
THE CONGREGATION AT PRAYER

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

*The Week of the Baptism of Our Lord—The First Sunday after Epiphany
January 9-15, 2017*

THE ORDER OF MEDITATION AND PRAYER

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of meditation and prayer as you are able, or as your family size and ages dictate. If able, the head of the home should take the role of “Leader” (L) and the family the role of “Group” (G). The whole family should try to learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Theme: We Are Baptized into Christ

Catechesis Notes for the Week—The Seventh Petition—“Rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation.” When we pray the Seventh Petition, “but deliver us from evil,” we might be tempted to conclude that we are asking that “evil” never rear its head in our lives. This misses the mark. Evil will come into our lives in the form of Satan’s attacks upon our “body and soul, possessions and reputation.” Holy Scripture makes this clear. We will not be spared from being attacked. God wills that the attacks of evil against us serve the cause of faith. “Call upon Me in the day of trouble; I will deliver you and you shall glorify Me.” Therefore, in the Seventh Petition we are asking that God would preserve our faith in Christ when we are assaulted by the Evil One, and teach us to commend ourselves—body, soul, and spirit, with all that we are and have—into His gracious keeping. The Word of our Lord teaches us that He will not forsake His own. If He allows evil to enter into our lives, then He does so for His good purposes and for the exercise of faith in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. This petition promises the Christian: “God will not allow the Evil One or any adversity to overwhelm you.” By this petition He invites you to trust this promise and to call upon Him in your need. In this way faith in Christ is active.

INVOCATION

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.¹

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

G Amen.

APOSTLES’ CREED

VERSE

Matthew 7:7,8

G Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

¹ The name of the Triune God and the sign of the cross reminds worshipers of their baptisms. Martin Luther wrote in his *Small Catechism*, “In the morning when you get up, make the sign of the holy cross and say, ‘In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.’”



DAILY PSALM

The leader may read the appointed Psalm for the day. If applicable, members of the family may take turns reading the Psalm for the Day.

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	19,20	22	26,27	30	32	33	35
Evening	21	23,24	25	28,29	31	34	36

PSALM PRAYER

L O Eternal God and Father, You have revealed Your Son as the only Savior from sin, and called us to the blessed knowledge of salvation. We thank You that You have preserved Your truth among us despite all the wiles and assaults of the Wicked One; and we beseech You, keep us evermore in purity of doctrine and send forth Your Word among all people, accompanying it with the effective working of Your Holy Spirit, that many may be brought to know Your Son and obtain the inheritance of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

THE CATECHISM: THE LORD'S PRAYER

The Seventh Petition and Doxology

<p>L What is the Seventh Petition?</p> <p>C But deliver us from evil.</p>	Preschool +
<p>L What does this mean?</p> <p>C In conclusion, we pray in this petition that our Father in heaven would deliver us from every evil that threatens body and soul, property and reputation, and finally when our last hour comes, grant us a blessed end and graciously take us from this world of sorrow to himself in heaven.</p>	Second Grade +
<p>L What is the Doxology of the Lord's Prayer?</p> <p>C For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours now and forever. Amen.</p>	Preschool +
<p>L What does this mean?</p> <p>C We can be sure that these petitions are acceptable to our Father in heaven and are heard by him, for he himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us. Therefore we say, "Amen. Yes, it shall be so."</p>	Third Grade +
<p>Prayer on the Seventh Petition</p> <p><i>Father in heaven, rescue us from every evil of body and soul, possessions and reputation, and finally, when our last hour comes, give us a blessed end, and graciously take us from this valley of sorrow to Yourself in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.</i></p> <p>Prayer on the Word "Amen"—the Conclusion to the Lord's Prayer</p> <p><i>Heavenly Father, You have commanded us to pray according to the promises of the Lord's Prayer and have promised to hear us. Give us firm faith in Your Word so that we pray with confidence, saying "Yes, yes, it shall be so"; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen.</i></p>	

DAILY READINGS

In 2016, we will be working through a Harmony of the Four Gospels, following Jesus' birth, life, and death chronologically as the Gospels present it.

	Weekly Scripture Readings*		Through the Confessions in One Year
	Old Testament	New Testament	
Monday	Ezekiel 3:12-27	Romans 2:1-16	Apology of the Augsburg Confession [Apol.] IV:22-47
Tuesday	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 19-32	Romans 2:17-29	Apol. IV:48-74
Wednesday	Ezekiel 33:1-20	Romans 3:1-18	Apol. IV:75-85
Thursday	Ezekiel 34:1-24	Romans 3:19-31	Apol. IV:86-102
Friday	Ezekiel 36:13-28	Romans 4:1-25	Apol. IV:103-121
Saturday	Ezekiel 36:33-37:14	Romans 5:1-21	-----
Sunday	Ezekiel 37:15-28	Romans 6:1-23	-----

PRAYERS

Collect for the week of the Baptism of Our Lord:

L Father in heaven, at the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River You proclaimed Him Your beloved Son and anointed Him with the Holy Spirit. Make all who are baptized in His name faithful in their calling as Your children and inheritors with Him of everlasting life; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

G Amen.

Daily Themes for Prayer

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

Wednesday: Pray for marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must raise children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.

Thursday: Pray for the Church and her pastors; for teachers, deacons, deaconesses, and other church workers; for missionaries and for all who serve the Church; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of Christ's body and blood.

Friday: Pray for the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and for the spread of His knowledge throughout the whole world; for the persecuted and oppressed; for the sick and dying.

Saturday: Pray for faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for receptive hearts and minds to God's Word on the Lord's Day; for pastors and people as they prepare to administer and receive Christ's holy gifts.

Sunday: Pray for the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.

Monday: Pray for faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for one's calling and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for schools, colleges, and seminaries; for good government and for peace.

In Our Prayers this Week

Bert Mues and her family, as they laid to rest the body of her mother, who died in the Lord.

Our shut-ins, that they may be comforted in their loneliness by your gracious presence.

Aaron Haas, Matthew Brei, and Marlene Hansen, as they celebrate their birthdays this week.

All those affected by the violence in Florida, that this terrible act be used to bring those souls you have chosen to you, and to give those who already believe in your name an opportunity to reach out in Christian charity and love.

LORD'S PRAYER

G 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.

LUTHER'S MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

Morning

G In the name of the Father, and of the Son (☩), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.²

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have kept me this night from all harm and danger. Keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please you. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

Evening

G In the name of the Father, and of the Son (☩), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.²

I thank you, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, your dear Son, that you have graciously kept me this day. Forgive me all my sins, and graciously keep me this night. Into your hands I commend my body and soul and all things. Let your holy angel be with me, that the wicked foe may have no power over me. Amen.

² Luther, in his Small Catechism, encourages Christians who pray the Morning and Evening prayers: "In the morning when you get up and in the evening when you go to bed, make the sign of the holy cross over your head and heart and say, 'In the name of the Father, and of the Son (☩), and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.'"

88 To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord



1 To Jor - dan came the Christ, our Lord, To do his
 2 These truths on Jor - dan's banks were shown By might - y
 3 Oh, hear and mark the mes - sage well, For God him -
 4 All that the mor - tal eye be - holds Is wat - er
 5 To his dis - ci - ples spoke the Lord, "Go out to

Fa - ther's plea - sure; Bap - tized by John, the Fa - ther's Word
 word and won - der. The Fa - ther's voice from heav'n came down
 self has spo - ken. Let faith, not doubt, a - mong us dwell,
 as we pour it. Be - fore the eye of faith un - folds
 ev - 'ry na - tion And bring to them the liv - ing Word

Was giv - en us to trea - sure. This heav'n-ly wash - ing
 Which we do well to pon - der: "This man is my be -
 And so re - ceive this to - ken. Our Lord here with his
 The pow'r of Je - sus' mer - it. For here it sees his
 And this my in - vi - ta - tion: Let ev - 'ry - one a -

now shall be A cleans - ing from trans - gres - sion
 lov - ed Son, In whom my heart has plea - sure.
 Word en - dows Pure wa - ter free - ly flow - ing.
 pre - cious blood To all our ills bring heal - ing,
 ban - don sin And come in true con - tri - tion

And by his blood and ag - o - ny Re - lease from death's
 Him you must hear, and him a - lone, And trust in full -
 God's Ho - ly Spir - it here a - vows Our kin - ship while
 The won - ders of that crim - son flood The love of God
 To be bap - tized and there - by win Full par - don and

op - pres - sion. A new life now a - waits us.
 est mea - sure The word that he has spo - ken."
 be - stow - ing The bap - tism of his bless - ing.
 re - veal - ing, As - sur - ing his own par - don.
 re - mis - sion And heav'n-ly bliss in - her - it."

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546, abr.; tr. Elizabeth Quitmeyer, 1911–88, alt. © 1976 Elizabeth Quitmeyer.

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Tune: CHRIST UNSER HERR ZUM JORDAN KAM (87 87 87 87 7) *Geystliche gesangk Buchleyn*, Wittenberg, 1524.

More information on this hymn is available on the next page.

To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord

Text: Martin Luther (1483-1546)

Tune: Johann Walther (1496-1570)

When Martin Luther wrote his *Small Catechism*, he divided it into six Chief Parts that cover the whole of Christian Doctrine. In an orderly fashion, he teaches on the Ten Commandments, the Creed, the Lord's Prayer, the Sacrament of Holy Baptism, the Office of the Keys (Confession and Absolution), and the Sacrament of the Altar (Holy Communion). This Small Catechism, intended to help teach everyday people the truths of God's Word, was eventually supplemented by hymns Luther wrote himself. It began with "The Ten Commandments



Martin Luther

are the Law" (CW 285), an exposition of the Ten Commandments. To teach the Creed he penned "We All Believe in One True God" (CW 271), which he also included in his 1526 *Deutsche Messe* as the replacement for the Nicene Creed. The Lord's Prayer is unpacked in "Our Father, Who from Heaven Above" (CW 410). "From Depths of Woe I Cry to You" (CW 305) is his hymn on Confession and Absolution. Finally, "O Lord, We Praise You" (CW 317) summarizes the Lord's Supper. It was not until later in his life that Luther took up the task of writing a hymn on Holy Baptism. Finally, around 1540, he wrote "To Jordan Came the Christ, Our Lord" to round out his catechetical hymns. Sadly this hymn did not receive much reception in English hymnals until the 1980s. It is unclear why this

hymn was not included in *The Lutheran Hymnal*, but was a welcome addition when

Christian Worship was produced in the early 1990s, despite omitting two original stanzas.

Though this hymn fits perfectly for today, Luther likely wrote it in Eastertide. In Easter week of 1540, Luther preached a series of sermons on Holy Baptism. It is likely that these sermons were the inspiration for the hymn, although its date of publication was not until 1541. That Luther wrote it with his section on Baptism in the Small Catechism in mind is quite clear, as the order of the stanzas follows along with the order of the questions and answers in his Catechism. Originally he titled this hymn, "A Spiritual Song of our Holy Baptism, which is a fine summary of What it is? Who established it? What are its benefits?"

This text and tune were a favorite of J.S. Bach. He used this hymn as the basis for his Cantata (BWV 7) for the Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptizer (June 24). He also wrote two chorale preludes and a fugue on this tune. The imagery he uses is remarkable. The accompaniment surrounding the hymn tune is a series of quickly flowing notes, which immediately call to the listener's mind flowing water. Albert Schweitzer, a German theologian and musician wrote, "The chorale prelude on Baptism, *Christ unser Herr zum Jordan kam*, represents running waters. In the last verse of the chorale, Baptism is described as a wave of salvation, stained with the Blood of Christ, which passes over humanity, removing all blemish and sin...Do we not believe that we see waves rising and falling, with the faster waves tumbling over the slower waves? And is not this musical imagery addressed more to the eye than to the ear?"



The first stanza captures thoughts from Luther's "Flood Prayer" in the Baptismal liturgy. Because Jesus has been baptized, he has designated it as the means by which he gives us "a cleansing from transgression." Stanza 2 retells the account of Jesus' baptism by John in the Jordan. Stanzas 3 and 5 go hand in hand, as 3 begins to explain the gifts Baptism gives, while 5 repeats Christ's command to baptize all nations. Stanza 4 strikes a teaching note, namely, that our physical eyes are unable to see the mysteries at work in the Sacraments. Specifically, "all that the mortal eye beholds is water as we pour it. Before the eye of faith unfolds the power of Jesus' merit." Faith sees the forgiving blood of Jesus in the water, the blood that reveals God's love that opens heaven to us because of the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.