

Ember Days

“The material in the Large Catechism originated as sermons by Martin Luther on the basic texts of Christian teaching. Already in the Middle Ages, some regional synods in Germany had called for regular preaching on the “catechism” (usually defined as the Ten Commandment, Apostles’ Creed, Lord’s Prayer and, sometimes, the Ave Maria). The Ember Days, four time of fasting spread throughout the church year {*The Wednesday, Friday and Saturday after 1st Sunday in Lent, Pentecost, Holy Cross Day(Sep 14), and St. Lucia’s Day(Dec 13)*}, were often designated for this purpose. Even before the Reformation, Wittenberg’s city church, St. Mary’s also seems to have followed this practice. Luther himself preached on various portions of the catechism as early as 1518” (*The Book of Concord*, Kolb, preface to Large Catechism, p.377)

“Thus, we have, in all, five parts covering the whole of Christian doctrine, which we should constantly teach and require young people to recite word for word. Do not assume that they will learn and retain this teaching from sermons alone. ²⁵When these parts have been well learned, you may assign them also some Psalms and some hymns, (*Luther himself wrote six hymns based on the parts of the Catechism.*) based on these subjects, to supplement and confirm their knowledge. Thus, our youth will be led into the Scriptures, so they make progress daily.

²⁶However, it is not enough for them simply to learn and repeat these parts verbatim. The young people should also attend preaching, especially at the time designated for the Catechism, so that they may hear it explained and may learn the meaning of every part. Then they will also be able to repeat what they have heard and give a good, correct answer when they are questioned, and thus the preaching will not be without benefit and fruit. ²⁷The reason we take such care to preach on the Catechism frequently is to impress it upon our youth, not in a lofty and learned manner but briefly and very simply, so that it may penetrate deeply into their minds and remain fixed in their memories. (Preface of 1529, Large Catechism, (Tappert, T. G. 2000, c1959. *The Book of Concord: The Confessions of the Evangelical Lutheran Church*. Fortress Press: Philadelphia).

O Antiphons

Between December 17 and 23, the church begins to anticipate the coming of Christ’s Mass. In the daily Vespers service, the seasonal antiphons for the canticle the Magnificat is replaced with 7 different antiphons. These antiphons are all addressed to different names for our Lord and thus they all begin with the interjection, “O.” The hymn, “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel” is based on these antiphons.

Although we will not use them as an antiphon, December 17.--O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, pervading and permeating all creation, mightily ordering / all things:
Come and teach us the way of / prudence. (*Ecclesiasticus 24:5, Wisdom 8:1*)

Catechism Schedule

- Advent 2022 – Confession/Office of the Keys
- Lenten 2023 – Lord’s Supper
- Pentecost 2023 – Daily Prayers
- September 2023 – Table of Duties
- Advent 2023 – Christian Questions with their Answers
- Lenten 2024 – Ten Commandments
- Pentecost 2024– Apostles’ Creed
- September 2024 – Lord’s Prayer
- Advent 2024– Holy Baptism

The Order of Matins, p. 208

+ Hymn	#262
+ “O Lord, open my lips...	p.208f
+ <u>Ascription of Praise for Advent</u>	p.209
“Praise to you, O Christ, King who comes to save us.”	
+ <u>Advent Invitatory</u>	p.209
P. “Behold, the Lord comes to save us.”	
C. Oh, come, let us worship him.	
+ <u>The Venite</u>	p.209f
“Oh, come, let us sing...”	
+ Hymn “The Only Son from Heaven”	(insert)
<u>Psalmody</u>	
Psalm 132	(printed)
Psalm 98	(printed)
<u>Reading</u>	
Wed – Isaiah 2:2-5, St. Luke 1:26-38	
Fri – Isaiah 11:1-5, St. Luke 1:39-47	
Sat – 2 Thess. 2:1-8, St. Luke 3:1-6	
Common Responsory	p.211
“Forever, O Lord, your Word...”	
<u>Catechism Reading</u>	
Wed – Confession, Q. 1 and 2 (p.304)	
Fri – Confession, Q. 3 (p.304)	
Office of the Keys, Q. 1 (p.305)	
Sat – Office of the Keys, Q. 2& 3 (p. 305)	
Sermon	
Offering	
+ Benedictus.....	p.217-219
“Blessed be the Lord God...”	
+ The Prayers.....	p.219
Kyrie (“Lord, have mercy...”)	
Lord’s Prayer	
Salutation	
Collect of the Day	(inside)
Special Prayers	
Collect for Grace	
+ Benedicamus	p.222

“Against the Roman Papacy an Institution of the Devil” 1545

By Dr. Martin Luther

St. Peter says, I Peter 4 [:11], “Whoever speaks, let him speak as the oracles of God. Whoever renders service, let him do it as one who renders it by the strength which God supplies; in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ,” etc. Also, in many places St. Paul sharply forbids the teachings of men, especially Titus 1 [:13–14], “Rebuke them sharply, that they may be sound in the faith, instead of giving heed to commands of men who reject the truth”; and our Lord himself says in Matthew 15 [:9], “In vain do they worship me, teaching as doctrines the precepts of men.” Here it is firmly forbidden to preach or hear human teachings in the church, for they do not give honor and glory to God, but instead seduce people away from the faith and seek the glory of man. For God alone would speak, work, and govern in his church, so that he alone is glorified, which we have, praise God, managed to achieve in our churches; and, with God’s help, it has become customary that almost everyone knows how one should beware of the teachings of men as of the devil himself, and should hear only our Lord and Savior, as the Father tells us of him at the river Jordan, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; him you shall hear.” He himself says in John 10 [:27, 5], “My sheep hear my voice.... A stranger they will not follow, but they will flee from him, for they do not know the voice of strangers.” By going among the sheep, you may see for yourself if you wish this sweet and joyful picture that the Lord uses here about them. If a stranger calls, whistles, or coaxes them, “Hermen, Hermen,” they run and flee, and the more you coax, the more they run, as if a wolf were there, for they do not recognize the strange voice; but when the shepherd lets himself be heard a little, they all run toward him, for they know his voice. Just so should all true Christians act, who hear no voice but that of their shepherd, Christ, as he says himself, John 10 [:8], “All who came before me are thieves and murderers; but the sheep did not heed them.”

From these and many similar sayings it has been clearly and convincingly enough proven that God has strictly and sharply forbidden the doctrines and works of men in the church, as being contrary to faith and leading men away from the truth, that is, they are sheer lies and fraud before God. And where the devil has gotten involved—that one embellishes them with God’s name or the apostles’ names, and sells them under these names—then they are no longer simple lies and fraud, but also horrible blasphemy, idolatry, and abomination. For then the devil makes God a liar and deceiver, as though God had spoken such lies or done such works; and the people fall for it, believe it, and depend on it, as if God had said and done it, and thus they give their trust and honor, which is due to God alone, to lies and to the devil. This is what is meant by true idolatry and blasphemy in all the prophets. Isaiah 2 [:8] says, “Their land is filled with idols; they bow down to the work of their hands, to what their own fingers have made,” and Jeremiah 29 [:31] says, “Because Shemaiah has prophesied to you when I did not send him, and has made you trust in a lie,” etc. Now you hear: he who is not sent does not have the word of God; and by his own human doctrine he makes men trust in lies, that is, commit idolatry. (LW v. 41, p. 300)

Ember Days in Advent, 2022



The Luther Bible 1534: Exodus 27 – The Tabernacle, p.53.

Trinity Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Learning Center

1000 North Park Avenue, Herrin, IL 62948
Church 942-3401, Learning Center 942-4750

www.trinityh.org

Pastor Michael D. Henson · Deacon Gary K. Harroun
*Pr. Henson and Dcn. Harroun are members of the
Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America (Eldona.org)*

