The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
The week of the Sexagesima
February 4-10, 2018

Catechetical Notes for the week: *The third part of Baptism teaches us that the power and efficacy of Baptism lies in the Word of God and not in the water. The water is plain water until it is connected to the Word of God. Only then does it become a powerful Bath of regeneration and renewal by the Spirit. The Spirit works in this washing to create faith. He drowns all that is evil and raises us with Christ. He brings the blessings of Christ's cross to us. He makes us holy through this Bath. The third part of Baptism shows us that we are dead in sin, unable to save ourselves, lost and condemned without the work of the Spirit in these waters. We cannot help Him. We cannot assist Him. He must do all the work in us if we are to be saved. It leads us to repentance and faith in the Spirit who through Baptism has given us the new life Christ has won for us.*

Theme: By grace God scatters the Word in our hearts.

In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Apostles' Creed

Bible Verse: 1 Peter 3:18 For Christ died for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, to bring you to God. He was put to death in the body but made alive by the Spirit.

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:	3rd Grade+
He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit	Preschool+
whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior,	K+
so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.	1st Grade+

Daily Reading		*The Story Bible* page
Monday	Acts 8:26-40	431
Tuesday	Genesis 8:15-9:17	41
Wednesday	Acts 16:11-15	450
Thursday	Acts 16:16-34	453
Friday	John 9:1-12 (13-34); 35-41	348
Saturday	Exodus 2:1-10	98

PRAYER

Pray the Catechism: *(The catechetical notes are meant to assist you in this.)*

Example:

Repeat the third part of Baptism

A teaching: *Dear Father, in the third part of Baptism You teach me that Your Word unites with water to give me a new birth in the Holy Spirit.*

A thanksgiving: *I thank You for drawing me out of these waters and giving me an eternal home with You.*

A confession: *I confess and ask for grace that I have devalued this Bath and exalted myself, my works, my decisions to its equal.*

A prayer: *I ask You to remain faithful to the promise You made me at Baptism. Forgive me. And bring me to life everlasting.*

Personal prayers: *(suggestions listed below)*

Sunday: *Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for true and godly worship throughout the world; and for the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word.*

Monday: *Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for your calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for government; and for peace.*

Tuesday: *Pray for deliverance against temptation; for the addicted and despairing; for the tortured and oppressed; and for those struggling with besetting sins.*

Wednesday: *Pray for marriage and family, that all may live together under the grace of Christ according to the Word of God; for parents who must rear their children alone; and for godly schools, our church schools, and seminaries.*

Thursday: *Pray for the Church and her pastors; for missionaries; and for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood.*

Friday: *Pray for the preaching of the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for its spread throughout the whole world, especially in our community; and for the persecuted.*

Saturday: *Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the sick and dying; for the revival of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; and for receptive hearts for worship and study on the Lord's Day.*

Prayer for Sexagesima

O God, who sees that we put no trust in anything that we do: mercifully grant, that by Your power; we may be defended against all adversity, through Jesus, Your Son, Our Lord, who lives and reigns with You, and the Holy Spirit; one God, now and forever.

Luther's Morning/Evening Prayer

Morning: I thank You, my heavenly Father, though 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: 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.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation; but deliver ✠ us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.