

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.

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

The Annunciation of Our Lord

Monday, 25 March

The Archangel Gabriel appears to the Blessed Virgin Mary in Nazareth six months after her elder cousin, St. Elizabeth, conceived St. John the Baptist in her womb (Luke 1:26–38). Gabriel tells Mary that God has shown her favor, and she will give birth to the Messiah. So it is that St. Mary conceives the Son of God, who shall be called Jesus, incarnate in her womb, when the angel speaks the Word of the Lord: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you” (Luke 1:35). The same Spirit who hovered over the waters and brought forth creation (Gen 1:2) will now “hover over” the waters of Mary’s womb to conceive the creation’s Redeemer. As the Holy Spirit comes upon Mary, she conceives Jesus “through her ear” (Luther). The One who is conceived is the Holy One, the Son of God. This is the moment of the Incarnation of our Lord. The date of the Annunciation falls on March 25th, because in the ancient Church this was the day they believed the Crucifixion occurred. In antiquity people linked the day of a person’s conception with the day of his or her death. Thus, in the Annunciation the Church joined together both the Incarnation of Jesus and the Atonement He accomplished. Falling in Holy Week this year, the Divine Service for the Annunciation is moved to after the Easter Octave – this year, April 8.

Looking forward to the Resurrection of Our Lord

31 March 2024

Hymns:

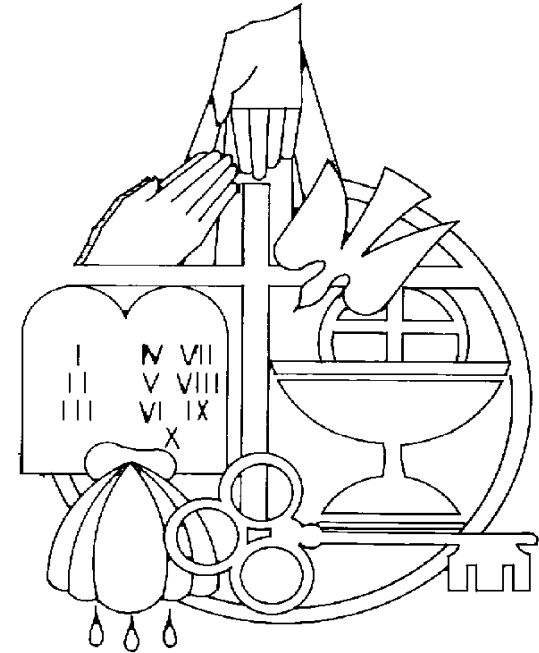
*LSB #457; LSB #460; LSB #458; LSB #473; LSB #155; LSB #469; LSB #633;
LSB #467; LSB #489; LSB #464; LSB #465*

Job 19:23–27; I Corinthians 5:7–8; St. Mark 16:1–8

Emmaus Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Rev. Ronald Stephens, Pastor **Rev. Dr. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor**

Rev. David A. Seyboldt, Assistant Pastor



☩ DAILY CATECHESIS ON THE WAY ☩

TO AND FROM EMMAUS WITH JESUS

☩ HOLY WEEK ANNO DOMINI 2024 ☩

“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 Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord

VI. The Third Use of the Law

STATUS CONTROVERSIAE: The Principal Question In This Controversy.

Since the Law was given to men for three reasons: first, that thereby outward discipline might be maintained against wild, disobedient men [and that wild and intractable men might be restrained, as though by certain bars]; secondly, that men thereby may be led to the knowledge of their sins; thirdly, that after they are regenerate and [much off] the flesh notwithstanding cleaves to them, they might on this account have a fixed rule according to which they are to regulate and direct their whole life, a dissension has occurred between some few theologians concerning the third use of the Law, namely, whether it is to be urged or not upon regenerate Christians. The one side has said, Yea: the other, Nay.

Affirmative Theses: The True Christian Doctrine concerning This Controversy.

1. We believe, teach, and confess that, although men truly believing [in Christ] and truly converted to God have been freed and exempted from the curse and coercion of the Law, they nevertheless are not on this account without Law, but have been redeemed by the Son of God in order that they should exercise themselves in it day and night [that they should meditate upon God's Law day and night, and constantly exercise themselves in its observance, Ps. 1:2 J, Ps. 119. For even our first parents before the Fall did not live without Law, who had the Law of God written also into their hearts, because they were created in the image of God, Gen. 1:26f.; 2:16ff; 3:3.

2. We believe, teach, and confess that the preaching of the Law is to be urged with diligence, not only upon the unbelieving and impenitent, but also upon true believers, who are truly converted, regenerate, and justified by faith.

3. For although they are regenerate and renewed in the spirit of their mind, yet in the present life this regeneration and renewal is not complete, but only begun, and believers are, by the spirit of their mind, in a constant struggle against the flesh, that is, against the corrupt nature and disposition which cleaves to us unto death. On account of this old Adam, which still inheres in the understanding, the will, and all the powers of man, it is needful that the Law of the Lord always shine before them, in order that they may not from human devotion institute wanton and self-elected cults [that they may frame nothing in a matter of religion from the desire of private devotion, and may not choose divine services not instituted by God's Word]; likewise, that the old Adam also may not employ his own will, but may be subdued against his will, not only by the admonition and threatening of the Law, but also by punishments and blows, so that he may follow and surrender himself captive to the Spirit, 1 Cor. 9:27; Rom. 6:12; Gal. 6:14; Ps. 119:1ff; Heb. 13:21 (Heb. 12:1).

- 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:

Zachariah Franck, son of Rev. Rob & Gayle Franck, that the Lord would continue to hold him and his family in His abiding mercy; and

Eric & Joanna Stinnett and family, LCMS missionaries to Ethiopia, as Joanna must return to the US for emergency medical care; and

Hannah Stuckwisch, Cecilia Stuckwisch, Rachel James, Emily Demarest, and all expectant mothers, their husbands and families, and their unborn children.

[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.

Passion and intercession of Your only-begotten Son; who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *(Amen)*

Collect for Holy Tuesday:

Almighty and Everlasting God, grant us grace so to pass through this holy time of our Lord's Passion that we may obtain the pardon of our sins; 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)*

Collect for Holy Wednesday:

We beseech You, Almighty God, mercifully to look upon Your people, that by Your great goodness they may be governed and preserved evermore both in body and soul; 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 Maundy Thursday:

O Lord God, who has left unto us in a wonderful Sacrament a memorial of Your Passion, grant, we beseech You, that we may so use this Sacrament of Your Body and Blood that the fruits of Your redemption may continually be manifest in us; You who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *(Amen)*

Collect for Good Friday:

Almighty God, we beseech Thee graciously to behold this, Thy family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ was content to be betrayed and given up into the hands of wicked men, and to suffer death upon the Cross; through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with Thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *(Amen)*

Collect for Holy Saturday:

We give thanks to You, O Lord, that through death Your blessed Son has destroyed the power of death and delivered us who are subject to lifelong bondage through the fear of death, grant, we beseech You, comfort us by His precious merit and assist us in our last hour by Your grace; 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.*

The Holy Week of Our Lord's Passion

24 – 30 March 2024

This Week in the Church Year

The divine irony and paradox of “Palm Sunday” and the Passion of our Lord, is not so much the fickle turn of public opinion (from ‘Hosanna!’ to ‘Crucify Him, Crucify Him!’), but, rather, that Jesus comes as our King to save us now precisely by His Crucifixion. King David’s royal Son, the Lord’s Anointed, ascends His throne and reigns in triumph from the tree of the Cross! There the Love of God is most fully and completely manifested for the salvation of us poor sinners by His grace and mercy alone. His presence and power to save in that way — by His Holy Passion — is the height of His divine glory.

Emphasis: The Cross & Passion of Our Lord Are the Hour of His Glory

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.

Psalm 73

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

<i>Psalms</i>	<i>Sunday</i>	<i>Monday</i>	<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>Thursday</i>	<i>Friday</i>	<i>Saturday</i>
<i>Morning</i>	24, 84, 150	31, 145, 119:73–80	42, 34, 146	56, 5, 147:1–11	116, 38, 147:12–20	38, 22, 148	88, 43, 149
<i>Evening</i>	31, 42, 32	36, 121, 6	71, 25, 91	70, 27, 51	126, 102	107, 130	16, 143

The Verse: Isaiah 53:12

He shall divide the spoil with the strong, because He poured out His soul to death and bore the sin of many.

Readings for Holy Week:

Palm Sunday, 24 March 2024

Exodus 8:1–32; Hebrews 1:1–14

Holy Monday, 25 March 2024 *(The Annunciation of Our Lord)*

Exodus 9:1–28; Hebrews 2:1–18

(Isaiah 50:5–10; St. Mark 14:1–15:46)

Holy Tuesday, 26 March 2024

Exodus 9:29—10:20; Hebrews 3:1–19

(Jeremiah 11:18–20; St. John 12:1–36)

Holy Wednesday, 27 March 2024

Exodus 10:21—11:10; Hebrews 4:1–16

(Isaiah 62:11b, 63:1–5, 7a; St. Luke 22:1–22:53)

Maundy Thursday, 28 March 2024

Exodus 12:1–28; Hebrews 5:1–14

(Exodus 24:3–11; I Corinthians 11:20–32; St. John 13:1–15)

Good Friday, 29 March 2024

Exodus 12:29–32; 13:1–16; Hebrews 6:1–20

(Hosea 5:15b–6:6; Exodus 12:1–11; St. John 18:1–19:42)

Holy Saturday, 30 March 2024

Exodus 13:17—14:9; Hebrews 7:1–22

(Various OT prophecies; Colossians 3:1–4; St. Matthew 28:1–10)

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

The Catechism: Confession & Holy Absolution

What is Confession?

Confession has two parts: First, that we confess our sins; and Second, that we receive Absolution, that is, forgiveness, from the Pastor as from God Himself, not doubting, but firmly believing that by it our sins are forgiven before God in Heaven.

The Hymn of the Week

“A LAMB GOES UNCOMPLAINING FORTH”

LSB #438

[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.

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

Collect for Palm Sunday:

Almighty and Everlasting God, who has sent Your Son, our Savior Jesus Christ, to take upon Him our flesh and to suffer death upon the Cross that all mankind should follow the example of His great humility, mercifully grant that we may both follow the example of His patience and also be made partakers of His resurrection; 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)

Collect for Holy Monday:

Grant, we beseech You, Almighty God, that we, who amid so many adversities do fail through our own infirmities, may be restored through the