

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Prayer for the week of March 2nd – 8th (Quinquagesima)

CATECHETICAL THEME: *What Benefits Does Baptism Give?*

This Week's Catechetical Theme: What Benefits Does Baptism Give?

The Small Catechism answers this week's question quite clearly, identifying three blessings bestowed in Baptism: Forgiveness, rescue from death and the devil, and eternal salvation. What great blessings these are, for they are the gifts Christ freely gives. And He gives these gifts wherever He gives His gifts: through the preaching of the Gospel, and also the administration of the Sacraments. This is no man-made list of blessings; this is the list of blessings given in Holy Scripture to all who have salvation by grace through faith in Christ. Where there is forgiveness, there is rescue from death and eternal life! The Small Catechism quotes Mark 16:16, but throughout the week, as you make use of the Bible Readings for the Family and Congregation, you will discover additional passages that teach the same. God bless your time in His Word!

Invocation, The Ten Commandments, & The Apostles' Creed

The Catechism: *What benefits does Baptism give?*

It works forgiveness of sins, rescues from death and the devil, and gives eternal salvation to all who believe this, as the words and promises of God declare.

Which are these words and promises of God? Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Mark: "Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned." (Mark 16:16)

Daily Readings	Catechetical Narrative	Second Reading	Psalm
Sunday	Jesus Foretells His Death a Third Time Luke 18:31-43	—	Psalm 46
Monday	Be Baptized...Wash Your Sins Away Acts 22:12-16	Moses Strikes the Rock Numbers 20:1-13 (14-29)	Psalm 47
Tuesday	Repent and Be Baptized Acts 2:36-42	The Bronze Serpent Numbers 21:(1-3) 4-9	Psalm 48
Wednesday	Rescued from Darkness Colossians 1:13-14	Ash Wednesday Matthew 6:16-21	Psalm 49
Thursday	Whoever Believes and Is Baptized Mark 16:14-16	Numbers 22:1 (2-4a) 4b-5, 12-38 (survey ch. 23 & 24) 24:10-13 (14-19)	Psalm 50
Friday	Baptism Now Saves You 1 Peter 3:18-21	The Sin of Peor Numbers 25:1-18	Psalm 51
Saturday	Genesis 3:1-21	2 Corinthians 6:1-10	Psalm 52

Questions to Discuss in the Home

Sun: Reflect upon today's text and sermon. **Mon:** What does today's reading indicate happened to Saul/Paul when he was baptized? Whose work was this? **Tues:** In today's passage, what gifts are given in Holy Baptism? Who did the giving? **Wed:** What two promises are attached to Holy Baptism in Acts 2:36-42? What does this teach us is given in Holy Baptism? Who is doing the giving? **Thur:** In today's passage, what gifts are given in Holy Baptism? Who did the giving? **Fri:** In today's passage, what gifts are given in Holy Baptism? Who did the giving? **Sat:** In preparation for Sunday, reflect upon today's texts.

Memory Verse

And Peter said to them, "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." (Acts 2:38)

In Our Prayers this Week

For Our Area First Responders. Those in Need of Healing: Sherri Williams (Surgery), Susan Kleiboeker (Surgery), Joan Rueter (Upcoming Medical Testing), Claire Eggerman (Ankle Surgery Recovery), Marilyn Edwards, Elbert Brink, Mary Rueter (Brian Rueter's Wife – Stroke), Timothy Scharr (SID President), Alexis Tehandon (Granddaughter of Debra Wells – Medical Testing) Willow Grace Parks (Susan Kleiboeker's Friend – Heart Surgery).

Baptismal Birthdays: Vernon Freund, Jackie Yardley (3/3), Eric Hanke, Tim Boeker, Randy Zimmermann (3/4), George Nolte (3/5), Mia Zimmermann (3/7), Bethany Ruckman (3/8).

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

Hymn of the Day: Let Us Ever Walk with Jesus(LSB 685)