

ripe old age Polycarp was arrested, tried, and publicly executed for his faith and testimony on 23 February, A.D. 156. A precious eyewitness narrative of his death and the events surrounding it, entitled 'The Martyrdom of Polycarp,' continues to encourage believers in times of persecution.

The Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle

Saturday, 24 February

St. Matthias is one of the lesser-known Apostles. According to the early Church Fathers, Matthias was one of the 72 sent out by Jesus in St. Luke 10:1ff. After the Ascension, he was chosen by lot to fill the vacancy in the Twelve resulting from the death of Judas Iscariot (Acts 1:16–25). Early church Tradition places Matthias in a number of locations. Some historians suggest that he went to Ethiopia; others place him in Armenia, the first nation to adopt Christianity as a national religion. Martyred for his faith, Matthias may well have met his death at Colchis in Asia Minor, around A.D. 50. St. Matthias Church at Trier, Germany, claims the honor of being the final burial site for Matthias, the only one of the Apostles to be buried in Europe north of the Alps.

Let each his lesson learn with care, and all the household well shall fare.

Looking forward to the Second Sunday in Lent

25 February 2018

Hymns:

LSB #555 Salvation Unto Us Has come

LSB #453 Upon the Cross Extended

LSB #454 Sing, My Tongue, the Glorious Battle

LSB #615 When in the Hour of Deepest Need

LSB #647 Lord Jesus Christ, the Church's Head

LSB #708 Lord, Thee I Love with All My Heart

Genesis 17:1–7, 15–16: *The Lord establishes His covenant with Abraham, and promises to make of him the father of many nations; and to bless his wife, Sarah, that she would be a fruitful mother of many nations. By the Seed of Abraham, the Lord Jesus Christ, all the nations of the earth are blessed; for all those who believe in Him are the true sons and daughters of Father Abraham by faith.*

Romans 5:1–11: *God demonstrates His love for us in this, that while we were His sworn and bitter enemies, He gave His own beloved Son to die for us. Thus, having been justified by His blood and reconciled to God through His death, much more are we saved with Him in His Resurrection, unto life everlasting. So do we have peace with God, and genuine hope, which shall not be disappointed.*

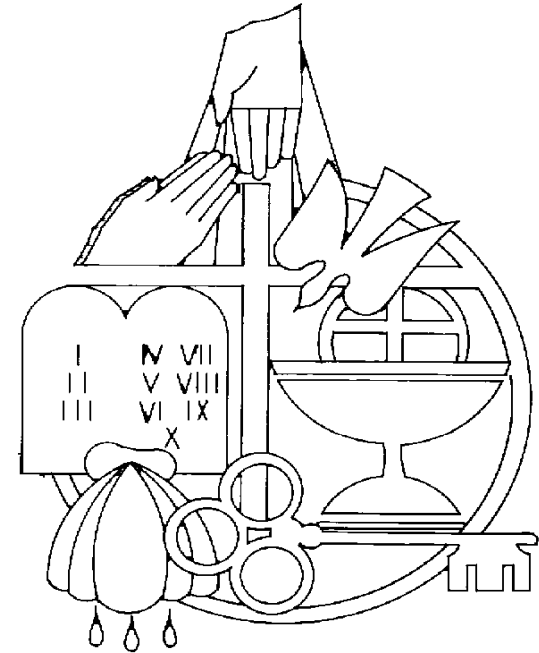
St. Mark 8:27–38: *When Simon Peter, by the grace of God, confesses that Jesus is the Christ, the same Lord Jesus Christ begins to catechize His disciples in what this means for Him: that He must suffer many things, be rejected and put to death, and after three days rise again. Then Simon Peter is disciplined to think of the Cross with the mind of God; as we and all disciples of Christ Jesus are catechized to take up His Cross and follow Him through death into life.*

Emmaus Evangelical Lutheran Church

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Rev. Dr. Richard Stuckwisch, Pastor

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✚ **DAILY CATECHESIS ON THE WAY** ✚

TO AND FROM EMMAUS WITH JESUS

✚ **THE WEEK OF THE FIRST SUNDAY IN LENT** ✚

“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 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.

Commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther, Confessor & Reformer **Sunday, 18 Feb**

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.

Commemoration of St. Polycarp of Smyrna, Bishop & Martyr **Friday, 23 February**

Born around A.D. 69, St. Polycarp became one of the central figures of the early church in the second century. Apparently a disciple of the Apostle and Evangelist, St. John, Polycarp linked the first generation of believers with later Christians. Among other connections, he was a noted friend and colleague of St. Ignatius. After serving for many years as the Bishop of Smyrna, at a

[The Collects of the Week, Intercessions for each day of the week, and Special Petitions]:

(Saturday, 24 February): Collect for the Feast of St. Matthias, the Apostle

Almighty God, You chose Your servant Matthias to be numbered among the Twelve. Grant that Your Church, ever preserved from false teachers, may be taught and guided by faithful and true pastors; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now & forever. (Amen)

Collect for the Week of the First Sunday in Lent:

O Lord God, You led Your ancient people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide the people of Your Church that, following our Savior, we may walk through the wilderness of this world toward the glory of the world to come; 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:

Pr. Stuckwisch, the other Vice Presidents, Pres. May, and the Circuit Visitors of our Indiana District, as they meet in Fort Wayne on Monday and Tuesday; Dcs. Rhein, as she will be traveling home from Ethiopia this Wednesday; and Dorothy Rummel, Elfrieda Kuespert, and Betty Saenz, as they have all been suffering various afflictions and weaknesses in their health and mortal flesh.

The Week of the First Sunday in Lent

18-24 February 2018

This Week in the Church Year

Immediately following His Baptism in the Jordan River, the Lord Jesus is driven into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil (Satan, the accuser). Undoing the failure of Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, and the failure of Old Testament Israel in the wilderness, Jesus the Christ overcomes the devil, all his works and all his ways, by His perfect faith and faithfulness: by His fear, love, and trust in His Father above everything else. In His reliance on the Word and promises of God, such as the blessing spoken at His Baptism, Jesus demonstrates the same baptismal and catechetical emphases that underlie Lent.

Emphasis: Jesus the Christ Is Our Champion Against the Devil

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.**

**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.**

Psalm 25:1-10 (and/or one or more of the appointed Psalms listed below)

Psalms	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wed'sday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Morning	84, 150	145, 119:73-80	34, 146	5, 147:1-11	38, 147:12-20	22, 148	89, 43, 149
Evening	42, 32	121, 6	25, 91	27, 51	126, 102	107, 130	134, 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: Ephesians 6:11

Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes of the devil.

Readings for the Week of the First Sunday in Lent:

Sunday, 18 February 2018 (Commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther)

Genesis 4:1–26; St. Mark 2:18–28

Monday, 19 February 2018

Genesis 6:1—7:5; St. Mark 3:1–19

Tuesday, 20 February 2018

Genesis 7:11—8:12; St. Mark 3:20–35

Wednesday, 21 February 2018

Genesis 8:13—9:17; St. Mark 4:1–20

Thursday, 22 February 2018

Genesis 11:27—12:20; St. Mark 4:21–41

Friday, 23 February 2018 (St. Polycarp of Smyrna, Bishop & Martyr)

Genesis 13:1–18; St. Mark 5:1–20

Saturday, 24 February 2018 (The Feast of St. Matthias, Apostle)

Genesis 15:1–21; St. Mark 5:21–43

(Isaiah 66:1–2; Acts 1:15–26; and St. Matthew 11:25–30)

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

The Catechism: The Sacrament of Holy Baptism, Part I

What is Baptism?

Baptism is not just plain water, but it is the water included in God’s command and combined with God’s Word.

Which is that Word of God?

Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew: “Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” (St. Matthew 28:19)

The Hymn of the Week

“A MIGHTY FORTRESS IS OUR GOD”

LSB #656

[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.