

First Lesson: Isaiah 42:14-21

**Psalm 142** (*Responsively by half verse*)

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Second Lesson: Ephesians 5:8-14

\*Gospel Verse: "Return to the Lord"

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\*Holy Gospel: John 9:1-41

Children's Message: "Blind, but Now I See!"

Sermon: "My Vision is..."

Rev. David Steffenson

**\*Hymn of the Day: "Be Thou My Vision"**

#776

**\*Confession:**

P: In Christ, you have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation.

**C: We believe in Him and are marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit.**

P: Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.**

P: Build yourselves up on your most holy faith;

**C: Pray in the Holy Spirit.**

P: Keep yourselves in the love of God;

**C: Look forward to the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

P: If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation:

**C: Everything old has passed away; behold, everything has become new!**

P: God has given us the ministry of reconciliation. Therefore, let us be reconciled to God and to one another. Gracious God,

**C: Have mercy on us. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things done and left undone. Uphold us by your Spirit so that we may live and serve you in newness of life, to the honor and glory of your holy name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

P: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

**C: Amen.**

P: Sisters and brothers, rejoice. Mend your ways, encourage one another, agree with one another, live in peace. The peace of the Lord be with you always.

**C: And also with you. (*Share God's peace with one another.*)**

Offering - Gift of Music by MarJean

\*The Great Thanksgiving: - Eucharistic Prayer for Lent

\*Lord's Prayer: *Traditional Version*

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*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 & wine for the forgiveness of sins, life and salvation." We are practicing head of the aisle Communion tonight by means of Intinction.*

Lamb of God

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**Communion Hymn: "Give Me Jesus"**

#777

\*Table Blessing

\*Closing Prayers

Bulletin page 4

\*Benediction

**\*Sending Hymn: "Healer of Our Every Ill" (vs 1-2)**

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\*Dismissal

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Postlude

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Rochester, Minnesota**  
**Contact Information: 1815—38th Street NW, Rochester, MN**  
**Phone: 507-206-3048      [www.emmanuelofrochester.org](http://www.emmanuelofrochester.org)**

## CLOSING PRAYERS

A: O Holy Lord, You have opened the eyes of Your Church to behold the light of Christ. Grant that we may always walk in His light and not return to the darkness of sin that blinds us to the truth of Your saving Gospel. Lord, in Your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Merciful Father, through Holy Baptism You give us the forgiveness of sins and the gift of the Holy Spirit, who grants us spiritual sight. Keep us firmly in the faith that You have established in us, that we may always look to Christ Who is our vision. May we always keep our eyes fixed upon His cross, where He died for our sins, trusting in His resurrection for our justification. Lord, in Your mercy

**C: Hear our prayer.**

A: Holy God, watch over all who endure pain, sorrow, fear, doubt, loneliness or despair, especially: [Names]. Be their shelter in the storms of life and give hope to their hearts, health to their bodies, calm confidence to their minds; and unshakable faith to their souls. 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.**

## WORSHIP SERVANTS Tonight:

*Pianist: MarJean Damerval*

*Scripture Reader & Closing Prayers: Matt Serr*

*Communion Server: Jenna Serr*

*Ushers: Bob Harms & Bob Mulvihill*

*Acolyte: Ava Siebenaler*

*Coffee: Peg Holtan*

*Treats: Marcia Harms*

*Sound: Don Holtan*

*Set-up: Julie Steffenson*

*Take-down: Janet Sunde & friends*

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



**Worship - Lent IV**  
**March 25, 2017**  
**6:00 p.m.**

## With One Voice

### “Service of Word & Sacrament”

*\* indicates stand as you are able*

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

**\*Gathering Song: “Word of God, Come Down on Earth” #716**

**\*Greeting:**

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God and the Communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**C: And Also with you.**

P: The Word is near you.

**C: On your lips and in your heart.**

P: If you confess with your lips that Jesus is Lord,

**C: And believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved.**

P: Faith comes from what is heard,

**C: And what is heard comes through the Word of Christ.**

**\*Lenten Song: “I Want Jesus to Walk with Me” #660**

**\*Salutation and Prayer of the Day**

L: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Holy God, you give sight to the blind and life to those who trust in your Son. May the light of your Christ pierce through our blindness and open us to your way of life; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.

**C: Amen.**

### **Isaiah 42:14-21 — God Restores His People**

14 For a long time I have held my peace; I have kept still and restrained myself; now I will cry out like a woman in labor; I will gasp and pant. 15 I will lay waste mountains and hills, and dry up all their vegetation; I will turn the rivers into islands, and dry up the pools. 16 And I will lead the blind in a way that they do not know, in paths that they have not known I will guide them. I will turn the darkness before them into light, the rough places into level ground. These are the things I do, and I do not forsake them. 17 They are turned back and utterly put to shame, who trust in carved idols, who say to metal images, “You are our gods.” 18 Hear, you deaf, and look, you blind, that you may see! 19 Who is blind but my servant, or deaf as my messenger whom I send? Who is blind as my dedicated one, or blind as the servant of the Lord? 20 He sees many things, but does not observe them; his ears are open, but he does not hear. 21 The Lord was pleased, for his righteousness’ sake, to magnify his law and make it glorious.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Ephesians 5:8-14 — Children of Light**

8 At one time you were darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Walk as children of light 9 (for the fruit of light is found in all that is good and right and true), 10 and try to discern what is pleasing to the Lord. 11 Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them. 12 For it is shameful even to speak of the things that they do in secret. 13 But when anything is exposed by the light, it becomes visible, 14 for anything that becomes visible is light. Therefore it says, “Awake, O sleeper, & arise from the dead, & Christ will shine on you.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### **Gospel Reading — John 9:1-41**

P: The Holy Gospel According to St. John the 9th Chapter.

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

1 As [Jesus] passed by, he saw a man blind from birth. 2 And his disciples asked him, “Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?” 3 Jesus answered, “It was not that this man sinned, or his parents, but that the works of God might be displayed in him. 4 We must work the works of him who sent me while it is day; night is coming, when no one can work. 5 As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.” 6 Having said these things, he spit on the ground and made mud with the saliva. Then he anointed the man’s eyes with the mud 7 and said to him, “Go, wash in the pool of Siloam” (which means Sent).

So he went and washed and came back seeing. 8 The neighbors and those who had seen him before as a beggar were saying, “Is this not the man who used to sit and beg?” 9 Some said, “It is he.” Others said, “No, but he is like him.” He kept saying, “I am the man.” 10 So they said to him, “Then how were your eyes opened?” 11 He answered, “The man called Jesus made mud and anointed my eyes and said to me, ‘Go to Siloam and wash.’ So I went and washed and received my sight.” 12 They said to him, “Where is he?” He said, “I do not know.” 13 They brought to the Pharisees the man who had formerly been blind. 14 Now it was a Sabbath day when Jesus made the mud and opened his eyes. 15 So the Pharisees again asked him how he had received his sight. And he said to them, “He put mud on my eyes, and I washed, and I see.” 16 Some of the Pharisees said, “This man is not from God, for he does not keep the Sabbath.” But others said, “How can a man who is a sinner do such signs?” And there was a division among them. 17 So they said again to the blind man, “What do you say about him, since he has opened your eyes?” He said, “He is a prophet.” 18 The Jews did not believe that he had been blind and had received his sight, until they called the parents of the man who had received his sight 19 and asked them, “Is this your son, who you say was born blind? How then does he now see?” 20 His parents answered, “We know that this is our son and that he was born blind. 21 But how he now sees we do not know, nor do we know who opened his eyes. Ask him; he is of age. He will speak for himself.” 22 (His parents said these things because they feared the Jews, for the Jews had already agreed that if anyone should confess Jesus to be Christ, he was to be put out of the synagogue.) 23 Therefore his parents said, “He is of age; ask him.” 24 So for the second time they called the man who had been blind and said to him, “Give glory to God. We know that this man is a sinner.” 25 He answered, “Whether he is a sinner I do not know. One thing I do know, that though I was blind, now I see.” 26 They said to him, “What did he do to you? How did he open your eyes?” 27 He answered them, “I have told you already, and you would not listen. Why do you want to hear it again? Do you also want to become his disciples?” 28 And they reviled him, saying, “You are his disciple, but we are disciples of Moses. 29 We know that God has spoken to Moses, but as for this man, we do not know where he comes from.” 30 The man answered, “Why, this is an amazing thing! You do not know where he comes from, and yet he opened my eyes. 31 We know that God does not listen to sinners, but if anyone is a worshiper of God and does his will, God listens to him. 32 Never since the world began has it been heard that anyone opened the eyes of a man born blind. 33 If this man were not from God, he could do nothing.” 34 They answered him, “You were born in utter sin, and would you teach us?” And they cast him out. 35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out, and having found him he said, “Do you believe in the Son of Man?” 36 He answered, “And who is he, sir, that I may believe in him?” 37 Jesus said to him, “You have seen him, and it is he who is speaking to you.” 38 He said, “Lord, I believe,” and he worshiped him. 39 Jesus said, “For judgment I came into this world, that those who do not see may see, and those who see may become blind.” 40 Some of the Pharisees near him heard these things, and said to him, “Are we also blind?” 41 Jesus said to them, “If you were blind, you would have no guilt; but now that you say, ‘We see,’ your guilt remains.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

**Communication Cards - Offering Envelopes:** The offering envelope in your bulletin is also being used as a 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 & 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.

**Men's Bible Study Breakfast:** Each week, Emmanuel Men are meeting on Tuesdays at 8:00 a.m. at Oasis Church for Bible Study and a continental breakfast. We are currently reading and discussing the Bible (Genesis-Revelation). Read pages 300-303 of the NIV Once A Day Bible (DAY 87) in preparation for this week's study (i.e. Deuteronomy 13:1-14:29; Luke 7:11-35; & Psalm 38:1-12).

**Women of the Word!** The Afternoon Bible Study Group will begin a new study after Easter (April 20-June 8) on Thursdays at 1pm at Oasis Church. The topic will be a Lutheran Understanding of Marriage and Family. The Evening Bible Study Group continues its study on Revelation monthly at the home of Katie Siebenaler at 6:30pm. Next Session: Wednesday, April 19.

**Worship At Madonna Towers:** On the first & third Wednesdays of each month, Emmanuel members are invited to participate in a ministry to area seniors. Our next Worship Service will be on Wednesdays, April 5 & 19 at 1:00 pm. Give Lee Pearce a call if you would like to participate in this wonderful ministry.

**WORSHIP BAGS:** A new resource is available for the children of our worshiping community. Interactive, age-appropriate, bags are available as families enter the worship space. Parents of young children have already commented on how wonderful these bags are for keeping small children engaged in worship. Children's Bulletins are also available at the entrance of the worship space. Visit with Julie Steffenson if you have questions or suggestions.

*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 grant repentant hearts to God's people during the 40 Days of Lent!*

**Visit us at:** [www.emmanuelofrochester.org](http://www.emmanuelofrochester.org).

# The Emmanuel Weekly

**March 25, 2017**

**Lent IV - 6 pm**

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

## **BAPTISM: Walking Wet**

During the Season of Lent our Baptismal Font will be located at the entrance of our Worship Space, reminding us that baptism is our entrance into the Kingdom of God. Dip your finger into the waters of baptism and trace the cross on your forehead. Remember that you are sealed by the Holy Spirit and marked with the cross of Christ forever. God's Word. God's Promise!

Lenten worship each Tuesday during Lent will be at 6pm, preceded by a soup supper at 5pm. Our liturgy is a revised edition of Holden Evening Prayer. Our sermon series focusses on Martin Luther's Small and Large Catechisms. Contact Julie Steffenson if you would like to provide soup, bread or milk for one of the suppers.

## **Public Reading of the New Testament**

We are celebrating the Resurrection of our Lord and the gift of God's Word by sharing a public reading of the entire New Testament on Easter Monday, April 17 from 6 am - Midnight. Refreshments will be offered. Stop by for a portion of the day and hear or read God's Word!

**The April Emmanuel Prayer  
Calendar and Epistle Newsletter are  
available in print!**



## **CALENDAR ITEMS**

- Saturday, March 25 - Saturday School @ 5:10pm; G.I.F.T. at 5:15pm; Lent IV Worship at 6pm)
- Tues, March 28 - Men's Bible Study (8am) — Day 87 (pp 300-303); Text Study (10:30am); Soup Supper (5pm); Lenten Worship (6pm)
- Fri, March 31 - Clergy Faithfulness Mtg. (Noon)
- Saturday, April 1 - Saturday School @ 5:10pm; G.I.F.T. at 5:15pm; Lent V Worship at 6pm)
- Sat, April 8—Eve of Palm Sunday Worship (6pm) with guest preacher—John Hoyum, NALC seminarian