The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*for Reformation (Observed)*

*October 29, 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 – More than anything else the Reformation is about the freedom of the Gospel – the unhindered proclamation of the forgiveness of sins. Luther had been tormented during his early by teachings that only saw God as an angry judge who punished sinners. Obedience to the Church, to Popes and Councils, to the state, to parents, and to God was the overwhelming teaching that was pounded into the people. Some people actually thought they could be obedient and earn God’s blessing. But others, like Luther, were terrified in conscience because they knew that they were disobedient and could not even come close to the righteousness that God required. “How can I find a gracious God?” This question became the driving force behind the Lutheran Reformation. Freedom from sin came from the Son alone. “If the Son makes you free, you shall be free indeed.” The Word of Jesus offers us a new righteousness – the righteousness of His death for our sins.

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

**Verse:** 1 Corinthians 12:3 – Therefore I want you to understand that no one speaking in the Spirit of God ever says “Jesus is accursed!” and no one can say “Jesus is Lord” except in the Holy Spirit.

**Apostles’ Creed**

**Year II – Old Testament Stories**

**Bible Readings for the Week**

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| Sunday | **Reformation (Observed) Gospel – Matthew 11:12-19** |
| Monday | Ruth Gleans Grain in the Field of Boaz – Ruth 2:1-23 |
| Tuesday | Boaz Decides to Redeem Ruth – Ruth 3:1-18 |
| Wednesday | Boaz Receives the Right of Redemption from the Near Kinsman –  Ruth 4:1-22 |
| Thursday | Hannah Prays for a Son – 1 Samuel 1:1-18 |
| Friday | The Prophet Samuel Is Born – 1 Samuel 1:19-2:2 |
| Saturday | **All Saint’s Day (Observed) First Reading – Revelation 7:9-17** |

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| **Catechism: The Third Article of the Creed** | **Grades** |
| 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 | K+ |
| *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. | 1st+ |
| 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. 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+ |