

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.

Commemoration of St. Titus, Bishop & Confessor

Friday, 26 January

St. Titus, like Timothy with whom he is often associated, was a friend and co-worker of St. Paul. Titus was a Gentile, perhaps a native of Antioch, who accompanied Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem when they brought assistance to the Christians in Judea during a famine (Acts 11:30, Galatians 2:1). It is not known if he accompanied Paul on his first or second missionary journeys, but Titus was with him on the third, when he helped reconcile the Corinthians to Paul (2 Cor. 7:6-7) and assisted with the collection for the Church in Jerusalem (2 Cor. 8:6). It was probably on the return to Jerusalem that Paul left Titus in Crete (Titus 1:4). Afterward he is found working in Dalmatia (2 Timothy 4:10). According to Tradition Titus returned to Crete where he served as bishop until he died about A.D. 96.

Commemoration of St. John Chrysostom, Bishop & Doctor

Saturday, 27 January

Given the added name of Chrysostom, which means "golden-mouthed" in Greek, Saint John was a dominant force in the fourth-century Christian church. Born in Antioch around the year 347, John was instructed in the Christian faith by his pious mother, Anthusa. After serving in a number of Christian offices, including acolyte and lector, John was ordained a presbyter and given preaching responsibilities. His simple but direct messages found an audience well beyond his home town. In 398, John Chrysostom was made Patriarch of Constantinople. His determination to reform the church, court, and city there brought him into conflict with established authorities. Eventually, he was exiled from his adopted city. Although removed from his parishes and people, he continued writing and preaching until the time of his death in 407. It is reported that his final words were: "Glory be to God for all things. Amen."

Looking forward to Septuagesima

28 January 2024

Hymns:

- LSB #823 May God Bestow on Us His Grace
- LSB #555 Salvation unto Us Has Come
- LSB #642 O Living Bread from Heaven
- LSB #683 Jesus, Thy Boundless Love to Me
- LSB #746 Through Jesus' Blood and Merit
- LSB #598 Once in the Blest Baptismal Waters
- LSB #758 The Will of God Is Always Best

Daniel 9:2-10: Symbolic of the seventy years of the exile, we stand at the precipice of the penitential season seventy days out from Easter, a time devoted to the Word of God, repentance, and prayer.

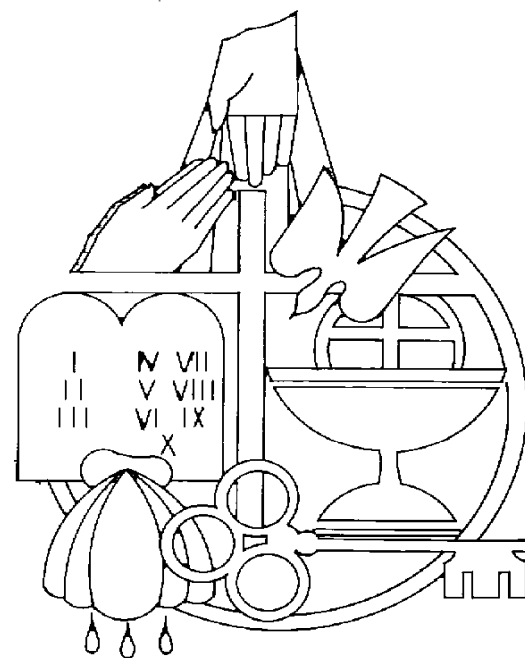
I Corinthians 9:24-10:4: Christ is the Rock who was struck and from whose side Blood and water flowed that we may be cleansed of our sin. All who trust in themselves and not in Him will be "overthrown in the wilderness."

St. Matthew 20:1-16: 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. But the last, those who rely on Christ, will be first.

Emmaus Evangelical Lutheran Church

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✙ DAILY CATECHESIS ON THE WAY ✙

TO AND FROM EMMAUS WITH JESUS

✙ THE WEEK AFTER THE TRANSFIGURATION ✙

"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

IV. Good Works (continued)

Therefore the expressions or propositions mentioned [that good works are necessary, and that it is necessary to do good] are unjustly censured and rejected in this Christian and proper sense, as has been done by some; for they are employed and used with propriety to rebuke and reject the secure, Epicurean delusion, by which many fabricate for themselves a dead faith or delusion which is without repentance and without good works, as though there could be in a heart true faith and at the same time the wicked intention to persevere and continue in sins, which is impossible; or, as though one could, indeed, have and retain true faith, righteousness, and salvation even though he be and remain a corrupt and unfruitful tree, whence no good fruits whatever come, yea, even though he persist in sins against conscience, or purposely engages again in these sins, all of which is incorrect and false.

But in this connection the following distinction must also be noted, namely, that the meaning must be: *necessitas ordinis, mandati et voluntatis Christi ac debiti nostri, non autem necessitas coactionis* (a necessity of Christ's ordinance, command, and will, and of our obligation, but not a necessity of coercion). That is: When this word necessary is employed, it should be understood not of coercion, but only of the ordinance of the immutable will of God, whose debtors we are; thither also His commandment points that the creature should be obedient to its Creator. For in other places, as 2 Cor. 9:7, and in the Epistle of St. Paul to Philemon 14, also 1 Pet. 5:2, that is termed of necessity which is wrung from one against his will, by force or otherwise, so that he acts externally for appearance, but nevertheless without and against his will. For such specious [hypocritical] works God does not want [does not approve], but the people of the New Testament are to be a willing people, Ps. 110:3, and sacrifice freely, Ps. 54:6, not grudgingly or of necessity, but are to be obedient from the heart, 2 Cor. 9:7; Rom. 6:17. For God loveth a cheerful giver, 2 Cor. 9:7. In this understanding and in such sense it is correctly said and taught that truly good works should be done willingly or from a voluntary spirit by those whom the Son of God has made free, even as it was especially for [confirming] this opinion that the disputation concerning the voluntariness of good works was engaged in by some.

But here, again, it is well to note also the distinction of which St. Paul says, Rom. 7:22f.: [I am willing] and delight in the Law of God after the inward man. But I see another law in my members, that is not only unwilling or disinclined, but also warring against the law of my mind. And as regards the unwilling and rebellious flesh, Paul says, 1 Cor. 9:27: I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection, and Gal. 5:24; Rom. 8:13: They that are Christ's have crucified, yea, slain, the flesh with its affections and lusts. But it is false, and must be censured, when it is asserted and taught as though good works were free to believers in the sense that it were optional with them to do or to omit them, or that they might or could act contrary thereto [to the Law of God], and none the less could retain faith and God's favor and grace.

In our Prayers this Week at Emmaus:

Zachariah Franck, son of Rev. Rob & Gayle Franck, continuing to suffer from complications and setbacks from heart surgery; and

Hannah Walsh, Emma Heinz, Hannah Stuckwisch, Cecilia Stuckwisch, Rachel James, Emily Demarest, 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 St. Timothy, Bishop & Martyr

Wednesday, 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.

The Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul

Thursday, 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

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 Week after the Transfiguration:

O God, who in the glorious Transfiguration of Your only-begotten Son has confirmed the mysteries of the faith by the testimony of the fathers, and who, in the Voice that came from the bright cloud, did in a wonderful manner foreshow the adoption of sons, mercifully vouchsafe to make us coheirs with the King of His glory and bring us to the enjoyment of the same; 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 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.

The Week after the Transfiguration

21 – 27 January 2024

This Week in the Church Year

The Lord appeared to Moses in the light of the burning bush. Later Moses' face would shine with the light of God's glory when he came down from Mount Sinai. At the Transfiguration, Moses and Elijah appeared with the One who is the Light of Light Himself. Jesus' glory as God shines with brilliant splendor in and through His human nature. By this epiphany, our Lord confirmed the prophetic word, revealing that He is the fulfillment of the Law and the Prophets. He manifested His majesty as the eternal Son of the Father, and He wonderfully foreshowed our adoption as sons. We who have been Baptized into Christ's Body are given a glimpse of the glory that we will share with Him in the resurrection on the Last Day.

Emphasis: Jesus Is Transfigured and Manifests His 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 99

(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, 118:19–29	123, 146	15, 147:1–11	36, 147:12–20	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: II Corinthians 4:6

God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

Readings for the Week after the Transfiguration:

Sunday, 21 January 2024

Joel 1:1–20; Romans 10:1–21

Monday, 22 January 2024

Joel 2:1–17; Romans 11:1–24

Tuesday, 23 January 2024

Joel 2:18–32; Romans 11:25—12:13

Wednesday, 24 January 2024 (St. Timothy, Bishop & Martyr)

Joel 3:1–21; Romans 12:14—13:14

Thursday, 25 January 2024 (The Conversion of Saint Paul)

Zechariah 1:1–21; Romans 14:1–23

(Jeremiah 1:5–10; Acts 9:1–22; St. Matthew 19:27–30)

Friday, 26 January 2024 (St. Titus, Bishop & Confessor)

Zechariah 2:1—3:10; Romans 15:1–13

Saturday, 27 January 2024 (St. John Chrysostom, Bishop, Confessor, & Doctor)

Zechariah 4:1—5:11; Romans 15:14–33

O Lord, have mercy on us.

Thanks be to God.

The Catechism: The Lord's Prayer

What is the Third Petition?

Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven.

What does this mean?

The good and gracious Will of God is done even without our prayer, but we pray in this petition that it may be done among us also.

How is God's Will done?

God's Will is done when He breaks and hinders every evil plan and purpose of the devil, the world, and our sinful nature, which do not want us to hallow God's Name or let His Kingdom come; and when He strengthens and keeps us firm in His Word and faith until we die. This is His good and gracious Will.

The Hymn of the Week

"O WONDROUS TYPE! O VISION FAIR"

LSB #413

[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