

*For the week of the Baptism of Our Lord  
January 8<sup>th</sup>, through January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

**Catechesis Notes for the Week — “Absolution Man”** It’s a bird! It’s a plane! It’s, Absolution Man! Okay, perhaps that’s a bit too much. As you all know, I am no super hero. Those who have gotten to know me on personal level know that there’s really not much supper about me. I’m not particularly talented or gifted in anything. I have plenty of struggles. I’m, well, ordinary. But that’s exactly who God places into His Office of the Holy Ministry. Why? Precisely because we *aren’t* superheroes.

Pastors aren’t called to save anyone, and it’s a big problem when they believe they are. Pastors can’t get your children miraculously back in church. He can’t wave his hand and bring the inactive members back into the Body. He can’t reach out and bring in people of the community until our building is busting at the seams. He can’t take away your pain and your sorrow. There is one thing, and one thing only that pastors can do.

Pastors are called to bring people to *the* Savior, and to bring the Savior to the people. That is why a seminary professor would call us “Absolution Man.” He reminded us that God was sending us out among His people in order to proclaim His Word of forgiveness. I am *Absolution Man* because that alone can I deliver. I have no power but to take what is Christ’s and proclaim it to you. I am utterly dependent upon Christ and His Spirit in every aspect of my ministry.

Now, that task requires me to proclaim all of God’s Word, both His Law and Gospel. Sometimes it require me to bring you to repentance first. But, my only power, my only tool, is the Word of God. And yet, that’s the only thing needed, because in the power there is life. When we come and confess our sins before the Almighty and righteous Judge, that is a terrifying thing. And yet, you are able to do it precisely because you know that God has given you someone to stand before you, hear that sin, and forgive it. In that forgiveness you are brought from death to life. In that forgiveness there is salvation. I do not forgive you on my own account, but on His. And there is nothing more powerful in all creation than His forgiveness.

### ***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. 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 51:1-2**

*Have mercy on me, O God, according to your steadfast love; according to your abundant mercy blot out my transgressions. Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin!*

#### **PSALM 29 or the appointed daily psalms**

##### **Prayer on the Psalm**

*Thanks and praise be unto You, our God and Lord, for sending us the Gospel of Your Son, Jesus Christ, in which You teach us the way of salvation and comfort us with the hope of everlasting life. Make Your Word in us a power of salvation, and the anchor of our souls in life and death. Cause also the voice of Your Word to be sounded abroad, that the nations that do not know You may come to Your light. **Amen.***

Daily Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning	80	82, 84	85, 87	88	90	92	94	97, 98
Evening	81	83	86	89	91	93	95, 96	99, 100

## BIBLE READINGS

	Bible Narrative	Second Reading
Sunday	Matthew 3:13-17 <b>Baptism of Our Lord</b>	
Monday	Joseph Becomes the Prince of Egypt—Genesis 41:37-57	John 21:1-25
Tuesday	Joseph's Brothers Journey to Egypt to Buy Food—Genesis 42:1-24	Galatians 1:1-24
Wednesday	Claimed and Tested, Jesus' Baptism and Temptation—Luke 3:15-22; 4:1-13	Galatians 2:1-21
Thursday	Joseph Feeds His Brothers and Sends Them To Their Father—Genesis 42:25-38	Galatians 3:1-22
Friday	Benjamin Returns with His Brothers to Egypt—Genesis 43:1-34	Galatians 3:23-4:11
Saturday	Isaiah 49:1-7	1 Corinthians 1:1-9

## CATECHISM — Confession and Office of the Keys

<b>What is Confession?</b>	K+
Confession has two parts. First, that we confess our sins, and second, that we receive absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in heaven.	
<b>What sins should we confess?</b>	Second Grade+
Before God we should plead guilty of all sins, even those we are not aware of, as we do in the Lord's Prayer; but before the pastor we should confess only those sins which we know and feel in our hearts.	
<b>Which are thee?</b>	Third Grade +
Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?	

## DEVOTION OR MEDITATION

### DAILY PRAYER

Select from among the following prayers as time and circumstances allow:

#### Prayer on the Confession

*Lord Jesus Christ, I give You thanks that my sins are forgiven before Your Father in heaven. By the Holy Spirit, give me grace to trust in Your promises and so live in the freedom and peace that You have won for me in Your death and resurrection. Amen.*

#### Collect 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. Amen.*

### **Daily Themes for Prayer**

- Sunday: For the joy of the resurrection among us; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacrament.*
- Monday: 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.*
- Tuesday: For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing, the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.*
- Wednesday: 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: For the Church and her pastors; for teachers, 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: 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: 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.*

### **In Our Prayers this Week**

**Our Congregation:** *David Ericson; Mark & Teresa Falls; Mary Fehr; Nicolas & Amanda Ferguson; Linda Floyd; Rich & Kay Gerdes; Brad & Michelle Graf, Jori, Reggie, Taylor; Larry & Deb Hanson*

**Baptismal Birthdays:**

**Wedding Anniversaries:** *Louis & Linda Reed*

**The Sick:**

**Friends of our Congregation:**

**Our Circuit:**

*Trinity Lutheran Church, Garnett*

*Zion Lutheran Church, Vassar, Rev. Joshua Woelmer*

**Our District Staff and President,** *Rev. Justin Panzer.*

*Rev. Dan Galchutt, Missions and Stewardship;*

*Jackie Schaefer, Communications Specialist*

**Our Synod and President,** *Rev. Matthew Harrison*

**Our Community:** *City of Ottawa; Ottawa University; Neosho Community*

**Our State and Governor,** *Laura Kelly*

**Our Nation and President,** *Joseph Biden*

## LORD'S PRAYER

### MORNING OR EVENING PRAYER FROM THE CATECHISM

*I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.*

—or—

*I thank You, my heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have kept me this night from all harm and danger; and I pray that You would keep me this day also from sin and every evil, that all my doings and life may please You. For into Your hands I commend myself, my body and soul, and all things. Let Your holy angel be with me, that the evil foe may have no power over me. Amen.*

### HYMN OF THE WEEK

### "To Jordan's River Came Our Lord"

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| 1 To Jordan's river came our Lord,<br>The Christ, whom heav'nly hosts adored,<br>The God from God, the Light from Light,<br>The Lord of glory, pow'r, and might. | 4 Then from God's throne with thund'rous<br>sound Came God's own voice with words<br>profound: "This is My Son," was His decree,<br>"The one I love, who pleases Me." |
| 2 The Savior came to be baptized—<br>The Son of God in flesh disguised—<br>To stand beneath the Father's will<br>And all His righteousness fulfill.              | 5 The Father's word, the Spirit's flight<br>Anointed Christ in glorious sight<br>As God's own choice, from Adam's fall<br>To save the world and free us all.          |
| 3 As Jesus in the Jordan stood<br>And John baptized the Lamb of God,<br>The Holy Spirit, heav'nly dove,<br>Descended on Him from above.                          | 6 Now rise, faint hearts, be resolute;<br>This man is Christ, our substitute!<br>He was baptized in Jordan's stream,<br>Proclaimed Redeemer, Lord supreme.            |

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### Looking Forward to "Baptism of Our Lord"

January 15, 2023

**Service Hymns:** 914, 523, 550, 631, 434, 620, 702, 920

**Readings:** Isaiah 49:1-7 | Psalm 40:1-11 | 1 Corinthians 1:1-9 | John 1:29-42a

"The LORD, the Redeemer of Israel," calls forth "his Holy One" (Is. 49:7), Jesus, the Christ, "from the womb" of His mother (Is. 49:1). The incarnate Son of God is revealed as the Savior, not only for Israel but also "as a light for the nations," whose salvation reaches "to the end of the earth" (Is. 49:6). John came "baptizing with water" (John 1:31) to reveal Jesus as "the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world" (John 1:29), and who glorifies His God and Father by His atoning sacrifice upon the cross. When Jesus was baptized in the waters of the Jordan, the Holy Spirit descended "from heaven like a dove" and "remained on him" (John 1:32). By our Baptism, we are anointed by the same Spirit, adopted by God the Father, and "called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 1:9). Therefore, we "are not lacking in any gift," but we can trust Him who promises to sustain us to the end, "guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 1:7-8).

