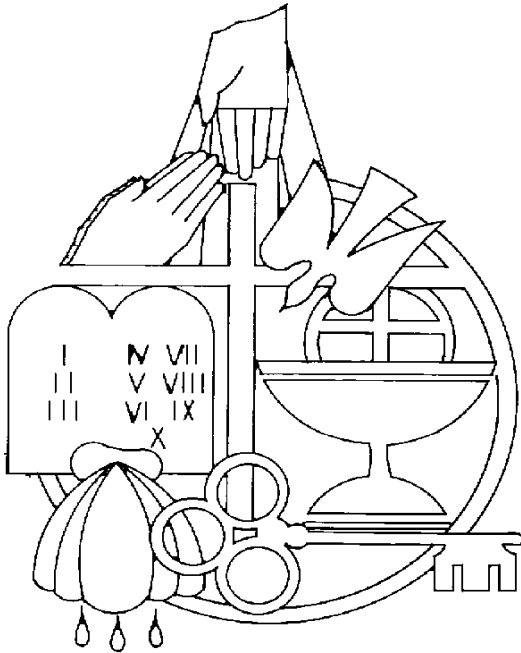


Emmaus Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Rev. Ronald Stephens, Pastor

Rev. Dr. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor



✝ DAILY CATECHESIS ON THE WAY ✝

TO AND FROM EMMAUS WITH JESUS

✝ THE WEEK OF SEPTUAGESIMA ✝

“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

X. Church Rites, Commonly Called Adiaphora (continued...)

And in the article Of the Papacy, the Smalcald Articles say (475:14): Therefore, just as little as we can worship the devil himself as Lord and God, we can endure his apostle, the Pope, or Antichrist, in his rule as head or lord. For to lie and to kill and to destroy body and soul eternally, that is wherein his papal government really consists.

And in the treatise Concerning the Power and Primacy of the Pope, which is appended to the Smalcald Articles, and was also subscribed by the theologians then present with their own hands, are these words: No one is to burden the Church with his own traditions, but here the rule is to be that nobody's power or authority is to avail more than the Word of God.

And shortly afterwards (517:41): This being the case, all Christians ought most diligently to beware of becoming partakers of the godless doctrine, blasphemies, and unjust cruelties of the Pope; but ought to desert and execrate the Pope with his members, or adherents, as the kingdom of Antichrist, just as Christ has commanded (Matt. 7:15): "Beware of false prophets." And Paul commands us to avoid false teachers and execrate them as an abomination. And in 2 Cor. 6:14 he says: "Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers; for what communion hath light with darkness?"

It is a grave matter wanting to separate one's self from so many lands and nations, and to profess a separate doctrine; but here stands God's command, that everyone should beware and not agree with those who maintain false doctrine, or who think of supporting it by means of cruelty.

So, Dr. Luther, too, has amply instructed the Church of God in a special treatise concerning what should be thought of ceremonies in general, and especially of adiaphora, Vol. 3, Jena, p. 523; as was also done in 1530, and can be seen in Tom. 3, Jena, German.

From this explanation everyone can understand what every Christian congregation and every Christian man, especially in time of confession [when a confession of faith should be made], and, most of all, preachers, are to do or to leave undone, without injury to conscience, with respect to adiaphora, in order that God may not be angered [provoked to just indignation], love may not be injured, the enemies of God's Word be not strengthened, nor the weak in faith offended.

1. Therefore, we reject and condemn as wrong when the ordinances of men in themselves are regarded as a service or part of the service of God.

2. We reject and condemn also as wrong when these ordinances are by coercion forced upon the congregation of God as necessary.

3. We reject and condemn also as wrong the opinion of those who hold (what tends to the detriment of the truth) that at a time of persecution we may comply with the enemies of the holy Gospel in [restoring] such adiaphora, or come to an agreement with them.

4. We likewise regard it as a sin that deserves to be rebuked when in time of persecution anything is done either in indifferent matters or in doctrine, and in what otherwise pertains to religion, for the sake of the enemies of the Gospel, in word and act, contrary and opposed to the Christian confession.

5. We reject and condemn also [the madness] when these adiaphora are abrogated in such a manner as though it were not free to the congregation [church] of God at any time and place to employ one or more in Christian liberty, according to its circumstances, as may be most useful to the Church.

*Thus [According to this doctrine] the churches will not condemn one another because of dissimilarity of ceremonies when, in Christian liberty, one has less or more of them, provided they are otherwise agreed with one another in the doctrine and all its articles, also in the right use of the holy Sacraments, according to the well-known saying: *Dissonantia ieiunii non dissolvit consonantiam fidei*; "Disagreement in fasting does not destroy agreement in the faith."*

This Week in the Church Year

The people of Israel contended with the Lord in the wilderness. They were dissatisfied with His provision. In the same way, the first laborers in the vineyard complained against the landowner for the wage he provided them. They charged him with being unfair, but in reality he was being generous. For the Lord does not wish to deal with us on the basis of what we deserve but on the basis of His abounding grace in Christ. The first - those who rely on their own merits-will be last. "For they were overthrown in the wilderness." But the last, those who rely on Christ, will be first. For Christ is the Rock. He is the One who was struck and from whose side Blood and water flowed that we may be cleansed of our sin.

Emphasis: Grace Alone

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 18

(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: Daniel 9:18

We do not present our pleas before You because of our righteousness, but because of Your great mercy.

Readings for the Week of Septuagesima:

Sunday, 16 February 2025 (Philip Melancthon, Lutheran Confessor)

Job 12:1–6, 12–25; St. John 5:30–47

Monday, 17 February 2025

Job 13:1–12; St. John 6:1–21

Tuesday, 18 February 2025 (Martin Luther, Priest, Confessor, & Doctor)

Job 13:13–28; St. John 6:22–40

Wednesday, 19 February 2025

Job 14:1–22; St. John 6:41–59

Thursday, 20 February 2025

Job 15:1–23, 30–35; St. John 6:60–71

Friday, 21 February 2025

Job 16:1–22; St. John 7:1–13

Saturday, 22 February 2025

Job 17:1–16; St. John 7:14–31

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

The Catechism: The Our Father

What is the Conclusion to the Our Father?

For thine is the Kingdom and the Power and the Glory forever and ever. Amen.

What does this mean?

This means that I should be certain that these petitions are pleasing to our Father in Heaven, and are heard by Him; for He Himself has commanded us to pray in this way and has promised to hear us.

"Amen, amen" means "yes, yes, it shall be so."

The Hymn of the Week

“SALVATION UNTO US HAS COME”

LSB #555

[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 Septuagesima:

O Lord, we beseech You favorably to hear the prayers of Your people that we, who are justly punished for our offenses, may be mercifully delivered by Your goodness, for the glory of Your Name; through 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, Melissa Rodriguez, 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 Philip Melancthon, Lutheran Confessor

Sunday, 16 Feb

Philip Melancthon (1497-1560) was a brilliant student of the classics and a humanist scholar. In 1518 he was appointed to teach along with Martin Luther at the University of Wittenberg. At Luther's urging, Melancthon began teaching theology and Scripture in addition to his courses in classical studies. In April of 1530, Emperor Charles V called an official meeting between the representative of evangelical "Lutheranism" and the Roman Papacy, hoping to effect a meeting of minds between the opposing groups. Since Luther was at that time under papal excommunication and an imperial ban, Melancthon was assigned the duty of being the chief representative of the evangelical "Lutherans" at this meeting. He is especially remembered and honored as the author of the Augsburg Confession, which was officially presented by the German princes to the emperor on 25 June 1530, as the defining document of Lutheranism within Christendom. Melancthon died on 19 April 1560. (He was born on 16 February 1497.)

Commemoration of Martin Luther, Priest, Confessor, & Doctor Tues, 18 February

Martin Luther, born on 10 November 1483, in Eisleben, Germany, initially began studies leading toward a degree in law. However, after a close encounter with death, he switched to the study of theology, entered an Augustinian monastery, was ordained a priest in 1505, and received a doctorate in theology in 1512. As a professor at the newly-established University of Wittenberg, his scriptural studies led him to question many of the church's teachings and practices, especially the selling of indulgences. His refusal to back down from his convictions resulted in his excommunication in 1521. Following a period of seclusion at the Wartburg castle, Luther returned to Wittenberg, where he spent the rest of his life preaching and teaching, translating the Scriptures, and writing hymns and numerous theological treatises. He is remembered and honored for his lifelong emphasis on the biblical truth that for Christ's sake God declares us righteous by grace through faith alone. He died on 18 February 1546, while visiting the town of his birth.

Looking forward to Sexagesima

23 February 2025

Hymns:

- ES #57 O Lord, Look Down from Heaven, Behold
LSB #823 May God Bestow on Us His Grace
LSB #586 Preach You the Word
LSB #756 Why Should Cross and Trial Grieve Me
LSB #904 Blessed Jesus, at Your Word
LSB #401 From God the Father, Virgin-Born
LSB #656 A Mighty Fortress Is Our God
LSB #562 All Mankind Fell in Adam's Fall

Isaiah 55:10–13: *Christ is the Word of the Father who does not return void but yields a harvest hundredfold.*

II Corinthians 11:19—12:9: *In Christ, the weak are made strong in spite of what appearances may suggest.*

St. Luke 8:4–15: *The Sower sows the seed of His Word. This Word is living and powerful to conceive new life in those who hear it. But the planting of Christ is attacked by the devil, the world, and the flesh. Satan snatches the Word away from hard hearts. The riches and pleasures of this life choke off faith. Shallow and emotional belief withers in time of temptation and trouble. But see how Christ bears this attack for us! Christ's Cross was planted in the hard and rocky soil of Golgotha. A crown of thorns was placed upon His head. Satan and His demons hellishly hounded and devoured Him. Yet, through His dying and rising again, He destroyed these enemies of ours. Jesus is Himself the Seed which fell to the ground and died in order that it might sprout forth to new life and produce much grain.*