The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*for 8th Sunday after Trinity*

*July 30, 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: Mem and Nun – Meditations on the Word of God – In the Mem section** of Psalm 119, the psalmist boasts of wisdom and understanding, but it is not a wisdom and understanding of his own doing, it is a gift of God’s Word: “Your commandments make me wiser than my enemies…I have more understanding than all my teachers, for Your testimonies are my meditation. I understand more than the ancients because I keep Your precepts.” The Word of God, received in faith and meditated upon throughout one’s life, creates the miracle of godly wisdom and understanding that transcends the most erudite scholar on earth. To God be the glory! This section also speaks of the Word of God as food that is sweeter than honey. In this section, law, commandments, testimonies, precepts, and word are references to God’s Word.

**The Nun section** of Psalm 119 begins with one of the most frequently quoted verses from the entire psalm: “Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” This verse, linked with Jesus’ promise, “I am the way, the truth, and the life” teach us that the pathway of salvation is found only in Christ who comes to us by His Word. It is Christ who revives us when we are afflicted. It is Christ who opens our hearts to give freewill offerings and to confess His name. Though many dangers overtake us and the wicked lay snares to entrap us, the testimonies of the Lord deliver us every day of our lives. In this section, word, judgments, law, precepts, testimonies, and statutes are references to the Word of God.

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

**Verse:** Matthew 5:20 – Unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.

**Apostles’ Creed**

**Psalm of the Week: Psalm 119 Mem and Nun**

**Year I – New Testament Stories**

**Bible Readings for the Week**

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| Sunday | Trinity 8 Gospel – Matthew 7:15-23 |
| Monday | The Parable of the Talents – Matthew 25:14-30 |
| Tuesday | The Second Coming in Judgment – Matthew 25:31-46 |
| Wednesday | The First Disciples – John 1:35-51 |
| Thursday | Jesus’ First Cleansing of the Temple – John 2:13-22 |
| Friday | The Nobleman’s Son is Healed – John 4:43-45; 46-54 |
| Saturday | Trinity 9 OT – 2 Samuel 22:26-34 |

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| **Catechism: Third Article of the Creed** | **Grades** |
| *What is the Third Article of the Creed?*  I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.  Amen | Preschool+ |
| *What does this mean?*  I believe that I cannot by my own reason or strength believe in Jesus Christ, my Lord, or come to Him; but the Holy Spirit has called me by the Gospel, enlightened me with His gifts, sanctified and kept me in the true faith. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith. | 1st+ |
| In this Christian church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true. | 2nd+ |