The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*for 17th Sunday after Trinity*

*October 1, 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 – Luther on Psalm 95 – A Song of Praise to the Rock of Our Salvation – The first seven verses of Psalm 95 has a very familiar place in the church’s regular prayer life in the Venite of the Matins service. Venite means, “Oh come…” and is the call to sing to the LORD who is the Rock of our salvation. In the Scriptures, singing, thanksgiving, a joyful noise, songs of praise, and worship are all actions that confess faith, trust, reliance, and dependence upon the Lord. In Psalm 95, like so many psalms, praising God as the Creator is also linked to confessing and praising Him as our Savior. Psalm 95, like so many psalms, praising God as the Creator is also linked to confessing and praising Him as our Savior. Psalm 95 confesses Him to be the only God, the one who formed the depths of the earth, the heights of the mountains, the sea, and the dry land. The children of Israel sang this song as the people of God’s pasture and the sheep of His hand. The fervent joy of the first portion of the psalm gives way to the warning against unbelief. We are not to harden our hearts against God as the children of Israel in the wilderness. They did not enter His rest because of the impenitence of unbelief. Therefore, let us heed the warning and continue to “sing to the Lord” for He is “the Rock of our salvation.”

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

**Verse:** Genesis 3:15 – I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.

**Apostles’ Creed**

**Psalm of the Week: Psalm 95**

**Year II – Old Testament Stories**

**Bible Readings for the Week**

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| Sunday | Trinity 17 Gospel – Luke 14:1-11 |
| Monday | The Sun and Moon Stand Still – Joshua 10:1-15 (16-28) |
| Tuesday | Joshua’s Farewell Address – Joshua 23:1-4; 24:2-14 |
| Wednesday | The Death of Joshua – Joshua 24:13-31 |
| Thursday | Israel’s Unfaithfulness and the Judges – Judges 2:7-23 |
| Friday | Othniel, Israel’s First Judge – Judges 3:7-11 |
| Saturday | Trinity 18 OT – Deuteronomy 10:12-21 |

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| **Catechism: The Second Article of the Creed** | **Grades** |
| *What is the Second Article of the Creed?*  And in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. The third day He rose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty. From thence He will come to judge the living and the dead. | K+ |
| *What does this mean?*  I believe that Jesus Christ, true God, begotten of the Father from eternity, and also true man, born of the Virgin Mary, is my Lord, who has redeemed me, a lost and condemned person, purchased and won me from all sins, from death, and from the power of the devil; not with gold or silver, but with His holy, precious blood and with His innocent suffering and death | 1st+ |
| That I may be His own and live under Him in His kingdom and serve Him in everlasting righteousness, innocence, and blessedness. Just as He is risen from the dead, lives and reigns to all eternity. This is most certainly true. | 2nd+ |