

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer

The Second Week after Epiphany

January 14, 2024, through January 21, 2024

Quote for the Week —**THEODORE OF MOPSUESTIA (350-428 AD)**: The baptism of John was at one and the same time perfect and imperfect. It was perfect according to the precept of the law, but it was imperfect in that it did not supply remission of sins but merely made people fit for receiving the perfect one. For this reason, even Christ, since he was perfect with regard to the law, was baptized with this baptism, that is, the baptism of John. And he makes this clear, saying, “For thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.”
FRAGMENT 13.¹

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. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

Invocation

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

Apostles’ Creed

Verse: Psalm 143:10

“Teach me to do your will, for you are my God! Let your good Spirit lead me on level ground!”

Read or Chant Psalm 85

Catechism: Apostles’ Creed—First Article

Day	Bible Stories for Daily Devotions	Second Reading
Sun., Jan 14	Gospel Lesson, The Baptism of Our Lord—Matthew 3:13-17	Joshua 3:1-3, 7-8, 13-17
Mon., Jan. 15	Behold, the Lamb of God—John 1:29-34	Genesis 8:1-22
Tues., Jan 16	Jesus Call the First Disciples—John 1:35-42	Genesis 11:1-9
Wed, Jan 17	Can anything good come from Nazareth?—John 1:43-51	Genesis 12:1-20
Thurs, Jan 18	The Temptation of Jesus—Luke 4:1-13	Genesis 13:1-18
Fri., Jan 19	The Temptation of Jesus according to St. Mark—Mark 1:12-15	Genesis 14:8-24
Sat., Jan 20	Jesus Begins His Ministry—Matthew 4:12-17	Genesis 15:1-21
Sun., Jan 21	Gospel Lesson, The Transfiguration of Our Lord—Matthew 17:1-9	Joshua 3:1-3, 7-8, 13-17

Pray the Collect for the Baptism of Our Lord:

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. Amen.

Personal Prayers and Petitions

Lord’s Prayer

¹ Simonetti, Manlio, ed. 2001. [Matthew 1–13](#). Ancient Christian Commentary on Scripture. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press.

- 1 To Jordan came the Christ, our Lord,
 To do His Father's pleasure;
 Baptized by John, the Father's Word
 Was given us to treasure.
 This heav'nly washing now shall be
 A cleansing from transgression
 And by His blood and agony
 Release from death's oppression.
 A new life now awaits us.
- 2 O hear and mark the message well,
 For God Himself has spoken.
 Let faith, not doubt, among us dwell
 And so receive this token.
 Our Lord here with His Word endows
 Pure water, freely flowing.
 God's Holy Spirit here avows
 Our kinship while bestowing
 The Baptism of His blessing.
- 3 These truths on Jordan's banks were shown
 By mighty word and wonder.
 The Father's voice from heav'n came down,
 Which we do well to ponder:
 "This man is My beloved Son,
 In whom My heart has pleasure.
 Him you must hear, and Him alone,
 And trust in fullest measure
 The word that He has spoken."
- 4 There stood the Son of God in love,
 His grace to us extending;
 The Holy Spirit like a dove
 Upon the scene descending;
 The triune God assuring us,
 With promises compelling,
 That in our Baptism He will thus
 Among us find a dwelling
 To comfort and sustain us.
- 5 To His disciples spoke the Lord,
 "Go out to ev'ry nation,
 And bring to them the living Word
 And this My invitation:
 Let ev'ryone abandon sin
 And come in true contrition
 To be baptized and thereby win
 Full pardon and remission
 And heav'nly bliss inherit."
- 6 But woe to those who cast aside
 This grace so freely given;
 They shall in sin and shame abide
 And to despair be driven.
 For born in sin, their works must fail,
 Their striving saves them never;
 Their pious acts do not avail,
 And they are lost forever,
 Eternal death their portion.
- 7 All that the mortal eye beholds
 Is water as we pour it.
 Before the eye of faith unfolds
 The pow'r of Jesus' merit.
 For here it sees the crimson flood
 To all our ills bring healing;
 The wonders of His precious blood
 The love of God revealing,
 Assuring His own pardon.

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

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Looking forward to the Transfiguration of our Lord

January 21, 2024

Hymns: 414, 413, 821, 537, 417

Exodus 34:29-35

2 Peter 1:16-21

Matthew 17:1-9