

leadership among the Babylonians (Dan. 2:48–49; 3:30; 6:28). To Daniel in particular the Lord revealed the interpretation of dreams and signs that were given to King Nebuchadnezzar and King Belshazzar (Daniel 2, 4, 5). And to Daniel himself the Lord gave visions of the end times.

The Ember Days

Wednesday, Friday, & Saturday, 18, 20, 21 December

The Ember Days occur four times throughout the year. The name comes from a corruption of the Latin word *tempora*, meaning they were timed days. Originally connected to agriculture, the days were meant to consider each season and the graces needed from God for life. They still have that character but have taken a more spiritual turn. Now they focus more on the graces needed from God for eternal life and as such are days of repentance. The Ember Days are marked as the Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday following Gaudete (the third Sunday of Advent), Invocavit (the first Sunday in Lent), Pentecost, and the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross (September 14). The Saturday Ember Days typically contain up to five prophecies, each with a Collect. The Ember Saturday of Pentecost was traditionally the day for the ordination of men into the Office of the Holy Ministry.

Commemoration of Adam & Eve

Thursday, 19 December

Adam was the first man, made in the image of God and given dominion over all the earth (Gen. 1:26). Eve was the first woman, formed from one of Adam's ribs to be his companion and helper (Gen. 2:18–24). God placed them in the Garden of Eden to take care of the creation as His representatives. But they forsook God's Word and plunged the world into sin (Gen. 3:1–7). For this disobedience God drove them from the Garden. Eve had to suffer the pain of childbirth and be subject to Adam; Adam had to toil amid thorns and thistles and return to the dust of the ground. Yet God promised that the Woman's Seed would crush the serpent's head (Gen. 3:8–19). Sin had entered God's perfect creation and changed it until God would restore it again through Christ. Eve is the Mother of all living (Gen. 3:20), while Adam embodies all of fallen humanity, as St. Paul writes, "For in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive" (1 Cor. 15:22).

Commemoration of Katharina von Bora Luther

Friday, 20 December

Katharina von Bora (1499–1552) was placed in a convent when still a child and became a nun in 1515. In April 1523 she and eight other nuns were rescued from the convent and brought to Wittenberg. There Martin Luther helped return some to their former homes and placed the rest in good families. Katharina and Martin were married on 13 June 1525. Their marriage was a happy one and blessed with six children. Katharina skillfully managed the Luther household, which always seemed to grow because of his generous hospitality. After Luther's death in 1546, Katharina remained in Wittenberg but lived much of the time in poverty. She died in an accident while traveling with her children to Torgau in order to escape the plague.

The Feast of St. Thomas, the Apostle

Saturday, 21 December

All four Gospels mention St. Thomas as one of the twelve Disciples. St. John's Gospel, which names him "the Twin," utilizes Thomas' questions to reveal truths about Jesus. It is Thomas who said, "Lord, we do not know where You are going. How can we know the way?" To this question Jesus replied, "I Am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life" (John 14:1–7). St. John's Gospel also tells how Thomas, on the evening of the day of Jesus' Resurrection, doubted the Disciples' report. Later, "doubting Thomas" was blessed to become "believing Thomas," confessing Jesus as "my Lord and my God" (St. John 20:24–29). According to tradition, Thomas traveled eastward after Pentecost, eventually reaching India, where to this day there are people who call themselves "Christians of St. Thomas." Thomas was martyred for the faith by being speared to death.

Looking forward to *Rorate Coeli* (Advent IV)

22 December 2024

Hymns:

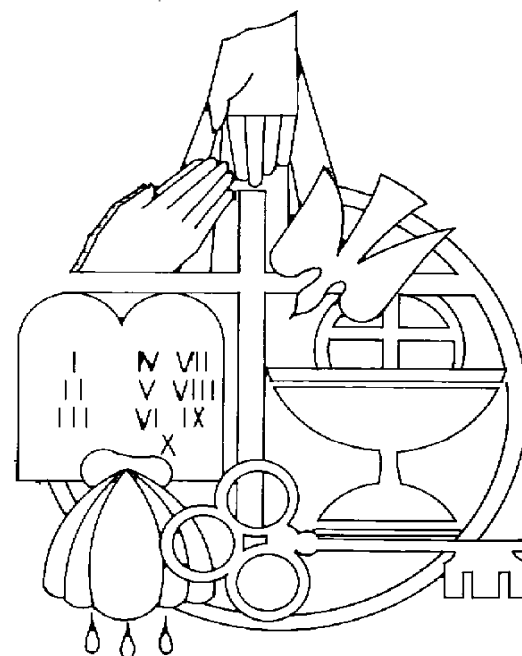
LSB #334; LSB #347; LSB #355; LSB #331; LSB #335; LSB #332; LSB #350

Deuteronomy 18:15–19; Philippians 4:4–7; St. John 1:19–28

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

✚ THE THIRD WEEK OF ADVENT ✚

"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)

✚ ✚ ✚

The Solid Declaration of the Formula of Concord

VIII. The Person of Christ (continued...)

By no means, however, do we believe, teach, and confess such an infusion of the majesty of God and of all its properties into the human nature of Christ by which the divine nature is weakened [by which anything of the divine nature departs], or anything of its own is surrendered to another that it does not retain for itself, or that the human nature in its substance and essence should have received equal majesty, separate or distinct from the nature and essence of the Son of God, as when water, wine, or oil is poured from one vessel into another. For the human nature, as also no other creature, either in heaven or on earth, is capable of the omnipotence of God in such a manner that it would become in itself an almighty essence, or have in and by itself almighty properties; for thereby the human nature in Christ would be denied, and would be entirely converted into the divinity, which is contrary to our Christian faith, as also to the doctrine of all the prophets and apostles.

But we believe, teach, and confess that God the Father has so given His Spirit to Christ, His beloved Son, according to the assumed humanity (on account of which He is called also Messias, i.e., the Anointed), that He has not received His gifts by measure as other saints. For upon Christ the Lord, according to His assumed human nature (because, according to His divinity, He is of one essence with the Holy Ghost), rests the Spirit of wisdom and understanding, the Spirit of counsel and might, the Spirit of knowledge [and of the fear of the Lord, Col. 2:3; Is. 11:2; 61:1], 73 not in such a way that on this account, as a man, He knew and could do only some things, as other saints know and can do by the Spirit of God, who works in them only created gifts, but since Christ, according to His divinity, is the second person in the Holy Trinity, and from Him, as also from the Father, the Holy Ghost proceeds, and thus is and remains His and the Father's own Spirit to all eternity, not separated from the Son of God, therefore (as the Fathers say) the entire fullness of the Spirit has been communicated by the personal union to Christ according to the flesh, which is personally united with the Son of God. This voluntarily manifests and shows itself, with all its power therein, therewith and thereby [in, with, and through the human nature of Christ], so that He [Christ, according to His human nature] not only knows some things and is ignorant of others, can do some things and is unable to do others, but [according to the assumed human nature] knows and can do all things. For upon Him the Father poured without measure the Spirit of wisdom and power, so that, as man, He has received through this personal union all knowledge and all power in deed and truth. And thus all the treasures of wisdom are hidden in Him, thus all power is given to Him, and He is seated at the right hand of the majesty and power of God. From history it can be learned that at the time of the Emperor Valens there was among the Arians a peculiar sect which was called the Agnoetae, because they imagined that the Son, the Word of the Father, knew indeed all things, but that His assumed human nature is ignorant of many things; against whom also Gregory the Great wrote.

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:

Azrielle Horner, Oly'Anna Harrison, Moreah Stuckwisch, Rachel Barrett, Anna Hart, Monica Sams, Theresa Lippincott, 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.

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.

Commemoration of the Prophet Daniel & the Three Young Men

Tuesday, 17 Dec

Daniel the prophet and the Three Young Men—Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego—were among the leaders of the people of Judah who were taken into captivity in Babylon. Even in that foreign land they remained faithful to the one true God in their piety, prayer, and life. On account of such steadfast faithfulness in the face of pagan idolatry, the Three Young Men were thrown into a fiery furnace, from which they were saved by the Lord and emerged unharmed (Daniel 3). Similarly, Daniel was thrown into a pit of lions, from which he also was saved (Daniel 6). Blessed in all their endeavors by the Lord—and in spite of the hostility of some—Daniel and the Three Young Men were promoted to positions of

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 the Third Week of Advent:

Lord, we beseech You, give ear to our prayers and lighten the darkness of our hearts by Your gracious visitation; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (Amen)

Collect for the Ember Wednesday of Advent:

Arise, O Lord, we beseech You, and do not delay to bestow upon us the aid of Your heavenly might, that those who put their trust and confidence in Your mercy may be relieved by the consolations of Your advent; who lives and reigns with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. (Amen)

Collect for the feast of St. Thomas (Saturday, December 21):

Almighty and Everliving God, who through the Word of Your Son did mightily strengthen the faith of Your Apostle Saint Thomas, by the same Word keep us ever steadfast in the faith unto our end; 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.*

The Third Week of Advent

15 – 21 December 2024

This Week in the Church Year

The voice of the Baptizer cried out in the wilderness: "Prepare the way of the Lord . . ." John called the people to be made ready for the Messiah's coming through repentance, for "all flesh is grass." Now He asks from prison, "Are you the one who is to come . . .?" Jesus' works bear witness that He is. The sick are made well; the dead are raised, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them. Their iniquity is pardoned; they have received from the Lord's hand double forgiveness for all their sins. The "stewards of the mysteries of God" still deliver Christ's overflowing forgiveness to the poor in spirit, comforting God's people with the word of the Gospel which stands forever. This Gospel produces rejoicing among all those who believe.

Emphasis: John the Baptizer Prepares the Way 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.

Psalm 85

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

Psalms	<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, 150	122, 145	33, 121	50, 147:1–11	18:1–20, 147:12–20	102, 148	90, 149
<i>Evening</i>	25, 110	40, 67	85, 91	14, 16	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: Isaiah 40:3, 10

Prepare the way of the LORD; behold, the Lord GOD comes with might.

Readings for the Third Week of Advent:

Sunday, 15 December 2024

Isaiah 30:27—31:9; Revelation 3:1–22

Monday, 16 December 2024

Isaiah 32:1–20; Revelation 4:1–11

Tuesday, 17 December 2024 *(The Prophet Daniel and the Three Young Men)*

Isaiah 33:1–24; Revelation 5:1–14

Wednesday, 18 December 2024

Isaiah 34:1–2, 34:8—35:10; Revelation 6:1–17

(Isaiah 2:2–5; Isaiah 7:10–15; St. Luke 1:26–38a)

Thursday, 19 December 2024 *(Adam & Eve)*

Isaiah 40:1–17; Revelation 7:1–17

Friday, 20 December 2024 *(Katharina von Bora Luther)*

Isaiah 40:18—41:10; Revelation 8:1–13

Saturday, 21 December 2024 *(St. Thomas, Apostle)*

Isaiah 42:1–25; Revelation 9:1–12

(Judges 6:36–40; Ephesians 1:3–8a; St. John 20:24–29)

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

The Catechism: Apostles' Creed

What is the Third Article of the Creed? (Part III)

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. In the same way He calls, gathers, enlightens, and sanctifies the whole Christian Church on earth, and keeps it with Jesus Christ in the one true faith.

In this Christian Church He daily and richly forgives all my sins and the sins of all believers. On the Last Day He will raise me and all the dead, and give eternal life to me and all believers in Christ. This is most certainly true.

The Hymn of the Week

“HARK! A THRILLING VOICE IS SOUNDING”

LSB #345

[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.