

***Gospel Acclamation: “My Hope is Built” — Verse 1 of #294**

*My hope is built on nothing less,
Than Jesus’ blood and righteousness;
No merit of my own I claim,
But wholly lean on Jesus’ name.*

On Christ the solid rock I stand; All other ground is sinking sand.

*Holy Gospel: Mark 13:24-37

Children’s Message: “Wait For It!”

Sermon: “Hope Waits” Rev. David Steffenson

***Hymn of the Day: “Wake, Awake, for Night is Flying” #31**

*Confession of Faith: “Apostles’ Creed” Page 85

*The Prayers (bulletin page 3)

*The Peace

Offering—Gift of Music

*The Great Thanksgiving — Eucharistic Prayer for Advent

*Lord’s Prayer: *Traditional Version* Page 91

Invitation & Distribution

Holy Communion is the Lord’s Supper for the Lord’s People: “All are welcome to receive the Lord’s Body and Blood who are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified & risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life & salvation.”

We practice Intinction at Emmanuel Lutheran. Receive a wafer (the body of Christ) & dip it into the cup of wine (the blood of Christ).

Communion Hymn: “What Child Is This” #40

*Table Blessing

*Benediction: Romans 15:13

P: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”

C: Amen.

***Sending Hymn: “O Jesus, Joy of Loving Hearts”**

#356

*Dismissal

P: Go in Hope! Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude - Going Forth in Hope

The Prayers

A: As we await the coming of our Savior in mercy and majesty, let us pray to our Heavenly Father for the Church, the world, and for all people according to their needs. **A brief silence**

A: Lord, You have given us the stars as markers of days and seasons, and we thank You for bringing us to the beginning of a new Church Year. Keep us faithful as we move through its observances & celebrations. May we gather often to hear the proclamation of Your Son and receive the gifts You so freely bestow upon us. Lord, in Your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

A: We do not know the time when the Son of Man will come. That knowledge belongs only to You alone, O Lord. Keep us watchful and ever ready for His arrival. Grant that we may be gathered from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. Lord, in Your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

A: O Lord, You are our Father, hide not Your face from us. Look with kindness especially upon [NAMES] and all who cry out to You in time of need. According to Your will, give healing to the sick, comfort to those who mourn and perseverance to those who suffer for the sake of Your name. Lord, in Your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

A: Lord, even as we await Your coming in glory, You come to us in the here and now in the bread and wine that is the body and blood of Your Son. May all who approach Your table tonight receive the Sacrament in a worthy manner, so that with sins forgiven & faith strengthened Your people may lack no gift as they await the revealing of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Lord, in Your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

P: Into your hands, merciful Father, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Gospel Reading: Mark 13:24-37

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 13th. Chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

24 [Jesus said,] “But in those days, after that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, 25 and the stars will be falling from heaven, and the powers in the heavens will be shaken. 26 And then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory. 27 And then he will send out the angels and gather his elect from the four winds, from the ends of the earth to the ends of heaven. 28 From the fig tree learn its lesson: as soon as its branch becomes tender and puts out its leaves, you know that summer is near. 29 So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that he is near, at the very gates. 30 Truly, I say to you, this generation will not pass away until all these things take place. 31 Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. 32 But concerning that day or that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father. 33 Be on guard, keep awake. For you do not know when the time will come. 34 It is like a man going on a journey, when he leaves home and puts his servants in charge, each with his work, and commands the doorkeeper to stay awake. 35 Therefore stay awake — for you do not know when the master of the house will come, in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or in the morning — 36 lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. 37 And what I say to you I say to all: Stay awake.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Thanks for worshiping with us this evening. Your presence is your gift to us. We pray that our Service of Word and Sacrament is a blessing to you. Sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever we are praising, proclaiming and practicing Emmanuel – God with us – in daily life! May the Advent of our Lord keep hope in our hearts!

Visit us at: www.emmanuelofrochester.org.



**Worship
Advent One
Dec. 2, 2017
6:00 p.m.**

Lutheran Book of Worship—Setting II

** indicates stand as you are able*

Prelude - Gathering in Hope!

Welcome/Announcements

Prayer: Blessed are you, O Lord our God, Ruler of the universe. You call all nations to walk in your light and to seek the ways of your justice and peace, for the night is past and the dawn of your coming is near. Bless us as we light the first candle of this wreath. Rouse us from our sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when He comes, & welcome Him into our hearts and homes, for He is our hope & salvation. Blessed be God forever. Amen.

Lighting of Advent Candle

Sing: “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers” — Verse 4 of #25

Our hope and expectation, O Jesus now appear;

Arise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this benighted sphere.

With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see,

The day of earth's redemption, That sets your people free.

*Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness

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***Gathering Hymn:** “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus” #30

*Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray. Stir up your power, O Lord, and come, that by your protection we may be rescued from the threatening perils of our sins and saved by your mighty deliverance; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Lesson: Isaiah 64:1-9

Second Lesson: I Corinthians 1:3-9

Isaiah 64:1-9—Clay in the Potter’s Hand

1 Oh that you would rend the heavens and come down, that the mountains might quake at your presence — 2 as when fire kindles brushwood and the fire causes water to boil — to make your name known to your adversaries, and that the nations might tremble at your presence! 3 When you did awesome things that we did not look for, you came down, the mountains quaked at your presence. 4 From of old no one has heard or perceived by the ear, no eye has seen a God besides you, who acts for those who wait for him. 5 You meet him who joyfully works righteousness, those who remember you in your ways. Behold, you were angry, and we sinned; in our sins we have been a long time, & shall we be saved? 6 We have all become like one who is unclean, & all our righteous deeds are like a polluted garment. We all fade like a leaf, and our iniquities, like the wind, take us away. 7 There is no one who calls upon your name, who rouses himself to take hold of you; for you have hidden your face from us, and have made us melt in the hand of our iniquities. 8 But now, O Lord, you are our Father; we are the clay, and you are our potter; we are all the work of your hand. 9 Be not so terribly angry, O Lord, and remember not iniquity forever. Behold, please look, we are all your people.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

I Corinthians 1:3-9—Gifted & Guiltless as We Wait

3 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 4 I give thanks to my God always for you because of the grace of God that was given you in Christ Jesus, 5 that in every way you were enriched in him in all speech and all knowledge — 6 even as the testimony about Christ was confirmed among you — 7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, as you wait for the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ, 8 who will sustain you to the end, guiltless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ. 9 God is faithful, by whom you were called into the fellowship of his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Communication Cards/Offering Envelopes: The offering envelope, in your bulletin is also being used as visitor and communication card. If you are visiting with us, please know that your presence is your gift to us. We have a generous congregation & ask only that you share your contact information with us. Members and visitors may use the communication envelopes to indicate a desire for a pastoral visit, a prayer concern, or changes in contact information. Envelopes may be placed in the offering basket. Thanks.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing: Emmanuel’s goal for this year’s Red Kettle fundraiser is 62 hours! Contact Lee Pearce for more Information. Thanks to everyone who has already signed up or rang bells! We’ve logged over 25 hours already!

Saturday School & G.I.F.T. — Education for all ages (youth and adults) is offered each Saturday night before worship at 5:10pm. Youth are looking at Advent & Christmas stories from the Bible. Adults are visiting about the Gift of Hope.

Men’s Bible Study Breakfast: Each week, Emmanuel Men meet on Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m. at Oasis Church for Bible Study & Coffee. We are currently reading & discussing the Bible (Genesis -Revelation). Read pages 1190-1193 of the NIV Once A Day Bible (DAY 339 — December 5) in preparation for this week’s study (Hosea 1-2; I John 5; Psalm 139).

Women’s Afternoon Bible Study: Women of Emmanuel are studying the Book of Acts this year. Scholars refer to the Book of Acts as the “Acts of the Holy Spirit in the Life of the Church”. What does it mean to be the Church, the Body of Christ, empowered by the Holy Spirit for witnessing in God’s World? The Book of Acts teaches us what it means to be missionaries, ignited by the mighty rushing wind of God. **Next session: Thursday, December 7 at 1pm** in the Oasis Fellowship Hall. Read Acts 16-18 (“Paul’s Second Missionary Journey”).

Lady Light Bible Study: This group meets once a month at the home of Katie Siebenaler (6:30pm). Topic: Marriage and Family — Martin & Katie Luther. Our next meeting: Thursday, December 14 at 6:30pm.

Discipleship Covenants for 2018 are available for signing!

Membership at Emmanuel is an annual renewal. Sixty-Two Covenants were signed in 2017. Thanks for walking the walk with Jesus and making Emmanuel your church home.

Thrivent Action Team Gifts: Advent opportunities to bring HOPE to our community. 1) Nashville musician and Christian artist, Mark Smeby, will be with us in worship on Saturday, December 9. Invite a friend to join you for worship. 2) Cookies & Advent/Christmas invites are being distributed to the following healthcare hospitality houses: Gift of Life Transplant House, The American Cancer Society Hope Lodge, and the Ronald McDonald House. 3) A Holiday Care Package is also being assembled for Roman Mulvihill, currently deployed in the Middle East. Visit with Judy Pearce about these opportunities.

2017 Emmanuel Church Picture Directory: Thanks to Deb Vomhof, Julie Steffenson and Leitha Bothun for assembling our brand new Church Picture Directory. Pastor Dave Steffenson has also included a brief historical summary of our Emmanuel Church. Great Pictures! Great History. Get your copy today!

WORSHIP SERVANTS Tonight: THANKS!

Pianist: Karen Salz

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Brock Edwards

Communion: Jenna Serr

Ushers: Brock & Julie Edwards family

Acolyte: Mason Edwards

Sound: Don Holtan

Set-up: Julie Steffenson

Take-down: Janet Sunde

Coffee: Peg Holtan

Treats: Jean Wanek

Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Rochester, Minnesota

Contact Information: 1815—38th Street NW, Rochester, MN

Phone: 507-206-3048

www.emmanuelofrochester.org

The Emmanuel Weekly

Saturday, Dec. 2, 2017

Advent I — 6 pm

***“Praising, Proclaiming and Practicing
Emmanuel—God with us—in daily
life!”***

The ADVENT of our LORD

A new church year begins tonight with the Season of Advent. This year’s Advent & Christmas theme is: **“Jesus: The Gift of Hope”**. Each week during the Season of Advent we will be exploring the Gift of Hope, anchored in Christ crucified & risen!

Advent I—Dec. 2: Hope Waits

Advent II—Dec. 9: Hope Floats
with Guest Musician Mark Smeby

Advent III—Dec. 16: Hope Sows & Reaps

Advent IV—Dec. 23: Hope Believes &
Obeys — with Children’s Nativity

Emmanuel Nominating Committee

Is God calling you to serve in leadership at Emmanuel Lutheran? Opportunities: Church Council, Audit Committee, Voting Delegates, or Nominating Committee.

SNOW REMOVAL

Emmanuel is responsible for snow removal at Oasis Church on Mondays.

The December Emmanuel Epistle Newsletter & Prayer Calendar are available! Also, pick up your copy of Our Daily Bread Devotional for December—January.



CALENDAR ITEMS

- Saturday, December 2
G.I.F.T. & Saturday
School @ 5:10pm);
Advent I Worship at 6pm
- Tues, Dec. 5 — Men’s
Bible Study (8am); Text
Study (10:30am)
- Wed, Dec. 6 - Worship at
Madonna Towers (1pm)
- Thurs, Dec. 7 - Council
Mtg. at 10am; Women’s
Bible Study at 1pm
- Saturday, December 9
G.I.F.T. & Saturday
School @ 5:10pm);
Advent II Worship at
6pm with guest
musician Mark Smeby
- Sun, Dec. 10 - Pastor
Dave preaching at St.
John’s of Vilmar, IA

MARK SMEBY - BIOGRAPHY

“Music is the best tool I've found to encourage people who are tired, discouraged, lonely, or ready to give up on life.”

The term inspirational can be thrown around in the same manner as heartwarming or sentimental. But when someone describes Mark Smeby's music as inspirational, it means they were actually inspired—lifted up, encouraged, given hope. And to Mark, there's no better compliment.

“Wherever I go, I meet people who feel they are the only person going through what they're going through. They think no one could possibly understand their pain. The reality is that we don't know what people carry around with them...but it's usually a pretty heavy load. Using my stories and songs, I want to tell people that they are not alone on their life's journey. And that the person sitting next to them could very likely use someone willing to listen to their story.”

Mark has adapted powerful imagery of life as a journey in many of his songs: *“though the road may be long and the journey hard”* (from “Pilgrim Man”), *“This World Is Not My Home,”* and even the term “pilgrim” – defined as someone who undertakes a journey of considerable distance, usually for religious reasons. “I believe this imagery allows listeners the opportunity to see their lives from a bigger, more compelling perspective. The struggle you're going through today is not what defines you, it's just the place where you are today. Your story is not finished being written. And in fact, the best is yet to come.”

But Mark isn't just about the music. He recently had his book *“The Messenger: A Journey Into Hope”* released by BroadStreet Publishers. Not content to let the words speak for themselves, Smeby created a companion CD, a soundtrack of sorts, to go along with the book. Filled with powerful, original tunes and inspiring favorites, *The Messenger* is sure to be Mark's most popular release.

In addition to sharing this message of hope through his writings and in concerts around the country, for the past twenty years Mark has visited a group of guys incarcerated in a Nashville prison. “I'm honored to continue to have the opportunity to go inside the walls and hang out with these guys, my friends. What better place to bring hope than to the place where the people society considers hopeless are living.”

This heart for prison ministry has led to Mark's recent partnering with Prison Fellowship International (pfi.org) to be a spokesperson for their Children of Hope program, designed to save children whose parents have been incarcerated in some of the world's poorest countries.

Frank J. Lofaro, CEO, Prison Fellowship International said, “Mark has a true compassion for prisoners and their families. We're thrilled to partner with him to help rescue children of prisoners around the world.”

Where did Mark's mission of hope come from? “I come from a long line of people who gave their lives away to others. Family members who believe serving others is the best way to live. Doing music brings so much joy to myself and others, but what I discovered is that people are hungry, tired, and worn out—and that music is an incredibly powerful medicine that people open up to—they let the songs speak to their hearts. So it can't be about me anymore. I enjoy it—more than ever! But in actuality, my music is now all about the people who listen—the tired, the weary, the thirsty, lonely, broken people —just like myself, who are in desperate need of a great light to break through their darkness. That glimmer of light, however small or large, is the first sight of hope, and tells them, *I can continue.*”

“I believe hope says God is in the middle of all of this that we're going through, and he's up to something...something good.”

Worship with Mark on Saturday, December 9 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church (6pm). Experience the Gift of Hope!

www.marksmeby.com