

***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: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Children’s Message: “I Sure Hope So”

Sermon: “Hope Sows & Reaps” Rev. David Steffenson

***Hymn of the Day: “Come, O Precious Ransom” #24**

*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: “Joy to the World” #39

*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: “Hark, the Glad Sound!”**

#35

*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, clothe your Church with the joy of your salvation; cover it with the righteousness of Christ; and adorn it with the jewels of your Word and Sacraments, so that through it, the poor may hear the Good News, the sorrowful may be comforted, and those held captive to sin and death may experience the wonderful freedom of your salvation.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Restore the fortunes of Christians who are persecuted for confessing Jesus as Savior and Lord. Turn their weeping into rejoicing; and cause those who hate them to repent and believe in the Good News. Teach us to live our baptism and witness to the Light. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Anoint the rulers of the world with your Spirit, so that, like you, they love justice and hate evil. Transform us all, so we may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord: bearing much fruit to your glory, and for the building up of your people. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Grant your healing to the brokenhearted and to all who suffer in body, mind or spirit, especially [NAMES]. Strengthen all who care for the sick; and give them, and all of us, your everlasting joy. May we hold fast to what is good, rejoice always, pray without ceasing and give thanks in all circumstances. 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: John 1:6-8, 19-28

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. John the 1st. Chapter.
C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

6 There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7 He came as a witness, to bear witness about the light, that all might believe through him. 8 He was not the light, but came to bear witness about the light. ... 19 And this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" 20 He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ." 21 And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No." 22 So they said to him, "Who are you? We need to give an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?" 23 He said, "I am the voice of one crying out in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way of the Lord,' as the prophet Isaiah said." 24 (Now they had been sent from the Pharisees.) 25 They asked him, "Then why are you baptizing, if you are neither the Christ, nor Elijah, nor the Prophet?" 26 John answered them, "I baptize with water, but among you stands one you do not know, 27 even he who comes after me, the strap of whose sandal I am not worthy to untie." 28 These things took place in Bethany across the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

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 & 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 always!

Visit us at: www.emmanuelofrochester.org

Year-End Gifts and Offerings: Emmanuel is requesting that members make year-end contributions to our church mission plan budget, and designated gifts, by December 25. With New Year's Day falling on Monday this year, offerings received in worship on December 30 will not be deposited until January 2, 2018. Thanks for your attention to this matter.



**Worship
Advent Three
Dec. 16, 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, God of our salvation; you promised to take away judgment, to cast out fear, and to turn the shame of the outcast into praise. As we light these candles, kindle in us the fire of your Holy Spirit to make known your deeds among the nations and to sing for joy when you are in our midst; let your face shine on us and bless us that we may be saved. Amen.

Lighting of Advent Candles

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 Page 77

***Gathering Hymn:** "Prepare the Royal Highway" #26

*Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, give ear to our prayers, & lighten the darkness of our hearts by your gracious visitation; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Lesson: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11

Second Lesson: I Thessalonians 5:16-24

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11—Hope Has Arrived!

1 The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor; he has sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; 2 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; 3 to grant to those who mourn in Zion — to give them a beautiful headdress instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the garment of praise instead of a faint spirit; that they may be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified. 4 They shall build up the ancient ruins; they shall raise up the former devastations; they shall repair the ruined cities, the devastations of many generations. ... 8 For I the Lord love justice; I hate robbery and wrong; I will faithfully give them their recompense, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them. 9 Their offspring shall be known among the nations, and their descendants in the midst of the peoples; all who see them shall acknowledge them, that they are an offspring the Lord has blessed. 10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself like a priest with a beautiful headdress, and as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. 11 For as the earth brings forth its sprouts, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to sprout up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to sprout up before all the nations.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

I Thessalonians 5:16-24—God's Will for you!

16 Rejoice always, 17 pray without ceasing, 18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you. 19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies, 21 but test everything; hold fast what is good. 22 Abstain from every form of evil. 23 Now may the God of peace himself sanctify you completely, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. 24 He who calls you is faithful; he will surely do it.

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 about 50 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, and preparing for the Nativity Presentation on Dec. 23. 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 1232-1235 of the NIV Once A Day Bible (DAY 353 — December 19) in preparation for this week's study (Jonah 1-4; Revelation 11:1-19; & Psalm 145).

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. **Our Next session:** Thursday, January 4 at 1pm in the Oasis Fellowship Hall. Read Acts 19-20 ("Paul's Third 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: Pending!

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. We have received 31 signed covenants so far.

Thrivent Action Team Gifts: Advent opportunities to bring HOPE to our community. 1) Cookies & Advent/Christmas invites are being distributed on Thursdays at 1pm to the following healthcare hospitality houses: Gift of Life Transplant House, The American Cancer Society Hope Lodge, & the Ronald McDonald House. 2) A Holiday Care Package is also being sent to Roman Mulvihill, currently deployed in the Middle East. Thanks to Judy Pearce for coordinating these ministry 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!

Organist: Rev. Scott Schilbe

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Jean Wanek

Communion: Julie Steffenson

Ushers: Arne Nelson & Bob Harms

Acolyte: Cabe Siebenaler

Sound: Don Holtan

Set-up: Julie Steffenson

Take-down: Janet Sunde

Coffee: Peg Holtan

Treats: Judy Caudill & Deb Vomhof

Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Rochester, Minnesota
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The Emmanuel Weekly

Saturday, Dec. 16, 2017

Advent III — 6 pm

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

The ADVENT of our LORD

This year’s Advent & Christmas theme is: **“Jesus: The Gift of Hope”**. Each week we celebrating the Gift of Hope, anchored in Christ, crucified & risen!

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

Christmas Eve—Dec. 24 (9pm) — Service of Carols, Communion & Candlelight with pipe organ and instrumentalists. **Extended prelude begins at 8:40pm!**

Bell Ringing Service: Saturday, Dec. 30 at 6pm. *Bring those bells!* We will be singing lots of Christmas Carols as we celebrate the Twelve Days of Christmas. No G.I.F.T. or Saturday School on December 30.

SNOW REMOVAL

Emmanuel is responsible for snow removal at Oasis Church on Mondays this winter. Contact Don Holtan if you are able to help with this ministry.

Pastor Dave on Vacation

December 26-29, 31, 2017

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 16 G.I.F.T. and Saturday School @ 5:10pm; Advent III Worship at 6pm
- Tues, Dec. 19 — Men’s Bible Study (8am); Text Study (10:30am)
- Wednesday, Dec. 20 Worship at Madonna Towers (1pm)
- Sat, Dec. 23 — G.I.F.T. & Saturday School @ 5:10pm; Advent IV Worship at 6pm with Children’s Nativity
- Sunday, December 24 Christmas Eve Worship at 9pm—Candlelight & Holy Communion. Come early for an extended Instrumental Prelude! Merry Christmas!