

11 RECITE PORTION OF THE CATECHISM AND MEANING

3. How can water do such great things?:

It is not water that does these things, but God's Word with the water and our trust in this Word. Water by itself is only water, but with the Word of God it is a life-giving water which by grace gives the new birth through the Holy Spirit.

St. Paul writes in Titus 3

"He saved us...in virtue of his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal in the Holy Spirit, which he poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our savior, so that we might be justified by his grace and become heirs in hope of eternal life. The saying is sure."

12 PRAYER BASED ON THE PORTION OF THE CATECHISM

Prayer based on Holy Baptism the Third Question "How can water do such great things?"

O God our Father, You have saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal, which You have poured out upon us in our Baptism into Your Son. We thank You for this life-giving water, rich in grace by Your trustworthy promise. Give us faith always to trust Your Word in the water that, justified by grace, we remain heirs of eternal life; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord. Amen [from Luther's Small Catechism: with explanation; Concordia Pub, pg. 301]

13 IN OUR PRAYERS THIS WEEK - INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

- ⇒ For Carol Halderson coping with dementia
- ⇒ For Buff Peterson coping with pulmonary functioning
- ⇒ For Janet Sisul being cared for
- ⇒ For Lisa Cash in caring for her father Daniel
- ⇒ For Karri Bjornstad's father, Birger Eklov, battling cancer.
- ⇒ For Pastor Dave Steffenson battling cancer

14 HYMN OF THE WEEK AND UPCOMING SUNDAY LESSONS

Come, Thou Font of Every Blessing LBW 499: *stnz 1* Come, thou Fount of ev'ry blessing, Tune my heart to sing thy grace; Streams of mercy, never ceasing, Call for songs of loudest praise. While the hope of endless glory Fills my heart with joy and love, Teach me ever to adore thee; May I still thy goodness prove. *stnz 2* Here I raise my Ebenezer, Hither by thy help I'm come; And I hope, by thy good pleasure, Safely to arrive at home. Jesus sought me when a stranger, Wand'ring from the fold of God; He, to rescue me from danger, Interposed his precious blood. *stnz 3* Oh, to grace how great a debtor Daily I'm constrained to be; Let that grace now like a fetter Bind my wand'ring heart to thee. Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it; Prone to leave the God I love. Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; Seal it for thy courts above.

For September 13, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost (Proper 19): **Genesis 50:15-21** Joseph is reconciled to his brothers; **Psalms 103:1-12** "The Lord is merciful and gracious."; **Romans 14:1-12** We belong to the Lord; **Matthew 18:21-35** Parable of the unforgiving servant



The Gift of Grace Lutheran Congregation at Prayer

A guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer
For the Week of the 14th Sunday after Pentecost
September 6 through September 12

1 **INVOCATION - MAKE THE SIGN OF THE CROSS AND SAY:**
In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

2 **CONFESS THE APOSTLES' CREED**
I believe in God, the Father, almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

3 **PRAY 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.

4 **PRAY THE MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER**

Morning. We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have protected us through the night from all danger and harm. We ask you to preserve and keep us, this day also, from all sin and evil, that in all our thoughts, words and deeds we may serve and please you. Into your hands we commend our bodies and souls and all that is ours. Let your holy angels have charge of us, that the wicked one have no power over us. Amen.

Evening. We give thanks to you, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ your dear Son, that you have this day so graciously protected us. We beg you to forgive us all our sins and the wrong which we have done. By your great mercy defend us from all the perils and dangers of this night. Into your hands we commend our bodies and souls and all that is ours. Let your holy angels have charge of us, that the wicked one have no power over us. Amen

5 AT MEAL TIME ASK BLESSING THEN AFTERWARDS RETURN THANKS

Blessing before meal

“The eyes of all wait upon you, O LORD, and you give them their food in due season. You open wide your hand, and satisfy the needs of every living creature.” [Ps. 145:15-16]

Lord, God, heavenly Father, bless us and these your gifts which we receive from your bountiful goodness, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Returning Thanks after meal

“Give thanks to the LORD, for he is good, for his mercy endures forever. He gives food to all creatures. He provides food for flocks and herds and for the young ravens when they cry. He is not impressed by the might of a horse, he has no pleasure in the strength of a man; but the LORD has pleasure in those who fear him, in those who await his gracious favor.” [Ps. 136:1, 25; 147:9-11]

We thank you, Lord God, heavenly Father, for all your benefits, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit forever and ever. Amen.

6 PRAY THE PSALMS

General Wk 3	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Morning	67, 150	57, 145	54, 146	65, 147:1-12	143, 147:13-21	88, 148	122, 149
Evening	46, 93	85, 47	28, 99	125, 91	81, 116	6, 20	125, 90

7 RECITE THE VERSE OF THE WEEK: Matthew 18:14

“So it is not the will of my Father who is in heaven that one of these little ones should perish.”.

Theme of the Week: God’s Desire to Save Sinners

8 READ DAILY SCRIPTURE PASSAGES

SUN
Judges 16:15-31; 2 Corinthians 13:1-11; Mark 5:25-34

MON
Judges 17:1-13; Acts 7:44--8:1a; John 5:19-29

TUE
Judges 18:1-15; Acts 8:1-13; John 5:30-47

WED
Judges 18:16-31; Acts 8:14-25; John 6:1-15

THU
Job 1:1-22; Acts 8:26-40; John 6:16-27

FRI
Job 2:1-13; Acts 9:1-9; John 6:27-40

SAT
Job 3:1-26; Acts 9:10-19a; John 6:41-51

9 PRAY THE PRAYER OF THE WEEK

O God, from whom all good proceeds, grant to us, Your humble servants, Your holy inspiration, that we may set our minds on the things that are right and, by Your merciful guiding, accomplish them; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

10 READ INTRODUCTION TO PORTION OF CATECHISM FOR THIS WEEK

Holy Baptism the Third Question “How can water do such great things?” – When others accuse Lutherans of making too much of water in the rite of baptism they fail to understand where we put our trust. Our trust is in God’s Word! When our Lord chooses to combine His Word with some other element, as He so chooses in Baptism and Holy Communion, then the combination of God’s Word with that element becomes powerful. A good account to read is that of Jesus and Nicodemus in John 3. There our Lord Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be “born from above” (referring to the Spiritual birth) in order to see the kingdom of God. Nicodemus in his fallen nature doesn’t have a clue. He takes a stab at what Jesus has said by one possible meaning of what Jesus had just said, that is, that a person must be “born again”. He asks how someone can reenter his mother’s womb and receive a second birth. Jesus clarifies the matter and states that what he was talking about was being born of the water and the Spirit. He explains further, that to be born of water and the Spirit is to be born of the Spirit. It is our Lord’s Word that says this is so. The Apostle Paul will speak of baptism as a washing of the water with the Word (Eph 5:26) and as the washing of regeneration (Tit 3:5). As Christians, we can say, “I am baptized - I am washed - I am God’s own child and an heir of heaven. My confidence in these great gifts is based entirely on God’s Word and promises.”