

Children’s Message: “The Christmas Spider”	
Sermon: “Blood On the Manger Already”	Pastor Dave Steffenson
*Hymn of the Day: “Children of the Heavenly Father”	#474
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Offering	
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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 power of the Holy Spirit equip the saints for Witness in the World in the Season of Christmas!

Visit us at: www.emmanuelofrochester.org.

The Prayers

A: Let us pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. *A Brief Silence...*

A: Heavenly Father, join the voices of the Church with the songs of the angels, announcing the birth of Jesus Christ, through whom we have salvation, hope & life. Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Prince of Peace, change the hearts of rulers who seek their own glory, who abuse their authority, and who bring harm to those they govern. May they repent and live in accordance with your will. Give courage & faith to your persecuted people that they may endure suffering & hold fast to the hope that is within them. Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: O Giver of Life, forgive us for the many ways we strip away the value of life among ourselves and our neighbors. Help us to uphold the sanctity of life, while protecting and improving the lives of the little ones in our midst. Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Heavenly Father, come to the aid of your children. End the slaughter of the Holy Innocent. We pray for children who were aborted and for parents who made that decision. Comfort the families of those whose expectations of birth ended in miscarriage or stillborn. Be present with couples who struggle to conceive and those who are waiting to adopt, that they may know the gift of motherhood and fatherhood. Lord in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Eternal Word, shine your light upon those who dwell in the land of deep darkness. Be with all we name before you, who seek the gift of your healing presence (*names are offered*). We pray for those mourn in this season of birth and new life. Grant to all who grieve, the hope and promise of Christmas; Christ was born to save. 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; thorough your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

Psalm 54—Read Responsively

L: O God, save me by your name, and vindicate me by your might.

C: O God, hear my prayer; give ear to the words of my mouth.

L: For strangers have risen against me; ruthless men seek my life; they do not set God before themselves.

C: Behold, God is my helper; the Lord is the upholder of my life. He will return the evil to my enemies;

L: In your faithfulness put an end to them.

C: With a freewill offering I will sacrifice to you; I will give thanks to your name, O LORD, for it is good.

L: For he has delivered me from every trouble,

C: And my eye has looked in triumph on my enemies.

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 and risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation." We are practicing head of the aisle Communion tonight by means of Intinction.

Christmas Open House at Pastor Dave and Julie's place (6330 Fairway Drive N.W., Rochester): Sunday, January 4 from 1-4 p.m. Beverages, desserts, snacks & Christmas goodies will be served. In preparation for Epiphany, we'll read the story of the Magi (Matthew 2) and sing some favorite Epiphany Songs. King Cake will be served.



**Worship—Eve of
Christmas I
Dec. 27, 2014
6:00 p.m.**

**Lutheran Book of Worship—Setting II
“FEAST OF THE HOLY INNOCENTS”**

** indicates stand as you are able*

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

*Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness Page 77

*Gathering Hymn: “Infant Holy, Infant Lowly” #44

*Greeting Page 78

*Kyrie Page 78f

*Hymn of Praise: “Glory to God” Page 79f

*Salutation and Prayer of the Day Page 82

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And Also with you.

P: We remember today, O God, the slaughter of the holy innocents of Bethlehem by order of King Herod. Receive, we pray, into the arms of your mercy all innocent victims, and by your great might frustrate the designs of evil tyrants and establish your rule of justice, love, and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Lesson: Jeremiah 31:15-17

Psalm 54 Bulletin Page 4

Second Lesson: Revelation 14:1-5

*Gospel Acclamation: “Alleluia” Page 83

*Holy Gospel: Matthew 2:13-18

Emmanuel Annual Meeting—Saturday, January 24: Members of Emmanuel Lutheran will assemble following worship on January 24 for our Annual Meeting. We will be approving Constitution & Bylaw changes, 2015 Budget, and electing people to the following positions: Two—2 year council position (Arne Nelson & Kari Richards have agreed to serve) and One—1 year council position (Don Holtan has agreed to serve); Nominating Committee for 2015—four people needed (Judy Pearce & Leitha Bothun have agreed to serve); Audit Committee for 2015—three people needed (Larry Vomhof, Darald Bothun, & Rich Sunde have agreed to serve); Financial Secretary for 2015: Deb Vomhof has agreed to serve; and Voting Lay-member for NALC Convocations: Lee Pearce has agreed to serve.

Membership at Emmanuel: “Now you are the Body of Christ and individually members of it”—I Cor. 12:27. Baptized members are servants of Emmanuel, living out their God-given faith in congregational life; committed to the walk of discipleship, growing up into the full maturity of Christ. Each December, Christians desiring membership at Emmanuel Lutheran of Rochester are invited to sign up (be enrolled for the next calendar year) on our Servant Roster. To be a member is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, baptized & committed to the Marks of Discipleship. If you desire to “praise, proclaim, and practice Emmanuel—God With Us—in daily life,” then complete the 2015 Emmanuel Discipleship Membership Covenant and walk with us to the glory of God! Deadline is January 13, 2015—Council Meeting.

MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP: Signposts guide our way—Disciples seek to pray daily, worship weekly, grow spiritually, read & study Scripture on a regular basis, serve others, share the good news, and give generously.

Men’s Bible Study Breakfast: Weekly fellowship around God’s Word at 8 am Tuesdays at Charlie’s (1408 2nd. St. SW). Join us in being Evangelical. Invite a friend. Share the Good News! We will meet on Tuesday, December 30 & discuss the readings for the Twelve Days of Christmas.

Saturday School: 5:10 p.m.—Christian Education for all ages on Saturdays prior to Worship! Each week we’ll enjoy singing, a Bible Lesson/Craft and a snack (kid friendly). If anyone has any ideas for a more ‘exciting’ name for Saturday School—we’d love to hear it! Contact Julie Steffenson for more information or to share your ideas: (507)-206-3048. No Saturday School during the Season of Christmas (December 27 and January 3). Saturday School will resume on January 10 with the showing of a DVD, “Mario’s First Communion”.

Jeremiah 31:15-17—Mourning into Joy

15 Thus says the LORD: "A voice is heard in Ramah, lamentation and bitter weeping. Rachel is weeping for her children; she refuses to be comforted for her children, because they are no more." 16 Thus says the LORD: "Keep your voice from weeping, and your eyes from tears, for there is a reward for your work, declares the LORD, and they shall come back from the land of the enemy. 17 There is hope for your future, declares the LORD, and your children shall come back to their own country.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Revelation 14:1-5—The Lamb and the 144,000

1 Then I looked, and behold, on Mount Zion stood the Lamb, and with him 144,000 who had his name and his Father's name written on their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven like the roar of many waters and like the sound of loud thunder. The voice I heard was like the sound of harpists playing on their harps, 3 and they were singing a new song before the throne and before the four living creatures and before the elders. No one could learn that song except the 144,000 who had been redeemed from the earth. 4 It is these who have not defiled themselves with women, for they are virgins. It is these who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These have been redeemed from mankind as firstfruits for God and the Lamb, 5 and in their mouth no lie was found, for they are blameless.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Bell Ringing—Thank you to all of our Emmanuel Servants who rang bells at the Salvation Army Kettles during the Advent Season.

A GIFT FOR YOU! Emmanuel Lutheran Church is beginning an annual tradition of providing a Christmas keepsake ornament for each family. We hope these keepsakes will provide cherished memories of your life at *Emmanuel* as you decorate with them each year. Be sure to get yours.

Gospel Reading—Matthew 2:13-18

P: The Holy Gospel According to St. Mt. the 2nd. Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

13 Now when they had departed, behold, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you, for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him." 14 And he rose and took the child and his mother by night and departed to Egypt 15 & remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what the Lord had spoken by the prophet, "Out of Egypt I called my son." 16 Then Herod, when he saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, became furious, and he sent and killed all the male children in Bethlehem and in all that region who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had ascertained from the wise men. 17 Then was fulfilled what was spoken by the prophet Jeremiah: 18 "A voice was heard in Ramah, weeping and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be comforted, because they are no more."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

WORSHIP SERVANTS Tonight:

Pianist: MarJean Damerval

Scripture Reader/Prayers/Communion Server: Julie Steffenson

Set-up: Julie Steffenson

Take Down: Janet Sunde

Ushers: LeRoy Quam, Larry Vomhof & Cabe Siebenaler

Sound: Don Holtan

Coffee: Peg Holtan

Treats: Margaret Quam

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. 27, 2014
Eve of Christmas I—6 pm

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

The Holy Innocents

Herod "the Great," king of Judea, was unpopular with his people because of his connections with the Romans & his religious indifference. Hence he was insecure & fearful of any threat to his throne. He was a master politician and a tyrant capable of extreme brutality. He killed his wife, his brother and his sister's two husbands, to name only a few. Matthew 2:1-18 tells this story: Herod was "greatly troubled" when astrologers from the east came asking the whereabouts of "the newborn king of the Jews," whose star they had seen. They were told that the Jewish Scriptures named Bethlehem as the place where the Messiah would be born. Herod cunningly told them to report back to him so that he could also "do him homage." They found Jesus, offered him their gifts &, warned by an angel, avoided Herod on their way home. Jesus escaped to Egypt. Herod became furious and "ordered the massacre of all the boys in Bethlehem & its vicinity 2 years old & under." The horror of the massacre & the devastation of the mothers & fathers led Matthew to quote Jeremiah: "A voice was heard in Ramah, sobbing & loud lamentation; Rachel weeping for her children..."—Jer. 31:15-17.

**The January Emmanuel Prayer
Calendar & Epistle Newsletter are
available in print!**



CALENDAR ITEMS

- Sat, December 27
No Saturday School;
Worship @ 6pm
- Sun, Dec. 28—Pastor
Dave @ Gift of Grace,
Holmen, WI
- Tues, December 30
Men's Bible Study at
Charlie's (8:00 a.m.)
- Wed, Dec. 31—New
Year's Eve "Game
Night" at Oasis Church
- Fri, Jan. 2 @ 7pm
Mission Trip Mtg.
- Sat, January 3, 2015
Bell Ringing—12 Days
of Christmas Worship
Service @ 6 pm
- Sun, Jan. 4 (1-4 p.m.)
Open house at Pastor
Dave & Julie's Place