The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*for Rorate Coeli (Advent 4)*

*December 24, 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 104:1-15 – Psalm of Praise to the Glory of God who Provides Daily Bread –** Everything that we need God provides. This is the fundamental teaching of the First Article of the Creed and the Fourth Petition of the Lord’s Prayer. How often are we assaulted by the temptation NOT to trust in the Lord God who is the Creator and Provider of all things needful AND our Savior from sin. The first portion of Psalm 104 begins as Psalm 103 began, the psalmists own prayer that his soul would bless the Lord because the Lord is great, clothed with honor and majesty, and as the One who orders both the temporal and the spiritual realm. He created the angels. He laid the foundation of the earth. The creation is ordered and sustained by His will. He provides the water to replenish the earth and sustain all of life. He is the One who sends springs of water, gives every beast of the field to drink, and sustains the birds of the air. Reliance, dependence, confidence, and joy in the Lord is the faith to which Psalm 104 calls us. We need this psalm more than ever as our world rejects the ongoing creative and sustaining work of God in His creation in favor of a godless, man-centered, naturalistic worldview. Let us not be afraid. God will provide us with daily bread. Let us pray that we would learn to believe this and to receive all of our daily bread and thanksgiving, for He brings “forth food from the earth, and wine that makes glad the heart of man, oil to make his face shine, and bread which strengthens man’s heart.”

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

**Apostles’ Creed**

**Psalm of the Week: Psalm 104:1-15**

**Year II – Christmas Stories**

**Bible Readings for the Week**

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| Sunday | Rorate Coeli Gospel – John 1:19-28 |
| Monday | **Christmas Day – Luke 2:1-7** |
| Tuesday | **St. Stephen, Martyr – Actus 6:8-7:2a, 7:51-60** |
| Wednesday | **St. John, Apostle and Evangelist – John 21:20-25** |
| Thursday | **The Holy Innocents, Martyrs – Matthew 2:13-28** |
| Friday | The Birth of Christ Announced to Shepherds – Luke 2:8-14 |
| Saturday | The Shepherds Visit Bethlehem – Luke 2:15-20 |

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| **Catechism: 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 Mar, 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+ |