The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*for 15th Sunday after Trinity*

*September 17, 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 – Bless the Lord, all you servants of the Lord.” How do the servants of the Lord bless the Lord? They faithfully preach His Word. They faithfully call to repentance and proclaim forgiveness. They lift up their hands in the sanctuary, forgiving sin and giving the Lord’s benediction to the congregation of the faithful. Psalm 134 is the final Song of Ascents in the psalter. It was sung by the faithful as they awaited the benediction of the priest. It is as if they were praying for the priests to do their job, to stand by night in the house of the Lord and proclaim His Word. The Lord is “blessed” not by doing something for Him, but by faithfully doing what He has given His priests and pastors to do for the sake of the congregation. It is the same for us today in the New Testament Church. By faithfully preaching the Gospel and administering the sacraments, the servants of the Lord bless the Lord by giving to the congregation what they need to hear and receive. In the Old Testament church, the congregation eagerly waited for the priest to emerge from the Temple, lift up his hands, and pronounce the benediction. In the same way, we pray for our pastors to lift up their hands and “Bless the Lord” by faithfully administering His gifts to us.

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

**Verse:** Psalm 19:1 – The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork.

**Apostles’ Creed**

**Psalm of the Week: Psalm 134**

**Year II – Old Testament Stories**

**Bible Readings for the Week**

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| Sunday | Trinity 15 Gospel – Matthew 6:24-34 |
| Monday | Moses Warns the People Against Rebelling – Deuteronomy 5:32 – 6:25 |
| Tuesday | The Lord Will Raise Up a Prophet Like Moses – Deuteronomy 18:9-22 |
| Wednesday | Moses Dies on Mount Nebo – Deuteronomy 32:48-52; 34:1-12 |
| Thursday | Joshua Takes Moses’ Place and Prepares to Cross the Jordan – Joshua 1:1-18 |
| Friday | Rahab the Harlot Hides the Spies – Joshua 2:1-24 |
| Saturday | Trinity 16 OT – 1 Kings 17:17-24 |

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| **Catechism: The First Article of the Creed** | **Grades** |
| I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. | K+ |
| *What does this mean?*  I believe that God has made me and all creatures; that He has given me my body and soul, eyes, ears, and all my members, my reason and all my senses, and still takes care of them. He also gives me clothing and shoes, food and drink, house and home, wife and children, land, animals, and all I have. | 1st+ |
| He richly and daily provides me with all that I need to support this body and life. He defends me against all danger and guards and protects me from all evil. All this He does only out of fatherly, divine goodness and mercy, without any merit or worthiness in me. For all this it is my duty to thank and praise, serve and obey Him. | 2nd+ |