward to The Purification of Mary and The Presentation of Our Lord

Monday: Genesis 50:15-21

Tuesday: Romans 8:18-23

Wednesday: Luke 6:36-42

Thursday: "Be merciful, just as your Father also is merciful"(Luke 6:36-42). The old Adam in us, however, wants to condemn and seek vengeance. But the Lord says, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay" (Rom 12:14-21). To condemn, to avenge yourself, is to put yourself in the place of God. It is to fail to trust that He is just. Ultimately, it is to disbelieve that Jesus suffered the full vengeance for all wrongs. Only Christ is merciful as the Father is merciful. He is the one who overcame all evil with the good of His cross, forgiving even His executioners. Jesus is our Joseph, who comforts us with words of pardon and reconciliation (Gen 50:15-21). He is the One who does not condemn but gives life that runs over. Only through faith in Christ are we sons of the Father being merciful, forgiving, doing good to our enemies. For in Christ we know that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us (Rom 8:8-13).

Catechism for the Week: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism Part IV

What does such baptizing with water indicate? It indicates that the Old Adam in us should by daily contrition and repentance be drowned and die with all sins and evil desires, and that a new man should daily emerge and arise to live before God in righteousness and purity forever.

Where is this written? St. Paul writes in Romans chapter six: We were therefore buried with Him through baptism into death in order that, just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, we too may live a new life. [Rom. 6:4]

Prayers:

Collect of the Week (from Lutheran Prayer Companion)

Lord God, heavenly Father, who in Your good and fatherly wisdom subject Your children here on earth to the cross, sending various tempests upon us to curb our sin and train us in faith, hope, and prayer: we beseech You to have mercy on us, hear our prayer in every trial and need, and provide Your gracious help, that we may acknowledge Your grace and fatherly assistance, and with all the saints forever praise and bless You, who with the Son and the Holy Spirit are the only everlasting and almighty God. Amen.

In Our Prayers This Week:

Mark Siddons

Lord's Prayer

Morning Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening Prayer

I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept me this day; and I pray that you would forgive me all my sins where I have done wrong, and graciously keep me this night. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Mealtime Prayer

The eyes of all look to You, O Lord, and You give them their food at the proper time. You open Your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing. Lord God, heavenly Father, bless us and these Thy gifts which we receive from Thy bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Closing

Let us bless the Lord: Thanks be to God. Amen.

Hymn of the Month

Lo, How a Rose E're Blooming (LSB 359/TLH 645)

Reading from the Book of Concord

Portions of the Apology of the Augsburg Confession p. 155-167
From *Concordia: The Lutheran Confessions* (CPH)