

# FAITH IN THE WORD

For the week of The Baptism of our Lord  
January 12, AD 2025 – January 18, AD 2025

**T**he beauty of the true Christian faith is its simplicity. We simply receive what God says in Holy Scripture. It's no different with Holy Baptism. It is certainly amazing that being baptized with a little water can work the forgiveness of sins, rescue from death and the devil, and give eternal salvation. No one in their wildest dreams would imagine such a thing. But the power of Baptism isn't something you have to imagine. Christ Jesus has very simply and clearly told you what Baptism does. And you know that God's Word has the power to accomplish exactly what it says. After all, God's Word created all things in heaven and on earth. The power of Baptism lies in the Word which God Himself has spoken. And He has told you through His servant St. Paul that "He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit." There is no need to try to figure out those words or reinterpret them. They are clear and understandable. Baptism isn't magic. It is commanded and instituted by God for you for the forgiveness of sins. We don't have to understand it. It doesn't have to make sense beyond the fact that I fully believe that what God promises will happen, WILL happen. Repent of any doubt that you have concerning the gift of your baptism and let your heart receive with confidence what God has said. If you are baptized, then you are an heir who has the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying because it has come from the very mouth of God Himself.

## ***The Catechism***

*As the head of the family should teach it in a simple way to the household. 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.*

## ***The Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Part 3***

### ***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:

"He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying." (Titus 3:5-8)

## THE ORDER OF MEDITATION AND PRAYER

### INVOCATION

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

### APOSTLES' CREED

***Romans 8:26 – Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.***

### Psalm 72

### HYMN OF THE MONTH

***“The People That in Darkness Sat” (LSB 412)***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rSLx0jKNxfM>

### READINGS FOR THE WEEK OF THE BAPTISM OF OUR LORD

① SUNDAY	LUKE 2:41-52	
② MONDAY	2 KINGS 18:1-8	2 CORINTHIANS 1:1-2:2
③ TUESDAY	2 CHRON. 28:22-29:36	2 CORINTHIANS 2:3-3:3
④ WEDNESDAY	2 CHRON. 30:1-31:1	2 CORINTHIANS 3:4-18
⑤ THURSDAY	2 CHRON. 32:1-23	2 CORINTHIANS 4:1-18
⑥ FRIDAY	2 KINGS 20:1-11	2 CORINTHIANS 5:1-21
⑦ SATURDAY	AMOS 9:11-15 <sup>1</sup>	ROMANS 12:6-16

<sup>1</sup> SATURDAY: CONFESSION OF ST. PETER – MARK 8:27-9:1

## PRAYERS

### COLLECT FOR THE WEEK

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.

### DAILY THEMES FOR PRAYER

**SUNDAY:** *The joy of the resurrection among us; true and godly worship throughout the world; and for the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word; for our congregation's faithfulness to the Word of God.*

**MONDAY:** *Faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; our calling and daily work; the unemployed; the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; government; peace; for the leaders of our congregation.*

**TUESDAY:** *Deliverance against temptation; the addicted and despairing; the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with besetting sins.*

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

**THURSDAY:** *For the Church and her pastors; for missionaries; for fruitful and salutary use of the blessed sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood; for our congregation, our pastor and his family.*

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

## IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK

- Those members and friends of our congregation who are serving in the military (and their families): Emma and Macarios Casanova (Army), Thomas Kun (Air Force), Brandon Lowery (Navy), Ethan McCrillis (Marines), Ethan Sims (Air Force Reserves).
- Birthdays celebrated this week: Melanie Obenhaus (15), Lyndsey Slade (17).
- Connie Kimber who was hospitalized last week.
- Sherry Burke who is suffering from an autoimmune disease and pneumonia, who has been hospitalized.
- Those experiencing unemployment: Matt and Michael.
- Emma Casanova, Susan Dickson, and Brianna Mallon for protection of mother and child in pregnancy.
- Dony Reaves, Chris Purcell, Tula Sheehan, Doug Drawe, Antonia, Deanna, Devin Jackson, Greg McClure, Dana Evans, Rush, Christina Null, Gaye, Georgette, Tim Sheehan, Dan Kostoff, Jill, Ninette DeYoung, Rachel Preuss, Kristina Wishmeyer.



## THE LORD'S PRAYER

## LUTHER'S MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER

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## LOOKING FORWARD TO NEXT WEEK

### **The Second Sunday after Epiphany – January 19, 2025**

**Catechism:** The Sacrament of The Altar – Part 1

**Hymns:** 916, 402, 412, 636, 394, 655, 644

**Readings:** Exodus 33:12-23, Ephesians 5:22-33, John 2:1-11

