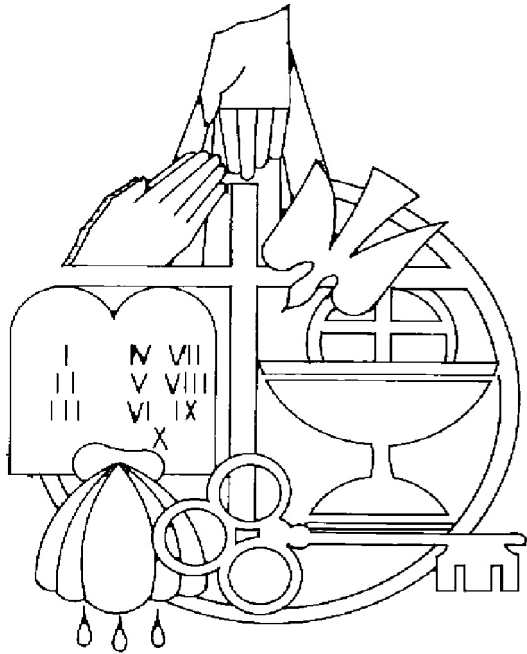


Emmaus Evangelical Lutheran Church

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



✠ DAILY CATECHESIS ON THE WAY ✠

TO AND FROM EMMAUS WITH JESUS

✠ HOLY WEEK ANNO DOMINI 2025 ✠

“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

XI. Election (continued...)

For few receive the Word and follow it; the greatest number despise the Word, and will not come to the wedding, Matt. 22:3ff The cause for this contempt for the Word is not God's foreknowledge [or predestination], but the perverse will of man, which rejects or perverts the means and instrument of the Holy Ghost, which God offers him through the call, and resists the Holy Ghost, who wishes to be efficacious, and works through the Word, as Christ says: How often would I have gathered you together, and ye would not! Matt. 23:37.

Thus many receive the Word with joy, but afterwards fall away again, Luke 8:13. But the cause is not as though God were unwilling to grant grace for perseverance to those in whom He has begun the good work, for that is contrary to St. Paul, Phil. 1:6; but the cause is that they wilfully turn away again from the holy commandment [of God], grieve and embitter the Holy Ghost, implicate themselves again in the filth of the world, and garnish again the habitation of the heart for the devil. With them the last state is worse than the first, 2 Pet. 2:10, 20; Eph. 4:30; Heb. 10:26; Luke 11:25.

Thus far is the mystery of predestination revealed to us in God's Word, and if we abide thereby and cleave thereto, it is a very useful, salutary, consolatory doctrine; for it establishes very effectually the article that we are justified and saved without all works and merits of ours, purely out of grace alone, for Christ's sake. For before the time of the world, before we existed, yea, before the foundation of the world was laid, when, of course, we could do nothing good, we were according to God's purpose chosen by grace in Christ to salvation, Rom. 9:11; 2 Tim. 1:9, 44 Moreover, all opinions (opinions) and erroneous doctrines concerning the powers of our natural will are thereby overthrown, because God in His counsel, before the time of the world, decided and ordained that He Himself, by the power of His Holy Ghost, would produce and work in us, through the Word, everything that pertains to our conversion.

Thus this doctrine affords also the excellent, glorious consolation that God was so greatly concerned about the conversion, righteousness, and salvation of every Christian, and so faithfully purposed it [provided therefor] that before the foundation of the world was laid, He deliberated concerning it, and in His [secret] purpose ordained how He would bring me thereto [call and lead me to salvation], and preserve me therein. Also, that He wished to secure my salvation so well and certainly that, since through the weakness and wickedness of our flesh it could easily be lost from our hands, or through craft and might of the devil and the world be snatched and taken from us, He ordained it in His eternal purpose, which cannot fail or be overthrown, and placed it for preservation in the almighty hand of our Savior Jesus Christ, from which no one can pluck us, John 10:28, 46 Hence Paul also says, Rom. 8:28, 39: Because we have been called according to the purpose of God, who will separate us from the love of God in Christ? [Paul builds the certainty of our blessedness upon the foundation of the divine purpose, when, from our being called according to the purpose of God, he infers that no one can separate us, etc.]

The Holy Week of Our Lord's Cross & Passion 13 – 19 April 2025

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 apparent turn of popular opinion (from 'Hosanna!' to 'Crucify Him!'). It is 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 Cross and Passion — is the height of His divine glory.

Emphasis: Now Is the Hour When the Son of Man Is Glorified

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, 13 April 2025

Exodus 8:1–32; Hebrews 1:1–14

Holy Monday, 14 April 2025

Exodus 9:1–28; Hebrews 2:1–18

(Isaiah 50:5-10; St. Mark 14:1—15:46)

Holy Tuesday, 15 April 2025

Exodus 9:29—10:20; Hebrews 3:1–19

(Jeremiah 11:18-20; St. John 12:1-36)

Holy Wednesday, 16 April 2025

Exodus 10:21—11:10; Hebrews 4:1–16

(Isaiah 62:11b, 63:1-5, 7a; Isaiah 53:1-12; St. Luke 22:1—23:53)

Maundy Thursday, 17 April 2025

Exodus 12:1–28; Hebrews 5:1–14

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

Good Friday, 18 April 2025

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, 19 April 2025

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 sins should we confess? (ie, Which are these that you should know and feel in your heart and so confess before the Pastor?)

Consider your place in life according to the Ten Commandments: Are you a father, mother, son, daughter, husband, wife, or worker? Have you been disobedient, unfaithful, or lazy? Have you been hot-tempered, rude, or quarrelsome? Have you hurt someone by your words or deeds? Have you stolen, been negligent, wasted anything, or done any harm?

**The Hymn of the Week
“ALL GLORY, LAUD, AND HONOR”**

LSB #442

[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 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.*
- 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.

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 the Resurrection of Our Lord

20 April 2025

Hymns:

- LSB #457 Jesus Christ Is Risen Today
LSB #460 Victimae Paschali laudes
LSB #458 Christ Jesus Lay in Death's Strong Bands
LSB #633 At the Lamb's High Feast We Sing
LSB #461 I Know That My Redeemer Lives
LSB #489 Hail Thee, Festival Day
LSB #482 This Joyful Eastertide
LSB #473 Our Paschal Lamb, That Sets Us Free
LSB #467 Awake, My Heart, with Gladness
LSB #155 This Is the Feast
LSB #465 Now All the Vault of Heaven Resounds

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