

Commemoration of St. Nicholas of Myra, Bishop**Tuesday, 6 December**

Of the many saints commemorated by the Christian Church, St. Nicholas (died A.D. 342) is one of the most familiar. Though very little is known historically of him, there was a church of Saint Nicholas in Constantinople as early as the sixth century. Research has affirmed that there was a bishop by the name of Nicholas in the city of Myra in Lycia (part of Turkey today) in the fourth century. From that coastal location, legends about Nicholas have traveled across the globe. He is associated with charitable giving in many countries around the world and is portrayed as the rescuer of sailors, the protector of children, and the friend of people in distress or need. In commemoration of "Sinte Klaas" (Dutch for Saint Nicholas, in English "Santa Claus"), the 6th of December is a day for giving and receiving gifts in many parts of Europe.

Commemoration of St. Ambrose of Milan, Bishop**Wednesday, 7 December**

Born in Trier in A.D. 340, Ambrose is remembered as one of the four great Latin Doctors of the Church (with Augustine, Jerome, and Gregory the Great). He was a prolific author of hymns, the most renown of which is Veni, Redemptor gentium ("Savior of the Nations, Come"). His name is also associated with Ambrosian Chant, the style of chanting the ancient liturgy that took hold in the province of Milan. While serving as a civil governor, Ambrose sought to bring peace among Christians in Milan who were divided into quarreling factions. When a new bishop was to be elected in 374, Ambrose addressed the crowd, and someone cried out, "Ambrose, bishop!" The entire gathering gave their support. This acclaim of Ambrose, a 34-year-old catechumen, led to his Baptism on 7 December, after which he was consecrated as the new Bishop of Milan. A strong defender of the faith, Ambrose convinced the Roman emperor Gratian in 379 to forbid the Arian heresy in the West. At Ambrose's urging, Gratian's successor, Theodosius, also publicly opposed Arianism. Ambrose died on Good Friday, 4 April 397. As a courageous doctor and musician he upheld the truth of God's Word.

Looking forward to the Third Sunday in Advent**11 December 2016****Hymns:**

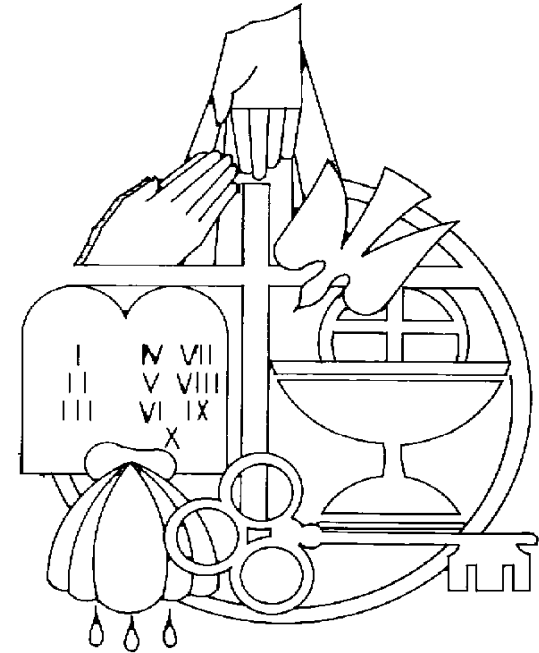
- LSB #334 O Lord, How Shall I Meet You
- LSB #345 Hark! A Thrilling Voice Is Sounding
- LSB #355 O Savior, Rend the Heavens Wide
- LSB #515 Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers
- LSB #849 Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness

Isaiah 35:1–10: *The coming of the Lord, our Savior, will restore the fortunes of Zion (His holy Church), so that "sorrow and sighing will flee away," to be replaced by rejoicing in the comfort and salvation of our God.*

James 5:7–11: *After the example of Job and the Old Testament Prophets, we are encouraged to be patient as we await the coming of the Lord (which is near); so also, in our dealings with one another, we are to live as those under the Lord.*

St. Matthew 11:2–15: *The Lord Jesus Christ is indeed the "Expected One," who comes with the saving Word of His Gospel. He and His salvation are offensive to the world, however, because they come with the Cross and suffering; only by His Word and Holy Spirit are we blessed to see and receive Him as our Lord.*

Emmaus Evangelical Lutheran Church

929 East Milton Street, South Bend • (574) 287-4151 • emmaus24.org**Rev. Dr. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor****Rev. David A. Seyboldt, Assistant Pastor****✚ DAILY CATECHESIS ON THE WAY ✚****TO AND FROM EMMAUS WITH JESUS****✚ THE SECOND WEEK IN ADVENT TIDE ✚**

"They were continually devoting themselves to the Apostolic Doctrine and to the Communion, to the Breaking of the Bread, and to the Prayers."
(Acts of the Apostles 2:42)

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[*The Daily Morning or Evening Prayer, the Benedicamus, and the Benediction*]:

(Morning): We thank You, Lord God, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept us this night from all harm and danger; and we pray that You would keep us this day also from sin and every evil, that all our doings and life may please You; for into Your hands we commend ourselves, our bodies and souls and all things; let Your holy Angel be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us. Amen.

(Evening): We thank You, Lord God, heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ, Your dear Son, that You have graciously kept us this day from all harm and danger; and we pray that You would forgive us all our sins, wherever we have done wrong, and graciously keep us this night; for into Your hands we commend ourselves, our bodies and souls and all things; let Your holy Angel be with us, that the wicked foe may have no power over us. Amen.

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the Love of God and the Communion of the Holy Spirit ☩ be with us all.

Amen.

Then, if it is in the morning, go joyfully to your work, according to your vocations in life, in faith toward God and in love toward your neighbor; or, if it is at the close of the day, go to sleep at once and in good cheer.

Commemoration of St. John of Damascus

Sunday, 4 December

John (ca. 675–749) is known as the great compiler and summarizer of the orthodox faith and the last great Greek theologian. Born in Damascus, John gave up an influential position in the Islamic court to devote himself to the Christian faith. Around 716 he entered a monastery outside of Jerusalem and was ordained a priest. When the Byzantine emperor Leo the Isaurian in 726 issued a decree forbidding images (icons), John forcefully resisted. In his Apostolic Discourses he argued for the legitimacy of the veneration of icons, which earned him the condemnation of the Iconoclast Council in 754. His defense of icons was later vindicated by the Seventh Ecumenical Council that met in Nicaea in 787. John also wrote defenses of the orthodox faith against contemporary heresies. In addition, he was a gifted hymnwriter (consider, e.g., his great Easter hymn, “Come, You Faithful, Raise the Strain”), and he contributed to the liturgy of the Byzantine churches. His greatest work was the Fount of Wisdom, a massive compendium of truth from previous Christian theologians, covering practically every conceivable doctrinal topic. John’s summary of the orthodox faith left a lasting stamp on both the Eastern and Western churches.

Our Father Who art in heaven. Hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For Thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever & ever. Amen.

[The Collect of the Week, Intercessions for each day of the week, and Special Petitions]:

Collect for the Second Week in Advent Tide:

Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of Your only-begotten Son, that by His coming we may be enabled to serve You with pure minds; through the same Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (Amen)

Daily Themes for Intercessory Prayer:

- Sunday:** *For the joy of the Resurrection; for the faithful preaching and hearing of God's Word; for the fruit of faith nourished by the Word and Sacraments.*
- Monday:** *For faith to live in the promises of Holy Baptism; for vocations and daily work; for the unemployed; for the salvation and well-being of our neighbors; for Resurrection Lutheran Academy and other schools, our home schools, our colleges and seminaries; for good government and peace.*
- Tuesday:** *For deliverance against temptation and evil; for the addicted and despairing; for the tortured and oppressed; for those struggling with sin.*
- Wednesday:** *For marriage and family, that husbands and wives, parents and children live in ordered harmony according to the Word of God; for parents who must rear their children alone; for our communities and neighborhoods.*
- Thursday:** *For the Church and her pastors; for missionaries, teachers, deaconesses, and other servants of Christ and His Church; for the fruitful and salutary use of the blessed Sacrament of the Lord's Body and Blood.*
- Friday:** *For the preaching of the holy cross of our Lord Jesus Christ; for its spread throughout the whole world; for the persecuted; for the sick and dying.*
- Saturday:** *For faithfulness to the end; for the renewal of those who are withering in the faith or have fallen away; for pastors as they prepare to administer Christ's holy gifts; for receptive hearts and minds on the Lord's Day.*

In our Prayers this Week at Emmaus:

Herta Johnston and family, as they mourn the death of her husband Robert;

Pr. Stuckwisch and his colleagues as he meets with the other circuit pastors on Tuesday, and as he meets with the District board of directors on Thursday.

The Second Week in Advent Tide

4-10 December 2016

This Week in the Church Year

The preaching and Baptism of St. John the Baptist—unto repentance and the forgiveness of sin—is the necessary preparation for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. These are the means whereby the Lord Himself prepares those whom He comes to save to receive Him in faith. Although the historic work of St. John the Baptist was completed with the first Advent of our Lord Jesus in the flesh, the ministry of the Forerunner continues in the preaching of the Law and the Gospel and in the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. These means of grace call you to receive the coming Lord Jesus in repentance and true faith.

Emphasis: You Are Prepared through Repentance for the Lord

The Order of Daily Catechesis in Word and Prayer

Pray and confess out loud as much from the order of daily catechesis as you and your family are able. Learn by heart the verse, catechism, and hymn of the week.

[The Opening Versicles and Psalmody]:

O Lord, open my lips. And my mouth will declare Your praise.

Make haste, O God, to deliver me. Make haste to help me, O Lord.

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Psalm 72:1–7 (and/or one or more of the appointed Psalms listed below)

Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<i>Morning</i>	24, 150	122, 145	33, 146	50, 147:1–12	18:1–20; 147:13–21	102, 148	90, 149
<i>Evening</i>	25, 110	40, 67	84, 94	53, 17	126, 62	130, 16	80, 72

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

The Verse: St. Luke 3:4, 6c

Make ready the way of the Lord, make His paths straight.
And all flesh will see the salvation of God.

Readings for the Second Week in Advent Tide:

Sunday, 4 December 2016 (St. John of Damascus, Theologian & Hymnwriter)

Isaiah 10:12–27a, 33–34; 2 Peter 1:1–21

Monday, 5 December 2016

Isaiah 11:1—12:6; 2 Peter 2:1–22

Tuesday, 6 December 2016 (St. Nicholas of Myra, Bishop)

Isaiah 14:1–23; 2 Peter 3:1–18

Wednesday, 7 December 2016 (St. Ambrose of Milan, Bishop & Hymnwriter)

Isaiah 24:1–13; 1 John 1:1—2:14

Thursday, 8 December 2016

Isaiah 24:14—25:12; 1 John 2:15–29

Friday, 9 December 2016

Isaiah 26:1–19; 1 John 3:1–24

Saturday, 10 December 2016

Isaiah 26:20—27:13; 1 John 4:1–21

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

The Catechism: The Third Article of the Creed (Part I)

What is the Third Article of the Creed?

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.

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.

The Hymns of the Week

“ON JORDAN’S BANK THE BAPTIST’S CRY”

LSB #344

[Daily Prayer: Invocation, Apostles’ Creed, Kyrie Eleison, and the Our Father]:

In the Name ☩ of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

I believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. 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. 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.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.