

0519 Pastor Greg Van Dunk Atonement Lutheran St Paul Journeys
May 13 - May 23, 2019



Monday, May 13

Departure ORD on our way to Athens, Greece

Tuesday, May 14

Arrival to Athens Airport – our escort will meet and greet you. After arrival, we will tour Athens by bus, giving us a wonderful overview of this ancient city. Dinner and overnight Athens. (B,D)

Wednesday, May 15

We begin our day of sightseeing in Athens with a visit to the world-famous Athens Acropolis. On this sacred hill, you will see exquisite monuments such as the Propylae Gates, the breathtaking Parthenon and the Erechtheion and the Acropolis Museum. We also view the Areios Pagos Hill where Paul the Apostle preached. After your tour, you have the rest of your day free to explore this captivating city. Dinner on your own. Overnight Athens. (B)

Thursday, May 16

Today we drive to the Peloponnese and begin our tour in Corinth, where we visit the ruins of the ancient city, which is perched on a hill above the modern town of Corinth. In this ancient city of Corinth where St. Paul lived for two years with Aquila and Priscilla, he preached the Gospel to Corinth's early church which was the recipient of Paul's two Corinthian epistles. Visit Apollo's Temple and the Agora – Market Place. We return to our hotel in Athens. (B,D)

Friday, May 17

Check out from our hotel and transfer to Piraeus Port, where we set off on a 3-day cruise to the Greek Islands and Turkey. We arrive in Mykonos in the afternoon, a marvelous cosmopolitan holiday destination that combines activity and scenic beauty. You can stroll Mykonos Town to admire the whitewashed houses and flowered balconies along with a visit to the beautiful church of Panagia Paraportiani. Other attractions in Mykonos Town include the island's trademark windmills and the charming area of Alefkandra, Mykonos' Little Venice. Back on board we sail overnight to Kusadasi. (B,L,D)

Saturday, May 18

We reach Kusadasi in the morning. Our excursion takes us to the ancient city of Ephesus. Here the first Christian community was started by St. John and developed by St. Paul. Paul came here to fulfill the promise that he had given on his brief visit when returning from Corinth, and stayed for over three years. The church of Ephesus, established by Paul, became the head of the Seven Churches in western Asia Minor. Ephesus is now a UNESCO World Heritage site. Here the Apostle Paul encountered temples devoted to the worship of idols. In the afternoon, we arrive in Patmos where John the Apostle wrote the Book of Revelation. We make our way to the Monastery of St. John the Theologian and to the Holy Grotto of the Revelation. Sail overnight to the island of Crete. (B,L,D)

Sunday, May 19

We arrive in the port of Heraklion – the capital of the island of Crete where the Minoan population had blossomed. Our next port of call is Santorini, famous for its volcano/caldera. An optional excursion to Thira and Oia areas give you the opportunity to see one of the most famous islands of Greece. Overnight sail to Piraeus Port. (B,L,D)

Monday, May 20

Early checkout from the cruise ship after breakfast and transfer to the Athens Airport for your flight to Rome. Upon arrival, our tour escort will meet us and transfer us to our hotel. Check in to our hotel, go out for a light lunch and gather for our afternoon tour of the Coliseum, site of the persecution of the early Christians, and the Roman Forum. Also visit the Mamertine Prison where once, according to tradition, St. Peter and St. Paul were kept prisoners before being killed under Nero's empire. Dinner and overnight at hotel.

Tuesday, May 21

Today we will proceed to the Vatican where we are met by our private guide. Our entry will be scheduled earlier than the public opening time for the museums. We will have a private tour of the Vatican Museum, the Sistine Chapel and St. Peter's Basilica. In the afternoon, early Christians in Rome is our focus as we visit the Catacombs along the Via Appia Antica. This evening, we will enjoy dinner at a charming Italian restaurant with a folk show including opera music. Overnight Rome. (B, D)

Wednesday, May 22

We proceed to the ancient church called St. Paul alla Regola (or Santa Maria in via Lata) where we visit the room (now a chapel) where Paul wrote part of his letters to the Romans. The Abbey of the Three Fountains is the site where Paul was martyred and in the Basilica of St. Paul Outside the Walls is the tomb where the apostle is buried. After lunch, we will stroll through the Piazza Navona, site of Bernini's "Fountain of the Four Rivers" and visit the Augustinian monastery and Church of S. Maria del Popolo where Martin Luther stayed when he was in Rome. Inside are the remarkable paintings by Caravaggio: "Crucifixion of St. Peter" and "Conversion on the Way to Damascus". We will visit architectural landmarks such as the Trevi Fountain, the Spanish Steps and the Pantheon. Dinner tonight is on your own.

Thursday, May 23

Depart Rome on our return trip to Chicago. (B)