The Congregation at Prayer

*A Guide for Daily Meditation and Prayer*

*for Quinquagesima*

*February 11, 2024*

*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 107:33-43 – A Meditation on How the Lord Governs Creation –** This secular atheistic humanism of our day teaches us that man is powerful enough to control “mother nature” and to manipulate the planet in such a way as to control the weather and to stop hurricanes, drought, heatwaves, and floods. This is not only a lie, but a confession of the idolatry of a new kind of paganism, wherein modern man has almost a “religious belief” that he can control the planet and prevent the world from its inevitable destruction. Against this backdrop, the conclusion of Psalm 107 invites us to confess that the Lord is both God and the Creator and Sustainer of this world. When “natural disasters” happen, according to the psalmist, it is the Lord who is in charge but for His own purposes that often confound and contradict human reason. Psalm 107 invites us to trust in the Lord as Creator and Savior of His people and to rely upon Him when we struggle under the curse of the fall and the distress this brings upon the earth: “He turns rivers into a wilderness, and watersprings into dry ground; a fruitful land into barrenness, for the wickedness of those who dwell in it. He turns a wilderness into pools of water, and dry land into watersprings. There He makes the hungry dwell…” Let us humbly exercise the dominion God has entrusted to mankind at creation but let us never think that we can play God. Many things are beyond our control. As Christians, we are called to trust in the Lord above all things. The curse of the fall exists for a reason. The sweat, toil, and suffering are sent by God as an instrument through which, by the Word of truth, we are called to repentance and faith in Christ alone for life and salvation.

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

**Verse:** John 6:51 – I am the living bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever. And the bread that I will give for the life of the world is my flesh.

**Apostles’ Creed**

**Psalm of the Week: Psalm 107:33-43**

**Year II – Catechism Stories**

**Bible Readings for the Week**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Sunday | Quinquagesima Gospel – Luke 18:31-43 |
| Monday | The Bread from Heaven – Exodus 16:1-15, 31 |
| Tuesday | Water from the Rock – Exodus 17:1-7 |
| Wednesday | **Ash Wednesday – Matthew 6:1-6, 16-21** |
| Thursday | The Golden Calf – Exodus 32:1-20 |
| Friday | Touching the Hem of His Garment – Luke 8:40-56 |
| Saturday | Invocabit OT – Matthew 4:1-11 |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Catechism: Sacrament of the Alter** | **Grades** |
| *Where is this written?*  The holy Evangelists Matthew, Mark, Luke, and St. Paul write | 2nd+ |
| *Words of Institution:*  **Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the night when He was betrayed, took bread, and when He had given thanks, He broke it and gave it to the disciples and said: “Take, eat; this is My bod, which is given for you. This do in remembrance of Me.”**  **In the same way also He took the cup after supper, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them saying, “Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in My blood, which is shed for you for the forgiveness of sins. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”** | K+ |
| *What is the benefit of such eating and drinking?*  “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins,” show us that in the Sacrament forgiveness of sins, life, and salvation are given us through these words. For where there is forgiveness of sins there is also life and salvation. | 1st+ |
| *How can bodily eating and drinking do such great things?*  Certainly not just eating and drinking do these things, but the words written here: “Given and shed for you for the forgiveness of sins.” These words, along with the bodily eating and drinking, are the main thing in the Sacrament. Whoever believes these words has exactly what they say: “forgiveness of sins.” | 2nd+ |