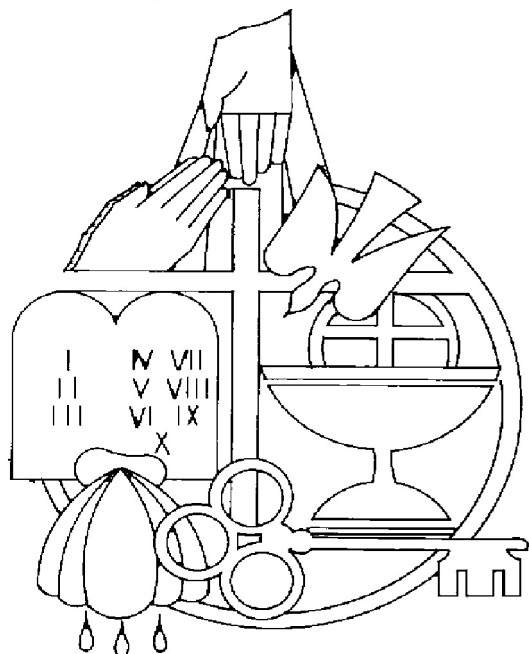


Emmaus Evangelical Lutheran Church

929 East Milton Street, South Bend • (574) 287-4151 • emmaus24.org
Rev. Ronald Stephens, Pastor Rev. Dr. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor



✚ DAILY CATECHESIS ON THE WAY ✚

TO AND FROM EMMAUS WITH JESUS

✚ THE WEEK OF LAETARE ✚

“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

XI. Election (continued...)

Likewise it is Christ's command that to all in common to whom repentance is preached this promise of the Gospel also should be offered Luke 24:47; Mark 16:15.

And this call of God, which is made through the preaching of the Word, we should not regard as jugglery, but know that thereby God reveals His will, that in those whom He thus calls He will work through the Word, that they may be enlightened, converted, and saved. For the Word, whereby we are called, is a ministration of the Spirit, that gives the Spirit, or whereby the Spirit is given, 2 Cor. 3:8, and a power of God unto salvation, Rom. 1:16. And since the Holy Ghost wishes to be efficacious through the Word, and to strengthen and give power and ability, it is God's will that we should receive the Word, believe and obey it.

For this reason, the elect are described thus, John 10:27f: My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me, and I give unto them eternal life. And Eph. 1:11, 13: Those who according to the purpose are predestinated to an inheritance hear the Gospel, believe in Christ, pray and give thanks, are sanctified in love, have hope, patience, and comfort under the cross, Rom. 8:25; and although all this is very weak in them, yet they hunger and thirst after righteousness, Matt. 5:6.

Thus the Spirit of God gives to the elect the testimony that they are children of God, and when they do not know for what they should pray as they ought, He intercedes for them with groanings that cannot be uttered, Rom. 8:16, 26.

Thus, also, Holy Scripture testifies that God, who has called us, is so faithful that, when He has begun the good work in us, He also will preserve it to the end and perfect it, if we ourselves do not turn from Him, but firmly retain to the end the work begun, for which He has promised His grace, 1 Cor. 1:9; Phil. 1:6 [1 Pet. 5:10]; 2 Pet. 3:9; Heb. 3:2.

With this revealed will of God we should concern ourselves, follow and be diligently engaged upon [eagerly con] it, because through the Word, whereby He calls us, the Holy Ghost bestows grace, power, and ability to this end, and should not [attempt to] sound the abyss of God's hidden predestination, as it is written in Luke 13:24, where one asks: Lord, are there few that be saved? and Christ answers: Strive to enter in at the strait gate. Accordingly, Luther says [in the Preface to the Epistle to the Romans]: Follow the Epistle to the Romans in its order, concern yourself first with Christ and His Gospel, that you may recognize your sins and His grace; next, that you contend with sin, as Paul teaches from the first to the eighth chapter; then, when in the eighth chapter you will come into [will have been exercised by] temptation under the cross and afflictions, this will teach you in the ninth, tenth, and eleventh chapters how consolatory predestination is, etc.

The Week of Laetare

30 March – 5 April 2025

This Week in the Church Year

The Lord provided bread from Heaven for His people in the wilderness. Now He who is Himself the Living Bread from Heaven miraculously provides bread for the five thousand. This takes place near the time of the Passover, after a great multitude had followed Jesus across the sea, and when He went up on a mountain. Seen in this way, Jesus is our new and greater Moses, who releases us from the bondage of Mount Sinai and makes us free children of the promise. Five loaves become twelve baskets - that is, the five books of Moses find their goal and fulfillment in Christ, whose people continue steadfastly in the doctrine and fellowship of the twelve Apostles, and in the breaking and receiving of the Bread of Life, which is the Body of Christ together with His precious Blood, and in the prayers. So it is that God's people "shall not hunger or thirst." For He abundantly provides for us in both body and soul.

Emphasis: The Lord Feeds His People

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 122

(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>	84; 150	145; 119:73-80	34; 146	5; 147:1-11	38; 147:12-20	22; 148	43; 149
<i>Evening</i>	42; 130	121; 6	25; 91	27; 51	126; 102	107; 127	31; 143

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 12:24

Unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone;
but if it dies, it bears much fruit.

Readings for the Week of Laetare:

Sunday, 30 March 2025

Genesis 41:28–57; St. Mark 11:20–33

Monday, 31 March 2025 (The Patriarch Joseph)

Genesis 42:1–34; St. Mark 12:1–12

Tuesday, 1 April 2025

Genesis 43:1–28; St. Mark 12:13–27

Wednesday, 2 April 2025

Genesis 44:1–18, 32–34; St. Mark 12:28–44

(Ezekiel 36:23a, 23c-28; Isaiah 1:16-19; St. John 9:1-38)

Thursday, 3 April 2025

Genesis 45:1–20, 24–28; St. Mark 13:1–23

Friday, 4 April 2025

Genesis 47:1–31; St. Mark 13:24–37

Saturday, 5 April 2025

Genesis 49:29—50:7, 14–26; St. Mark 14:1–11

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

“JESUS, PRICELESS TREASURE”

LSB #743

[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 Laetare:

Grant, we beseech You, Almighty God, that we, who for our evil deeds do worthily deserve to be punished, by the comfort of Your grace may mercifully be relieved; 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 Ash Wednesday (may be used throughout Lent):

Almighty and Everlasting God, who hates nothing that You have made and does forgive the sins of all those who are penitent, create and make in us new and contrite hearts, that we, worthily lamenting our sins and acknowledging our wretchedness, may obtain of You, the God of all mercy, perfect remission and forgiveness; 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, Dawn Schnare, Alyssa Horner, Emma Patterson, Hannah Walsh, 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 our-selves, 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.

Commemoration of the Patriarch Joseph

Monday, 31 March

Joseph was the son of the Patriarch Jacob (commemorated on 5 February) and Rachel. Being, in fact, the favorite son of his father, he incurred the jealousy of his older brothers, who sold him into slavery in Egypt and led their father to believe that Joseph was dead (Genesis 37). In Egypt he became the chief servant in the home of Potiphar, a military official. Because Joseph refused to commit adultery with his master's wife, he was unjustly accused of attempted rape and thrown into jail (Genesis 39). Years later, he interpreted dreams for Pharaoh, who then freed him from prison and placed him in charge of the entire country. When his brothers came from Canaan to Egypt in search of food, they did not recognize him. Eventually, though, he revealed his identity to them, forgave them, and invited both them and their father to live in Egypt with their entire extended family. Joseph is remembered and honored for his moral uprightness (Genesis 39) and especially for his willingness to forgive his brothers (Genesis 45 and 50).

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.

Looking forward to Judica (*Lent V*)

6 April 2025

Hymns:

LSB #608 Lord, to You I Make Confession

ES #22 O Sinner, Come Thy Sin to Mourn

LSB #438 A Lamb Goes Uncomplaining Forth

LSB #433 Glory Be to Jesus

LSB #607 From Depths of Woe I Cry to Thee

LSB #755 In the Very Midst of Life

LSB #610 Lord Jesus, Think on Me

ES #82 Lord Jesus Christ, True Man and God

Genesis 22:1-19: *Jesus is the One who was before Abraham, and yet is his Seed. He is the promised Son who carries the wood up the mountain for the sacrifice, who is bound and laid upon the altar of the Cross. He is the ram offered in our place, who is willingly caught in the thicket of our sin, and who wears the crown of thorns upon His head.*

Hebrews 9:11-15: *Clinging to the life-giving words of Jesus, we are delivered from death's sting and its eternal judgment. For Christ is our High Priest, who entered the Most Holy Place and with His own Blood obtained everlasting redemption for His people.*

St. John 8:46-59a: *In the temple Jesus said, "If anyone keeps my word, he will never see death." For Jesus came to taste death for us - to drink the cup of suffering to the dregs in order that we might be released from its power. Though Jesus is dishonored by the sons of the devil, He is vindicated by the Father through the Cross.*