

Offering: (No passing of baskets; offerings may be placed in the basket located by the church entrance as one leaves; offerings of support may also be given electronically or sent via U.S. mail. Thanks for supporting the ministry of Emmanuel.)

*Lord's Prayer: *Traditional Version*

*Benediction

*Sending Hymn: "Your Little Ones" — LBW #52

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Children's Worship Bags: Worship Bags are available for kids each week. We hope children enjoy these resources during worship. Please take the bags home with you.

Men's Bible Study IN-PERSON: Join us on Wednesdays, Jan. 13 and 20, 2021 from 11am-12:00 Noon for a study of the appointed Bible Readings for the week ahead. We'll meet in the Oasis Church, practicing safe, physical distancing. Bring a Bible and a heart eager to receive God's WORD.

Sanctity of Human Life: Emmanuel Lutheran Church will be celebrating the holiness of human life on Saturday, Jan. 16. Knit together in our mother's wombs, we are fearfully and wonderfully made by God Himself. All of life is sacred and precious to our Creator. Human life is no accident to God. We are known and chosen by God before the foundation of the world (Ephesians 1:4).

Thanks for worshiping with us today. *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 & practicing Emmanuel – God with us – in daily life! May the Word made flesh, born of Mary, keep Christmas in your hearts and homes always! Merry Christmas!*

Visit us at: www.emmanuelofrochester.org.



**Worship
Christmas II
January 2, 2021
6pm**

LBW: "The WORD Made Flesh"

** indicates stand as you are able*

Prelude—"God of Grace & God of Glory"

Welcome/Announcements

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. (Luke 2:40)

Prayer: Jesus Christ, you are the light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. We celebrate your birth and give thanks for the gift of salvation. As we light these candles, grant us wisdom and courage, lest we miss your kingdom's goal. Grant us wisdom and courage, serving you whom we adore. Grant this, we pray, in your most holy name. **Amen.**

Lighting of the Christmas Wreath Candles

Sing: "Son of God, Eternal Savior" — Verse 1 of #LBW #364

*Son of God, eternal Savior, Source of life and truth and grace,
Word made flesh, whose birth among us, Hallows all our human race,
You our Head, who, throned in glory, For Your own will ever plead:
Fill us with Your love & pity, Heal our wrongs, & help our need.*

*Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness:

P: In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

C: Amen.

P: If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God who is faithful and just will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Silence for reflection and self-examination.

P Most merciful God,

C: We confess that we are in bondage to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.

P: Almighty God, in his mercy, has given his Son to die for us and, for his sake, forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the Church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

***Gathering Hymn: “Joy to the World” — LBW #39**

*Greeting:

P: The grace of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, the WORD made flesh, be with you all.

C: And also with you.

*Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray. Heavenly Father, may your Spirit provoke us to follow your Son in all obedience & humility, growing in spiritual wisdom and maturity so that through us, all creation will come to know the praise of your glory; through Jesus Christ who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Lesson: I Kings 3:4-15

Psalms 119:97-104 (*see insert*)

Second Lesson: Ephesians 1:3-14

***Gospel Acclamation: “What Child Is This” (Vs. 2 of LBW #40)**

*Why lies he in such mean estate, Where ox and ass are feeding?
Good Christian, fear; for sinners here, The silent Word is pleading.
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, The cross be borne for me, for you;
Hail, hail the Word made flesh, The babe, the son of Mary!*

Gospel Lesson: Luke 2:40-52

Children’s Message: “Wise Guys & Smarty-Pants” (Facebook)

***Hymn of the Day: “Once in Royal David’s City” — WOV #643**

Sermon: Pastor Waldemar Gies

***Hymn of the Day: “Once in Royal David’s City” — WOV #643**

***Confession of Faith: “Nicene Creed”**

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; by the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the prophets. We believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

***The Prayers:** (Each petition ends with “Lord in your mercy”) to which the congregation responds, “**Hear our prayer**”).

***The Peace:** (*Sharing of God’s peace may be done as an expression from the heart, without actual contact.*)

Save the Date: Annual Meeting—Saturday, January 30, 2021
This Year's Emmanuel Lutheran Church Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, Jan. 30 immediately following evening worship. The Annual Report will be distributed one week prior to the Mtg.

Enrollment for membership at Emmanuel Lutheran in 2021 is now open. Complete a Discipleship Membership Covenant and give it to Pastor Dave or place it in the offering basket before Jan. 8, 2021. We have received 51 signed covenants already. **MARKS OF DISCIPLESHIP:** Signposts guide our way—Disciples seek to pray daily, worship weekly, grow spiritually, read and study Scripture on a regular basis, serve others, share the good news, and live & give generously.

Christmas & Epiphany: “The WORD Made Flesh”

- Pastor Steffenson is on Vacation from December 27, 2020-January 3, 2021. Pulpit Supply (January 2) is Pastor Gies.
- A Special Liturgy will be used during the Season of Epiphany. We offer thanks to Mary Ann Groven who will serve as our primary worship pianist this winter, while MarJean Damerval is away. Karen Salz will usually be offering her gifts once a month.
- Wednesday, January 6, 2021: Epiphany Celebration & Burning of the Greens on the Church Land at 1pm (Weather permitting). Alternate date: Saturday, Feb. 13 —Feast of the Transfiguration!
 - Saturday, January 16, 2021: Sanctity of Human Life (SOHL)
 - Saturday, January 23, 2021: Annual Covenant Renewal Service celebrating the gift of Membership at Emmanuel Lutheran, and Discipleship in the name of Jesus. Annual Reports distributed!
 - Saturday, January 30 — **Annual Meeting** following worship!
 - Saturday, February 13, 2021—Feast of Transfiguration (Bring Palm Fronds from last year)

WORSHIP HELPERS TODAY

Pianist: Karen Salz Pulpit Supply: Rev. Waldemar Gies
Ushers: Pending
Sound: Don Holtan Sanitizing Team: Lee & Judy Pearce
Set-up and Take-down: Julie Steffenson & Peg Holtan

Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Rochester, Minnesota
Contact Information: 3819—18th Ave. NW, Rochester, MN
Phone: 507-206-3048 www.emmanuelofrochester.org

The Emmanuel Weekly

Saturday, Jan. 2, 2021 Christmas II — 6pm

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

Merry Christmas to You & Yours!

Remember that Christmas is a Season, 12 Days long! Share the Incarnation with others! Thanks is offered to Pastor Gies, who is serving as pulpit supply tonight.

Christmas Keepsake Ornament

Each year, Emmanuel Lutheran Church celebrates the Season of Christmas with a commemorative ornament. This year, in celebration of the Incarnation, our ornament reminds us of God’s coming down to us in a “baby wrapped in swaddling cloths & lying in a manger.” There is one ornament per household.

Burning of the Greens: January 6

We are celebrating the journey of the Wise Men and the gift of Epiphany with the burning of our live Christmas Trees. Bring your tree or a branch from your tree to the Church land on Wednesday, January 6. We’ll light the fire and let our lights shine at 1pm.

The January 2021 Emmanuel Prayer Calendar & Epistle Newsletter are available in print! Also available, the current issue of the Our Daily Bread Devotional. Pick yours up today.



CALENDAR ITEMS

- Saturday, Jan. 2 — Christmas II Worship @ 6pm with Pulpit Supply: Pastor Waldemar Gies
- Wednesday, Jan. 6 Epiphany “Burning of the Greens” at 1pm on the Church Land!
- Friday, Jan. 8 — Zoom Council Mtg. at 1pm
- Saturday, January 9 Baptism of our Lord Worship at 6pm; Audit Committee meets following worship.
- Sunday, January 10 Implementation Mtg. at 5pm—Oasis Church
- **4:31 — Prayer Time**

THE PRAYERS
Eve of Christmas II (January 2, 2021)

P: With joy and gratitude for the gift of Christ our Savior, let us draw near to God the Father, praying on behalf of the Church, the world, and all who need his loving-kindness.

A brief silence

P: Heavenly Father, thank you for Jesus. Thank you for your love, made flesh in his flesh. Thank you for the glorious inheritance you have prepared for all who love him. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Grant to all Christians who are persecuted a foretaste of the glorious inheritance you have stored up for them in Christ. Fill them with wisdom and faith. Let them confound and convert their tormentors. Give us grace to provide for their needs and speak in their defense. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Give the people of this congregation wisdom, faithfulness, kindness, generosity and joy. Fashion this church into a temple that is lovely with the light of Christ. Make us true sisters and brothers to our elder Brother, Jesus. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Make the world's leaders desire wisdom. Equip them to seek the good of the people entrusted to their care. Teach them to fear and love you above all earthly power or riches. Bestow upon this death-shadowed a foretaste of your eternal life and peace. Grant that this New Year may bring hope, prosperity, health and concord to all. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: We plead on behalf of all whose lives are clouded by sorrow or shadowed by suffering – especially: [NAMES]. Bring them healing and hope. Help us to ease the burdens of those who care for loved ones day in and day out. And bless with compassion and competence all who practice the healing arts. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

P: Dear Father, thank you for the gift of your Son, and for the salvation you give to all who call upon his Name. We entrust our beloved dead into your care. Shed the light of your love upon those who grieve. Bestow your Spirit upon all of us in this New Year. Renew us in faith, strengthen us for service, and unite us in bonds of concord and charity. Lead us, and all whom you have redeemed, into the bright courts of heaven, and into your endless day. 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.

have obtained an inheritance, having been predestined according to the purpose of him who works all things according to the counsel of his will, 12 so that we who were the first to hope in Christ might be to the praise of his glory. 13 In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 2:40-52

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 2nd. Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

40 The child [Jesus] grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. 41 Now his parents went to Jerusalem every year at the Feast of the Passover. 42 And when he was twelve years old, they went up according to custom. 43 And when the feast was ended, as they were returning, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. His parents did not know it, 44 but supposing him to be in the group they went a day's journey, but then they began to search for him among their relatives and acquaintances, 45 and when they did not find him, they returned to Jerusalem, searching for him. 46 After three days they found him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. 47 And all who heard him were amazed at his understanding and his answers. 48 And when his parents saw him, they were astonished. And his mother said to him, "Son, why have you treated us so? Behold, your father and I have been searching for you in great distress." 49 And he said to them, "Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?" 50 And they did not understand the saying that he spoke to them. 51 And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was submissive to them. And his mother treasured up all these things in her heart. 52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and man.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

***Gathering Hymn: "Joy to the World" — LBW #39**

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare Him room, And heav'n & nature sing, And
heav'n & nature sing, And heav'n, & heav'n, & nature sing.
2. No more let sin & sorrow grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make His blessings flow, Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as, the curse is found.
3. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations
prove. The glories of His righteousness, And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love, And wonders, wonders, of His love.

***Hymn of the Day: "Once in Royal David's City"**

WOV #643 (vs 1-2 before sermon; vs 3-4 after sermon)

1. Once in Royal David's city, Stood a lowly cattle shed,
Where a mother laid her Baby, In a manger for His bed:
Mary was that mother mild, Jesus Christ her little Child.
2. He came down to earth from heaven, Who is God & Lord of all,
And His shelter was a stable, And His cradle was a stall;
With the poor, & mean, & lowly, Lived on earth our Savior holy.
3. And through all His wondrous childhood
He would honor & obey,
Love & watch the lowly maiden, In whose gentle arms He lay:
Christian children all must be, Mild, obedient, good as He.
4. And our eyes at last shall see Him,
Through His own redeeming love;
For that Child so dear & gentle, Is our Lord in heaven above,
And He leads His children on, To the place where He is gone.

***Sending Hymn: "Your Little Ones" — LBW #52**

1. Your little ones, dear Lord, are we,
and come your lowly bed to see;
enlighten ev'ry soul and mind,
that we the way to you may find.
2. With songs we hasten you to greet,
and kiss the ground before your feet.
Oh, blessed hour, oh, sweetest night
That gave you birth, our soul's delight.

3. Oh, draw us wholly to you, Lord,
and to us your grace accord;
true faith and love to us impart,
that we may hold you in our heart.

4. Until at last we too proclaim,
with all your saints, your glorious name;
in paradise our songs renew,
and praise you as the angels do.

I Kings 3:4-15 — The Gift of Wisdom

4 The king went to Gibeon to sacrifice there, for that was the great high place. Solomon used to offer a thousand burnt offerings on that altar. 5 At Gibeon the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream by night, & God said, “Ask what I shall give you.” 6 And Solomon said, “You have shown great and steadfast love to your servant David my father, because he walked before you in faithfulness, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart toward you. And you have kept for him this great and steadfast love and have given him a son to sit on his throne this day. 7 And now, O Lord my God, you have made your servant king in place of David my father, although I am but a little child. I do not know how to go out or come in. 8 And your servant is in the midst of your people whom you have chosen, a great people, too many to be numbered or counted for multitude. 9 Give your servant therefore an understanding mind to govern your people, that I may discern between good and evil, for who is able to govern this your great people?” 10 It pleased the Lord that Solomon had asked this. 11 And God said to him, “Because you have asked this, and have not asked for yourself long life or riches or the life of your enemies, but have asked for yourself understanding to discern what is right, 12 behold, I now do according to your word. Behold, I give you a wise and discerning mind, so that none like you has been before you and none like you shall arise after you. 13 I give you also what you have not asked, both riches and honor, so that no other king shall compare with you, all your days. 14 And if you will walk in my ways, keeping my statutes and my commandments, as your father David walked, then I will lengthen your days.” 15 And Solomon

awoke, and behold, it was a dream. Then he came to Jerusalem and stood before the ark of the covenant of the Lord, and offered up burnt offerings and peace offerings, and made a feast for all his servants.

P: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 119:97-104 (Responsively)

P: Oh how I love your law!

C: It is my meditation all the day.

P: Your commandment makes me wiser than my enemies,

C: For it is ever with me.

P: I have more understanding than all my teachers,

C: For your testimonies are my meditation.

P: I understand more than the aged,

C: For I keep your precepts.

P: I hold back my feet from every evil way,

C: In order to keep your word.

P: I do not turn aside from your rules,

C: For you have taught me.

P: How sweet are your words to my taste, sweeter than honey to my mouth!

C: Through your precepts I get understanding; therefore I hate every false way.

Ephesians 1:3-14 — Chosen & Predestined

3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, 4 even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, 6 to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. 7 In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, 8 which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight 9 making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ 10 as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven & things on earth. 11 In him we