The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*for Sexagesima Sunday*

*February 12, 2023*

*Pray and confess aloud 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.*

Catechesis Notes for the week – *Psalm 32—*  “In this psalm we learn what our righteousness is, namely, nothing other than the forgiveness of our sins.… This is also the greatest knowledge and instruction of Christians, that they know how they shall be loosed and liberated from their sins. Works do not do it. The very righteousness of God condemns us. We are incapable of changing this. It stands on this alone: Faith looks to Jesus Christ, who has done enough for us all. He has become our Mediator. This is the knowledge of true Christians that will never pass away. Next to this everything else must be considered less than nothing. Blessed is he who has this knowledge.… Therefore this is an excellent, beautiful psalm of instruction, in which the Christian’s highest teaching and knowledge stands. For even if we were to know everything else—everything that is perishable in heaven and on earth—nevertheless it is not even worth mentioning, if we do not know this: how we may be redeemed from this misery and may become righteous before God, although we are all sinners and under the wrath of God who must be thrust into eternal damnation.” (Nikolaus Selnecker as quoted in  Selderhuis, Herman J. ed *Reformation Commentary on Scripture: Old Testament VII Psalms 1-72* p. 249)

***Invocation*** -In the name of the Father and of the T Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

***Apostle’s Creed***

**Verse:** John 6:35 – Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.”

**Psalm of the Week: Psalm 32**

**Year I – Old Testament Stories Continued**

**Bible Readings for the Week**

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| Sunday | Sexagesima Sunday – Luke 8:4-15 |
| Monday | Bitter Water Made Sweet – Exodus 15:22-27 |
| Tuesday | The Bread from Heaven – Exodus 16:1-35 |
| Wednesday | The Water from the Rock – Exodus 17:1-7 |
| Thursday | The First Battle – Exodus 17:8-16 |
| Friday | The LORD Gives the Ten Commandments – Exodus 20:1-24 (25-26) |
| Saturday | The LORD Makes His Covenant with Israel – Exodus 23:20 – 24:18 |

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| **Catechism: Sacrament of the Altar** | **Grades** |
| *Where is this written?*  The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write | 2nd+ |
| *Words of Institution:*  **Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My body, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”**  **In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”** | K+ |
| *What is the benefit of such eating and drinking?*  “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins, there is also life and salvation. | 1st+ |
| *How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?*  Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: “forgiveness of sins.” | 2nd+ |