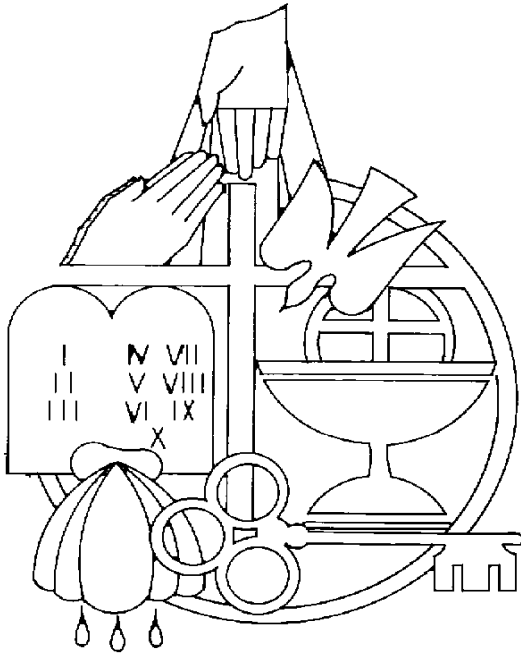


Emmaus Evangelical Lutheran Church

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✚ DAILY CATECHESIS ON THE WAY ✚

TO AND FROM EMMAUS WITH JESUS

✚ THE SECOND WEEK AFTER THE EPIPHANY ✚

“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

IX. Christ's Descent into Hell

And since even in the ancient Christian teachers of the Church, as well as in some among our teachers, dissimilar explanations of the article concerning the descent of Christ to hell are found, we abide in like manner by the simplicity of our Christian faith [comprised in the Creed], to which Dr. Luther in his sermon, which was delivered in the castle at Torgau in the year 1533, concerning the descent of Christ to hell, has pointed us, where we confess: I believe in the Lord Christ, God's Son, our Lord, dead, buried, and descended into hell. For in this [Confession] the burial and descent of Christ to hell are distinguished as different articles; and we simply believe that the entire person, God and man, after the burial descended into hell, conquered the devil, destroyed the power of hell, and took from the devil all his might. We should not, however, trouble ourselves with high and acute thoughts as to how this occurred; for with our reason and our five senses this article can be comprehended as little as the preceding one, how Christ is placed at the right hand of the almighty power and majesty of God; but we are simply to believe it and adhere to the Word [in such mysteries of faith]. Thus we retain the substance [sound doctrine] and [true] consolation that neither hell nor the devil can take captive or injure us and all who believe in Christ.

X. Church Rites, Commonly Called Adiaphora

Concerning ceremonies and church rites which are neither commanded nor forbidden in God's Word, but are introduced into the Church with a good intention, for the sake of good order and propriety, or otherwise to maintain Christian discipline, a dissension has likewise arisen among some theologians of the Augsburg Confession: the one side holding that also in time of persecution and in case of confession [when confession of faith is to be made], even though the enemies of the Gospel do not come to an agreement with us in doctrine, yet some ceremonies, abrogated [long since], which in themselves are adiaphora, and neither commanded nor forbidden by God, may, without violence to conscience, be reestablished in compliance with the pressure and demand of the adversaries, and thus in such [things which are of themselves] adiaphora, or matters of indifference, we may indeed come to an agreement [have conformity] with them. But the other side contended that in time of persecution, in case of confession, especially when it is the design of the adversaries, either through force and compulsion, or in an insidious manner, to suppress the pure doctrine, and gradually to introduce again into our churches their false doctrine, this, also in adiaphora, can in no way be done, as has been said, without violence to conscience and prejudice to the divine truth.

This Week in the Church Year

The coming of the Messianic Kingdom means the restoration of creation. The sign of this restoration is that "the mountains shall drip sweet wine." When the elements of a fallen creation fail and run short at a wedding feast, our Lord Jesus steps in to restore creation and miraculously changes water into an abundance of the very best wine. With this sign, Christ manifests His glory. The "back" of God is revealed to those who believe. The hour will come when Jesus will again manifest His glory by taking creation's curse into His own Body to release us from its power. The Bridegroom will give His life for the Bride, and from His side will flow water and Blood, the Holy Sacraments by which she is cleansed and made one with Him. Through this sacrificial love of Christ we are enabled to "love one another with brotherly affection . . ." and to "outdo one another in showing honor."

Emphasis: Jesus' First Sign Reveals God's 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 66

(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>	19; 150	136; 145	123; 146	15; 147:1–11	36; 147:12–21	130; 148	56; 149
<i>Evening</i>	81; 113	97; 112	30; 86	48; 4	80; 27	32; 139	100; 62

**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 1:17

The law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

Readings for the Second Week after the Epiphany:

Sunday, 19 January 2025

Ezekiel 44:1–16, 23–29; Romans 9:1–18

Monday, 20 January 2025 (The Matriarch Sarah)

Ezekiel 47:1–14, 21–23; Romans 9:19–33

Tuesday, 21 January 2025

Joel 1:1–20; Romans 10:1–21

Wednesday, 22 January 2025

Joel 2:1–17; Romans 11:1–24

Thursday, 23 January 2025

Joel 2:18–32; Romans 11:25—12:13

Friday, 24 January 2025 (St. Timothy, Bishop & Martyr)

Joel 3:1–21; Romans 12:14—13:14

Saturday, 25 January 2025 (The Conversion of St. Paul)

Zechariah 1:1–21; Romans 14:1–23

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

The Catechism: The Our Father

What is the Fourth Petition?

Give us this day our daily bread.

What does this mean?

God certainly gives daily bread to everyone without our prayers, even to all evil people, but we pray in this petition that God would lead us to realize this and to receive our daily bread with thanksgiving.

What is meant by daily bread?

Daily bread includes everything that has to do with the support and needs of the body, such as food, drink, clothing, shoes, house, home, land, animals, money, goods, a devout husband or wife, devout children, devout workers, devout and faithful rulers, good government, good weather, peace, health, self-control, good reputation, good friends, faithful neighbors, and the like.

The Hymn of the Week

“THE ONLY SON FROM HEAVEN”

LSB #402

[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 the Second Week after the Epiphany:

Almighty and Everlasting God, who does govern all things in Heaven and earth, mercifully hear the supplications of Your people and grant us Your peace all the days of our life; 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 Conversion of St. Paul (January 25):

O God, who through the preaching of the blessed Apostle Saint Paul has caused the light of Your Gospel to shine to the Gentile world, give us grace ever to joy in the saving light of Your Gospel, and to spread it to the uttermost parts of the earth; 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:

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 Matriarch Sarah

Monday, 20 January

Sarah was the wife (and half-sister) of the Patriarch Abraham (Gen. 11:29; 20:12). In obedience to divine command (Gen. 12:1), she made the long and arduous journey west, along with her husband and his relatives, from Ur of the Chaldees to Haran and then finally to the land of Canaan. She remained childless until old age. Then, in keeping with God's long-standing promise, she gave birth to a son, Isaac, the heir of the covenant (Gen. 21: 1-3). Sarah is remembered and honored as the wife of Abraham and the mother of Isaac. She is also favorably noted for her hospitality to strangers (Gen. 18:1-8). Following her death at the age of 127, she was laid to rest in the Cave of Machpelah (Gen. 49:13), where her husband was later buried.

Commemoration of St. Timothy, Bishop & Martyr**Friday, 24 January**

St. Timothy had Christian believers in his family. His mother and grandmother, Eunice and Lois, were faithful women who had instructed young Timothy in the Holy Scriptures (2 Tim. 1:5). Acts records that St. Paul met Timothy on his second missionary journey and wanted Timothy to continue on with him (Acts 16:1–3). Over time Timothy became a dear friend and close associate of Paul, who entrusted him with mission work in Greece and Asia Minor. He was also with Paul in Rome. According to Tradition, after Paul's death Timothy went to Ephesus where he served as bishop and was martyred around A.D. 97. Timothy is best remembered as a faithful companion of Paul, one who rendered great service among the Gentile churches.

Commemoration of the Conversion of St. Paul**Saturday, 25 January**

St. Paul's life-changing experience on the road to Damascus is related three times in the Acts of the Apostles (9:1–9; 22:6–11; 26:12–18). As an arch-enemy of Christians, Saul of Tarsus set out for Damascus to arrest and bring believers to Jerusalem for trial. While on the way he saw a blinding light and heard the words: "Saul, Saul, why do you persecute Me?" Saul asked, "Who are You, Lord?" The reply came, "I am Jesus, whom you are persecuting." In Damascus, where Paul was brought after being blinded, a disciple named Ananias was directed by the Lord in a vision to go to Saul to restore his sight: "Go, for he is an instrument whom I have chosen to bring My Name before Gentiles and kings and before the people of Israel" (Acts 9:15). After receiving his sight, Saul was Baptized and went on to become Paul, the great Apostle.

Looking forward to the Third Sunday after Epiphany**26 January 2025****Hymns:**

- LSB #555 Salvation unto Us Has Come
- LSB #756 Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me
- LSB #624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born
- LSB #839 O Christ, Our True and Only Light
- LSB #620 Jesus Comes Today with Healing
- LSB #823 May God Bestow on Us His Grace
- LSB #396 Arise and Shine in Splendor

II Kings 5:1–15b: *Even in the Old Testament, the Gentiles were beneficiaries of God's saving power. Though unimpressed at first with the Word of God, a Syrian commander is persuaded to receive that Word, and in the water he is cleansed and brought to faith in the God of Israel.*

Romans 12:16b–21: *Evil is overcome by good – the Gospel of Christ, the power of God to salvation.*

St. Matthew 8:1–13: *A Roman centurion demonstrates great and humble faith in the Lord (Matt. 8:1-13). All he needs is the Word of Christ, for he trusts that Jesus' Word of healing has authority to accomplish what it says. And indeed it does. The centurion's faith is praised by our Lord above that of any Israelite. For the last shall be first, and the first last. Apart from faith in Christ, there is no salvation-not even for a Jew-but only weeping and gnashing of teeth.*