

The Feast of St. Mark, the Evangelist

Wednesday, 25 April

St. Mark was the author of the second Gospel, which he composed, according to some early Church Fathers, when the Christians in Rome asked him to write down the preaching of the Apostle Peter. Mark, also known as John Mark, was originally from Jerusalem, where the house of his mother Mary was the center of the early Jerusalem Church (Acts 12:12). He was brought from Jerusalem by Paul and Barnabas to Antioch (12:25) before setting out with them on the first missionary journey. When Paul and Barnabas were preparing to go on the second missionary journey, Barnabas wanted to take Mark with them again, but Paul objected because Mark had left them during the first journey. Barnabas took Mark and went to Cyprus, while Paul took Silas as his new companion (15:37–40). Later on Paul reconciled with Mark and was working with him again (Colossians 4:10; Philemon 24; 2 Timothy 4:11). Finally, Mark was found laboring with Peter in Rome (1 Peter 5:13). Tradition says that Mark was instrumental in founding the Church in Alexandria and became its first bishop, and also that he suffered a martyr's death.

Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well shall fare.

Looking forward to the Fifth Sunday of Easter

29 April 2018

Hymns:

LSB #466 Christ Has Arisen, Alleluia
LSB #540 Christ, the Word of God Incarnate
LSB #633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing
LSB #693 O Holy Spirit, Grant Us Grace
LSB #716 I Walk in Danger All the Way
LSB #768 To God the Holy Spirit Let Us Pray
LSB #822 Alleluia! Let Praises Ring
LSB #919 Abide, O Dearest Jesus

Acts 8:26–40: *By the Word and Spirit of God, the deacon Philip catechizes the Ethiopian eunuch on the way — preaching Jesus to him, opening his heart and mind to understand the fulfillment of the Prophet Isaiah in the Cross of Christ, and baptizing him in the name and holy faith of Jesus Christ, the Son of God.*

1 John 4:1–21: *God is Love, and He has manifested Himself to us in the gift of the incarnate Son, Christ Jesus, who loved us and gave Himself for us, that we might live through Him. By the gift of His Holy Spirit, through the preaching of His Gospel, we believe and confess that He has (and does) come in the flesh. So do we abide in the Holy Triune God, and He in us; and we love one another.*

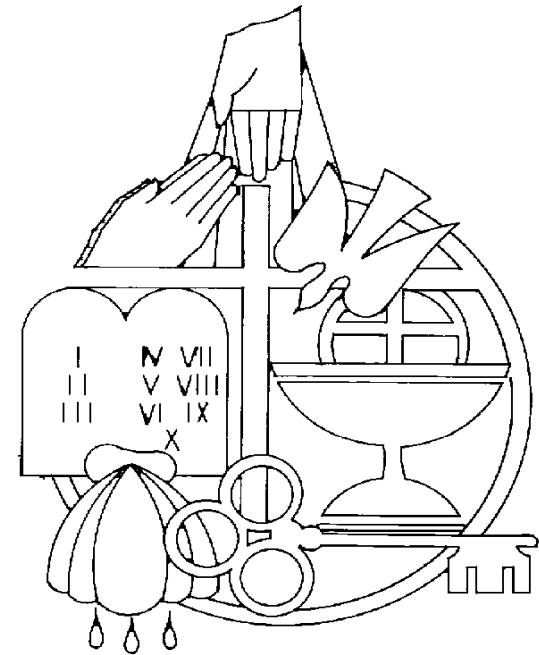
St. John 15:1–8: *Christ is the Vine, and we are the branches. By His Word and Holy Spirit we abide in Him, and He produces in us the fruits of faith and love.*

Emmaus Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Rev. Dr. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor

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✙ DAILY CATECHESIS ON THE WAY ✙

TO AND FROM EMMAUS WITH JESUS

✙ THE FOURTH WEEK OF EASTERTIDE ✙

“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 Johann Walter, Lutheran Kantor

Tuesday, 24 April

Johann Walter (1496-1570) began service at the age of 21 as a composer and bass singer in the court chapel of Frederick the Wise. In 1524, he published a collection of hymns arranged according to the church year. It was well received and served as the model for numerous subsequent hymnals. In addition to serving for 30 years as kantor (church musician) in the cities of Torgau and Dresden, he also assisted Martin Luther in the preparation of the Deutsche Messe (1526). Walter is remembered as the first Lutheran kantor and composer of church music.

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

(Wednesday, 25 April): Collect for the Feast of St. Mark, the Evangelist:

Almighty God, You have enriched Your Church with the proclamation of the Gospel through the Evangelist Mark. Grant that we may firmly believe these glad tidings and daily walk according to Your Word; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (Amen)

Collect for the Fourth Week of Eastertide:

Almighty God, merciful Father, since You have wakened from death the Shepherd of Your sheep, grant us Your Holy Spirit that, when we hear the voice of our Shepherd, we may know Him who calls us each by name and follow where He leads; through the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, 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:

Betty Saenz, recovering from a broken foot following a recent fall; and

Rev. Don Stuckwisch, Sr. (Pastor's father), in rehab recovering his strength.

The Fourth Week of Eastertide

22–28 April 2018

This Week in the Church Year

The Fourth Sunday of Easter, commonly known as “Good Shepherd Sunday,” focuses on the love and care of our great Good Shepherd, Jesus Christ, for His dear sheep. In His divine love for us, He has laid down His life for the sheep, that we might have life in Him: and that more abundantly. He continues to serve and care for us as our Shepherd by His Ministry of the Gospel: with the quiet waters of Holy Baptism, with His Voice of Holy Absolution, with the green pastures of His Word, and with the Table of His Body and His Blood, which He lavishly spreads before us in the presence of our enemies, while His Cup of Salvation overflows with His Blood of the New Testament, poured out for us.

Emphasis: Jesus, the Good Shepherd, Lays Down His Life for the Sheep

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 23 (and/or one or more of the appointed daily Psalms listed below)

Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Morning	93, 150	97, 145	98, 146	92, 99, 147:1–11	47, 147:12–20	96, 148	92, 149
Evening	136, 117	124, 115	66, 116	146, 8, 118	68, 113	50, 138	78, 114

**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. John 10:14

(Jesus said): “I Am the Good Shepherd,
and I know My own and My own know Me.”

Readings for the Fourth Week of Eastertide:

Sunday, 22 April 2018

Leviticus 8:1–13, 30–36; St. Luke 9:1–17

Monday, 23 April 2018

Leviticus 9:1–24; St. Luke 9:18–36

Tuesday, 24 April 2018 (Johann Walter, Lutheran Kantor)

Leviticus 10:1–20; St. Luke 9:37–62

Wednesday, 25 April 2018 (The Feast of St. Mark, the Evangelist)

Leviticus 16:1–24; St. Luke 10:1–22

(Isaiah 52:7–10; 2 Timothy 4:6–18; and St. Mark 16:14–20)

Thursday, 26 April 2018

Leviticus 17:1–16; St. Luke 10:23–42

Friday, 27 April 2018

Leviticus 18:1–7, 18:20—19:8; St. Luke 11:1–13

Saturday, 28 April 2018

Leviticus 19:9–18, 26–37; St. Luke 11:14–36

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

The Catechism: The Office of the Keys, Part III

What do you believe according to these words (St. John 20:22–23)?

I believe that when the Called Ministers of Christ deal with us by His divine command, in particular when they exclude openly unrepentant sinners from the Christian congregation and absolve those who repent of their sins and want to do better, this is just as valid and certain, even in heaven, as if Christ our dear Lord dealt with us Himself.

The Hymn of the Week

“O LITTLE FLOCK, FEAR NOT THE FOE”

LSB #666

[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.

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.