The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*for 4th Sunday after Trinity*

*July 2, 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 119: He and Waw – Meditations upon God’s Word – The He section** psalm 119 teaches us that God’s Word “teaches faith” and out of faith comes obedience to walk in the way of the Lord as His disciples. Out of the teaching of God’s Word comes delight in the ways of the Lord. What our eyes “look at” follows either the way of faith or the way of rebellion. So the psalmist prays, “Turn my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way.” In this section, statutes, law, commandments, testimonies, word, judgments, and precepts are the references to God’s Word. Ultimately, we long for His precepts because they revive us in the righteousness of Christ.

**The Waw section** of psalm 119 begins with the assertion that the Lord’s mercies and salvation not only revive the life of a Christian but also gives us the way to defend ourselves against those who attack and persecute us for our faith. God’s Word gives us an answer for those who attack us and the words by which we confess the truth. We love the Lord and His Word because it gives us true freedom. In this section, word, word of truth, ordinances, law precepts, testimonies, commandments, and statutes are the references to God’s Word. Meditation, love, and delight in God’s Word is the cause of true joy for the believer.

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

**Verse:** 1 John 3:16 – By this we know love, because He laid down His life for us. And we also ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

**Apostles’ Creed**

**Psalm of the Week: Psalm 119 He and Waw**

**Year I – New Testament Stories**

**Bible Readings for the Week**

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| Sunday | Trinity 4 Gospel – Luke 6:36-42 |
| Monday | Jesus Blesses the Children – Matthew 19:13-15 |
| Tuesday | The Rich Young Ruler – Matthew 19:16-30 |
| Wednesday | The Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard – Matthew 20:1-16 |
| Thursday | Jesus Predicts His Passion a Third Time – Matthew 20:17-28 |
| Friday | Two Blind Men Receive Their Sight – Matthew 20:29-34 |
| Saturday | Trinity 5 OT – 1 Kings 19:11-21 |

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| **Catechism: Office of the Keys** | **Grades** |
| *What is the Office of the Keys?*  The Office of the Keys is that special authority which Christ has given to His church on earth to forgive the sins of repentant sinners, but to withhold forgiveness from the unrepentant as long as they do not repent. | 1st+ |
| *Where is this written?*  This is what St. John the Evangelist writes in chapter twenty: The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven. [John 20:22-23] | 2nd+ |
| *What do you believe according to these words?*  I believe that when the called ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself. | 3rd+ |