

Say a prayer, send a card, or give a call

Please Pray For:

Lenora Allert, Shelley Schuerman, ,

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS:

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

The Congregation at Prayer

A Guide for daily Meditation and Prayer for the week of

Baptism of Our Lord

January 10 2020

ORDER OF MEDITATION AND PRAYER

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

R **Amen**

Apostle's Creed

Psalm

Psalm 29; antiphon: v. 3

- ¹Ascribe to the LORD, O heavenly beings,*
ascribe to the LORD glory and strength.
- ²Ascribe to the LORD the glory due his name;*
worship the LORD in the splendor of holiness.
- ³The voice of the LORD is over the waters;*
the God of glory thunders,
the LORD, over many waters.
- ⁴The voice of the LORD is powerful;*
the voice of the LORD is full of majesty.
- ⁵The voice of the LORD breaks the cedars;*
the LORD breaks the cedars of Lebanon.
- ⁶He makes Lebanon to skip like a calf,*
and Sirion like a young wild ox.
- ⁷The voice of the LORD*
flashes forth flames of fire.
- ⁸The voice of the LORD shakes the wilderness;*
the LORD shakes the wilderness of Kadesh.
- ⁹The voice of the LORD makes the deer give birth
and strips the | forests bare,*
and in his temple all cry, "Glory!"
- ¹⁰The LORD sits enthroned over the flood;*
the LORD sits enthroned as king forever.
- ¹¹May the LORD give strength to his people!*
May the LORD bless his people with peace!

THE CATECHISM

The Lord's Prayer

AS THE HEAD OF THE FAMILY SHOULD TEACH IT IN A SIMPLE WAY TO HIS HOUSEHOLD

P: *The Third Petition of the Lord's Prayer* Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. *What does this mean?*

C: **The good and gracious will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.**

P: *How is God's will done?*

C: **God's will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's name or let His kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious will.**

THE READINGS

Sun	Jan 10	Ezekiel 18:1-4, 19-32; Romans 2:17
Mon	Jan 11	Ezekiel 33:1-20; Romans 3:1-18
Tue	Jan 12	Ezekiel 34:1-24; Romans 3:19-31
Wed	Jan 13	Ezekiel 6:13-28; Romans 4:1-25
Thu	Jan 14	Ezekiel 36:33-37:14; Romans 5:1-21
Fri	Jan 15	Ezekiel 37:15-28; Romans 6:1-23
Sat	Jan 16	Ezekiel 38:1-23; Romans 7:1-20

THE PRAYER OF 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.

Blessing

L May the almighty and most merciful God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless and preserve us.

R: Amen

Welcome to Worship! Today we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord, and the readings all carry the images of water and the Spirit. In the Genesis reading, the Spirit of God hovers over the face of the waters. The Gospel is the account of Jesus' baptism where the Spirit descends on Him like a dove. In today's Epistle, Paul speaks of baptism as the power for Christians to walk in Spirit-filled newness of life.

The hymns reflect the same image as well. In the Hymn of the Day, "To Jordan's River Came Our Lord," we sing, "The Holy Spirit, heavenly dove, descended on Him from above." In the Sending Hymn, we sing of the blessings that come from the Holy Spirit being present with the water and the Word. In the Hymn of Invocation, we sing about the completion of our Baptism with water and the Spirit: "Until the day that you possess, the glorious crown of righteousness."

Remove the Holy Spirit from the water of Baptism and reduce Baptism to a believer's commitment to God, and suddenly, uncertainty arises: Was I sincere enough when I was baptized? Did God accept my pledge of faith when I was baptized? Did I even realize what I was getting into, or Who I was getting involved with when I was baptized? The answers to all of those questions are debatable, and ultimately, unknown. But when the Spirit of God is in, with, and under the waters of Baptism, I can safely say, "Even though I may have no recollection of my personal involvement in Baptism, I know that the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of Life, was there with the water, giving me faith and whatever else might be necessary to be baptized." That being the case, I need have no doubts about whether what God has done in Baptism has "worked" in my life. That's God's concern. My regard is to rest in the faith that whatever God does is always dependable and certain!