

*Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:2-15	
Children’s Message: “Prove It”	
Sermon: “Are You the ONE?”	Pastor Dave Steffenson
*Hymn of the Day: “Come, Thou Long-Expected Jesus”	#30
*Confession of Faith: Apostles’ Creed	Page 85
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Offering	
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### **The Prayers**

A: As we await the advent of our King and Savior, let us pray for the Church, the world, and all people according to their needs.

*A brief silence*

A: Almighty God, Creator of all, direct our way to you in this season. Fulfill the promises that you have made to your people, and cause the wilderness and deserts of our lives to blossom with your blessings. Help us be patient until all your will comes to fruition. Lord in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Lord Jesus, you came to show us your ways and teach us your paths. You demonstrated compassion and love to all. Give justice to the oppressed and food to the hungry, and set the prisoners free from their addictions and unjust imprisonments. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Lord Jesus you came to be the prince of peace. Bring peace where there is no peace. Bring hope where there is no hope. Bring love where there is bitterness and anger. Bless the leaders of all nations. We pray for *our president, our governor*, and all public servants, so that they effectively care for the needs of all they serve. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Lord Jesus you came to fill us with your Spirit. Fill your church with your Spirit, so that it may be a faithful witness to your truth. Make it one, and holy, so that it may be blessed in its ministries. Bless Bishop Bradosky & the North American Lutheran Church. Lord in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Lord Jesus you came to be Lord of our lives. Strengthen the weak hands and make firm the feeble knees. Do not let your people be weighed down with the cares of this life. Calm our anxious hearts. Bring healing to those whose lives are torn by lack of employment, underemployment, hunger, homelessness, divorce, and separations.

Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Lord Jesus, you came to be our healer and helper—to open the eyes of the blind, and the ears of the deaf, and to help the mute sing for joy. May this work be done in all who suffer with any illness. Bless the healing hands that you have called and sent to care for your people.

Today we remember especially those who need your healing touch.....  
*[pause for spoken or silent petitions]*. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

A: Lord Jesus you came to bring us to eternal life through your suffering and death. We remember with thanksgiving those who have walked the way of holiness before us, especially our loved ones who have preceded us into your kingdom. Sustain the orphans, widows, and widowers as they mourn the loss of loved ones. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

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

**C: Amen.**

**Psalm 146:5-10—responsively**

L: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob,  
**C: Whose hope is in the LORD his God,**  
 L: Who made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, who keeps faith forever;  
**C: Who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.**  
 L: The LORD sets the prisoners free; the LORD opens the eyes of the blind.  
**C: The LORD lifts up those who are bowed down; the LORD loves the righteous.**  
 L: The LORD watches over the sojourners; He upholds the widow and the fatherless,  
**C: But the way of the wicked He brings to ruin.**  
 L: The LORD will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.  
**C: Praise the LORD!**



*Thanks for worshipping 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! Visit us at: [www.emmanuelofrochester.org](http://www.emmanuelofrochester.org)*

**WORSHIP SERVANTS:**

*Pianist: MarJean Damerval  
 Scripture Reader & Prayers: Vicky Mulvihill  
 Communion Assistant: Lee Pearce  
 Usher: Arne Nelson & Larry Vomhof  
 Coffee: Peg Holtan  
 Treats: Judy Pearce*



**Worship—Eve of  
 Advent Three  
 Dec. 14, 2013  
 6:00 p.m.**

**Lutheran Book of Worship—Setting II**

*\* indicates stand as you are able*

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements—*Lighting of Advent Candles*

**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.

- \*Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness Page 77
- \*Gathering Hymn: “Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel” #34
- \*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: Stir up the wills of all who look to you, Lord God, and strengthen our faith in your coming, that, transformed by grace, we may walk in your way; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you, and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

- First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10
- Psalm 146:5-10 Page 4
- Second Lesson: James 5:7-10
- \*Gospel Acclamation: “Alleluia” Page 83

**Mission Plan Budget 2014:** The Emmanuel Church Council will be meeting on Tuesday, December 17 (10 a.m.) to discuss mission and ministry priorities for the fiscal year 2014. If you have input you would like to offer please contact Pastor Steffenson or one of our church council leaders: Kari Richards (President), Arne Nelson (Treasurer), Deb Vomhof, or Matthew Wagner.

**Calling All Busy Women!** A DVD Bible Study began on Monday, Nov. 18 at the home of Margaret Quam (304—15th Ave. S.W.) with 12 women attending. Based on the Book of Proverbs, the study is called “Simplify Your Life”. Women are meeting twice a month from 1:00-2:30 pm on Mondays. Next meeting is December 16 (Session II). Contact Kari Richards for more information.

**Men’s Bible Study Breakfast:** Emmanuel Men are meeting weekly on Tuesdays at 8 a.m. at Charlie’s (1408 2nd. St. SW) for breakfast & a first look at the lectionary readings for the week. Bring a friend, sit at the feet of Jesus, & practice being evangelical. Our next meeting is Tuesday, December 17. Our Bible Readings for Advent IV are: Isaiah 7:10-17; Psalm 24; Romans 1:1-7; and Matthew 1:18-25.

**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 January, Christians desiring membership at Emmanuel Lutheran of Rochester are invited to sign up (be enrolled for the calendar year) on our Servant Roster. To be a member is to be a disciple of Jesus Christ, baptized and committed to the Marks of Discipleship. If you desire to “praise, proclaim, and practice Emmanuel—God With Us—in daily life,” then complete the 2014 Emmanuel Membership Covenant and walk with us to the glory of God!

**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.

**NALC SEMINARY SUPPORT:** Emmanuel’s Christmas Eve offering will support our new Seminary. An anonymous donor has pledged a matching gift of \$1500. Emmanuel’s goal is to contribute at least \$3000. Prayerfully consider your gift and mark your offering envelope: “Christmas Gift”. Thanks for your faithful stewardship!

## **Isaiah 35:1-10 - The Ransomed Shall Return**

1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; 2 it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the LORD, the majesty of our God. 3 Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6 then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; 7 the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. 8 And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. 9 No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. 10 And the ransomed of the LORD shall return and come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## **James 5:7-10 - Patience in Suffering**

7 Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. 8 You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 9 Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. 10 As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading—Matthew 11:2-15

**P: The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew the 11th. Chapter.**

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

2 Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to Jesus, "Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?" 4 And Jesus answered them, "Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. 6 And blessed is the one who is not offended by me." 7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: "What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings' houses. 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is he of whom it is written, "'Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.'" 11 Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 From the days of John the Baptist until now, the kingdom of heaven has been forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it. 13 For all the Prophets & the Law prophesied until John. 14 And if you are willing to accept it, he is the Elijah who was to come. 15 He who has ears, let him hear.

**P: The Gospel of the Lord.**

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

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# The Emmanuel Weekly

**Saturday, Dec. 14, 2013**  
**Eve of Advent Three—6 pm**

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

## ADVENT

Advent's color is BLUE, the color of hope. In Christ we are homing in hope! During the Days of Advent, may God prepare a way into our hearts and give us the joy of Emmanuel. We await the coming of Jesus in daily life in the needs of our neighbors. We await the END TIME coming of Jesus, as victorious Lord of all. We await the coming of Christ in Word and Sacrament. We await the Advent of God in the Nativity of our Lord. Blessed Advent to you and yours!

## Christmas Schedule

**Tuesday, December 24—4 p.m.**  
Oasis Church Worship

**Tuesday, December 24—6 p.m.**  
Emmanuel Worship with the Christ Mass

**Saturday, December 28—6 p.m.**  
Pulpit Supply

**Saturday, January 4—6 p.m.**  
Bell Ringing "Twelve Days of Christmas"  
Bring a bell and ring in the New Year!

**Sunday, January 5—5 p.m.**  
Epiphany Party at Pastor Dave & Julie's  
"Soup & Bread" Potluck with King Cake  
Celebrating the "Burning of the Greens"



## CALENDAR ITEMS

- Mon., Dec. 16 at 1:30 pm—Women's Bible Study (Session II) at Margaret Quam's
- Tues., Dec. 17 at 8 am—Men's Bible Study Breakfast at Charlie's
- Tues. Dec. 17 @ 10 am—Council Mtg. Discussing the 2014 Mission Plan Budget
- Sat. Dec. 21 at 6 pm Emmanuel Worship Advent IV
- Dec. 24 @ 6 pm Emmanuel Christmas Eve Worship: Offering for NALC Seminary
- Sunday, Jan. 5 at 5 pm—Epiphany Party