***Welcome To Emmanuel Lutheran – N.A.L.C.***

Thanks for worshiping with us this evening. Your presence is your gift to us. We pray that our Service of Worship 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!

Emmanuel Lutheran Church *Emmanuel North*

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Website: [www.emmanuelofrochester.org](http://www.emmanuelofrochester.org/)

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Facebook page: Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Rochester, MN

***Men’s Bible Study***

***Men meet at Oasis Church each Wednesday at 11am, Dec 20th & 27th and Jan 3rd, 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st to study the Scriptures.***

***Women’s Bible Study***

***Women meet at Oasis Church every other Wednesday at 1pm, Jan 10th and 24th to study “Chasing Vines” by Beth Moore.***

***Discipleship Covenant for 2024***

***Emmanuel uses annual Discipleship Covenants which are renewable each year as a means of membership. We cordially invite each of you to become a voting member of our church family in 2024. Applications are available in the church foyer. Return your signed covenant to the offering basket or to a council member.***

***Caroling Tomorrow - Sun Dec 17th, 1-4pm***

***Please meet at Julie Steffenson’s, 6330 Fairway Drive NW, Rochester.***

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**Worship - Eve of Advent 3 Sat, Dec 16th, 2023 - 4pm**

**Pastor: Rev Doug Hedman Lutheran Book of Worship**

**Pianist: MarJean Damerval - Setting II w/Communion**

**Reader: Lee Pearce \* indicates stand if able**

***Prelude***

***Announcements***

***Advent 3 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.* **C: Amen.**

***Lighting of the Advent Candle*** *– WOV #630*

*V3:***Light Three Can-dles to Watch for Mes-si-ah.**

**Let the Light Ban-ish Dark-ness.**

**Lift Your Heads and Lift High the Gate-way,**

**For the King of Glo-ry.**

*(Repeat One Time)*

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***Brief Order of Confession & Forgiveness*** *– Pg 77*

***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 you 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.*

*Most merciful God,* **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. In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God 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**.

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***Hark, the Glad Sound*** *LBW #35 (verses 1, 3,4)*

*V1* **Hark, the Glad Sound, the Sav-ior Comes,**

**The Sav-ior Prom-ised Long.**

**Let Every Heart Pre-pare a Throne**

**And Ev-‘ry Voice a Song.**

*V3* **He Comes the Bro-ken Heart to Bind,**

**The Bleed-ing Soul to Cure,**

**And with the Trea-sures of His Grace**

**To En-rich the Hum-ble Poor.**

*V4* **Our Glad Ho-san-nas, Prince of Peace,**

**Your Wel-come Shall Pro-claim,**

**And Heav'n's E-ter-nal Ar-ches Ring**

**With Your Be-lov-ed Name.**

***\*Greeting***

*P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God*

*& the Communion of the Holy Spirit Be with you all.*

**C: And also with you.**

***\*Kyrie***

*P: In Peace Let Us Pray to the Lord.*

**C: Lord, Have Mer-cy.**

*P: For the Peace from A-bove,*

*And for Our Sal-va-tion, Let Us Pray to the Lord.*

**C: Lord, Have Mer-cy.**

*P: For the Peace of the Whole World,*

*For the Well-Being of the Church of God,*

*And for the Uni-ty of All, Let Us Pray to the Lord.*

***C: Lord, Have Mer-cy.***

*P: For This Holy House, and For All Who Offer Here*

*Their Wor-ship and Praise, Let Us Pray to the Lord.*

**C: Lord, Have Mer-cy.**

*P: Help, Save, Comfort, & De-fend Us, Gra-cious Lord.*

**C: A-men.**

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***Hymn of Praise***

*P: This is the Feast of Vic-to-ry for Our God, Al-le-lu-ia*

**C: Wor-thy is Christ, The Lamb Who Was Slain,**

**Whose Blood Set Us Free to Be Peo-ple of God,**

**Pow-er and Rich-es and Wis-dom and Strength,**

**And Hon-or and Bless-ing and Glo-ry Are His.**

**This is the Feast of Vic-to-ry for Our God.**

**Al-le-lu-ia.**

**Sing with All the Peo-ple of God**

**And Join in the Hymn of All Cre-a-tion.**

**Bless-ing and Hon-or and Glo-ry and Might**

**Be to God and the Lamb For-ev-er. A-men.**

**This is the Feast of Vic-to-ry for Our God,**

**For the Lamb Who Was Slain Has Be-gun His Reign**

**Al-le-lu-ia, Al-le-lu-ia.**

***\* Salutation***

*P: The Lord be with you.*

**C: And also with you.**

***Prayer of the Day***

*P: Let us pray:*

*Lord Jesus Christ, give ear to our prayers, and 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.**

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***1st Reading: Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11***

**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.”*

*The Word of the Lord.*  **C: Thanks be to God.**

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***Psalm 126*** *(Read Responsively)*

**1** *When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,* **We were like those who dream.**

**2***Then our mouth was filled with laughter,***And our tongue with shouts of joy.**

*Then they said among the nations,*   **“The Lord has done great things for them.”**

**3***The Lord has done great things for us.*     **We are glad.**

**4***Restore our fortunes, O Lord,*  
     **Like streams in the Negeb!**

**5***Those who sow in tears*  
     **Shall reap with shouts of joy!**

**6***He who goes out weeping,* **Bearing the seed for sowing,**

*Shall come home with shouts of joy,*  
**Bringing his sheaves with him.**

***2nd Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24***

**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.*

*The Word of the Lord.* **C: Thanks be to God.**

***\*Gospel Verse: “Al-le-lu-ia”***

**Al-le-lu-ia, Lord, to Whom Shall We Go?**

**You Have the Words of E-ter-nal Life, Al-le-lu-ia.**

***Page 6 of 16***

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

*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.*

The Gospel of the Lord. **C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

***\*\*\*\*\*\* Sermon: Rev Doug Hedman \*\*\*\*\*\****

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***Angels We Have Heard on High*** *- LBW #71*

*V1* **An-gels We Have Heard on High,**

**Sweet-ly Sing-ing O'er the Plains,**

**And the Moun-tains in Re-ply,**

**Ech-o-ing Their Joy-ous Strains.**

**Glo----ri-a in Ex-cel-sis De-o.**

**Glo---ri-a in Ex-cel-sis De--o.**

*V2* **Shep-herds, Why This Ju-bi-lee?**

**Why Your Joy-ous Strains Pro-long?**

**What the Glad-some Tid-ings Be**

**Which In-spire Your Heav'n-ly Song?**

**Glo----ri-a in Ex-cel-sis De-o.**

**Glo---ri-a in Ex-cel-sis De--o.**

**V3 Come to Beth-le-hem and See**

**Him, Whose Birth the An-gels Sing.**

**Come, A-dore on Bend-ed Knee**

**Christ the Lord, the New-Born King.**

**Glo----ri-a in Ex-cel-sis De-o.**

**Glo---ri-a in Ex-cel-sis De--o.**

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***\*Confession of Faith - Nicene Creed*** *– Pg 32-33*

**C: 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 Power of 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.**

***Page 9 of 16***

***The Prayers of the Church***

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

*(A brief silence)*

***For Advent***

*God of light and life, by the power of your Spirit and the light of your Word, enable us to continue our Advent waiting in faithfulness as we prepare to receive the one who is the Light of the World.*

*Lord, in your mercy,* **C: Hear our prayer.**

***For Regeneration***

*Holy Lord, in these early days of winter the creation groans with change. Some places in your world will begin to experience snow and bitter cold. Fields will lay fallow, trees and plants will no longer blossom or bear fruit. In other places, more moderate weather allows for growth and food production. Bring to each region the moisture, sunshine, and time of regeneration that is needed. Allow your people to experience that same rest and regeneration so that we would have strength for each new day.*

*Lord, in your mercy,* **C: Hear our prayer.**

***For Bearing Witness to God’s Love***

*Holy Spirit, giver of faith, empower us to bear witness to your light and life in the wilderness places of your world – in war-torn countries, dilapidated neighborhoods, poverty-stricken lives, and in the empty and searching hearts that we encounter daily. Fill with your love and hope, those who are struggling with addiction and despair. Help us to be bearers of your Good News to all who need to hear a word of love.*

*Lord, in your mercy,* **C: Hear our prayer.**

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***For Health and Healing***

*God of strength, stir in us and make us aware of the needs of the whole human family. Help us to bring words of understanding, comfort, and hope to those who are unemployed, ill in body, mind, or spirit, or grieving. We especially remember silently or aloud:*

*[NAMES]*

*Keep us mindful that while most of us experience this as a time of joyful expectation, for many it is a difficult time of the year. Bring light to those who are in darkness so that the coming Christ would lift their hearts in joy.*

*Lord, in your mercy,* **C: Hear our prayer.**

*P: Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy. through you Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord.* **C: Amen.**

***Sharing the Peace***

*P: The peace of the Lord be with you.***C: And also with you.**

*\*\*\*\*\*\** ***Offerings Gathered & Presented*** *\*\*\*\*\*\**

***Offertory Hymn***

**Let the Vine-yards Be Fruit-ful, Lord**

**And Fill to the Brim Our Cup of Bless-ing.**

**Gath-er a Har-vest from the Seeds That Were Sown,**

**That We May Be Fed with the Bread of Life.**

**Gath-er the Hopes and Dreams of All.**

**U-nite Them with the Prayers We Of-fer.**

**Grace Our Ta-ble with Your Pres-ence,**

**And Give us a Fore-taste of the Feast to Come.**

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***Prayer of Thanks***

*P:* *Let us pray: Merciful God,*

**C: We offer with joy and thanksgiving what you have first given us — ourselves, our time, and our possessions — signs of your gracious love. Receive them for the sake of him who offered himself for us, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

***The Great Thanksgiving***

*P: The Lord be with you.*

**C: And also with you.**

*P: Lift up your hearts.*

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

*P: Let us give thanks to the Lord, our God*

**C: It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

*P: It is indeed right and salutary* *that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will make all things new in the day when he comes again to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:*

***Unending Hymn***

**C: Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, God of pow-er and might.**

**Hea-ven and earth are full of your glo-ry,**

**Ho-san-na in the high-est.**

**Bless-ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord**

**Ho-san-na in the high-est.**

**Ho-san-na in the high-est.**

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***\*Eucharistic Prayer***

*In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, “Take and eat, this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.”*

*Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.”* **C: Amen.**

***\*Lord’s Prayer:*** *Traditional Version*

**Our Father, Who Art in Heaven,**

**Hallowed Be Thy Name,**

**Thy Kingdom Come, Thy Will Be Done,**

**On Earth as it is in Heaven.**

**Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread.**

**And Forgive Us Our Trespasses,**

**As We Forgive Those Who Trespass Against Us.**

**And Lead Us Not into Temptation,**

**But Deliver Us from Evil.**

**For Thine is the Kingdom,**

**And the Power, and the Glory,**

**Forever and Ever. Amen.**

***Communion Hymn: Lamb of God***

**Lamb of God, You Take A-way the Sin of the World,**

**Have Mer-cy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You Take A-way the Sin of the World,**

**Have Mer-cy on us.**

**Lamb of God, You Take A-way the Sin of the World,**

**Grant us Peace, Grant us Peace.**

***Communion Institution***

*P: The body of Christ, given for you.*

*P: The blood of Christ, shed for you.*

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***\*Table Blessing***

*The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.*

**C: Amen.**

***\*Canticle: Thankful Hearts***

**Thank-ful Hearts and Voic-es Raise,**

**Tell Ev-‘ry-one What God Has Done.**

**Let All Who Seek the Lord Re-joice**

**And Bear Christ’s Ho-ly Name**

**Send us With Your Prom-is-es, O God**

**And Lead us Forth in Joy**

**With Shouts of Thanks-giv-ing. Al-le-lu-ia.**

***Post Communion Prayer***

***P: Let us pray:***

*Pour out upon us the spirit of your love, O Lord, and unite the wills of those whom you have fed with one heavenly food. through Jesus Christ, our Lord.* **C: Amen.**

***\*Benediction***

*P: The Lord Bless You and Keep You,*

*The Lord Make His Face Shine on You*

*And Be Gracious to You,*

*The Lord Look Upon You with Favor*

*And Give You Peace.*

*In the Name of the Father,*

*And of the Son,*

*And of the Holy Spirit.* **C: Amen.**

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***Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing*** *LBW #259 (V1,2)*

*V1* **Lord, Dis-miss Us with Your Bless-ing,**

**Fill Our Hearts with Joy and Peace.**

**Let Us Each, Your Love Pos-sess-ing,**

**Tri-umph in Re-deem-ing Grace.**

**Oh, Re-fresh Us, oh, Re-fresh Us,**

**Trav-'ling Through This Wil-der-ness.**

*V2* **Thanks We Give and Ad-o-ra-tion**

**For Your Gos-pel's Joy-ful Sound.**

**May the Fruits of Your Sal-va-tion**

**In Our Hearts and Lives A-bound.**

**Ev-er Faith-ful, Ev-er Faith-ful**

**To Your Truth May We Be Found.**

***Dismissal***

*P: Go in Peace. Serve the Lord.* **C: Thanks** **be to God.**

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| --- |
| ***Calendar Items***  Wed, Dec 20 Men’s Bible Study - 11am at Oasis  Sat, Dec 23 Eve of Advent 4 Worship Service - 4pm  Wed, Dec 27 Men’s Bible Study - 11am at Oasis  Sat, Dec 30 Bell Ringing Worship Service - 4pm  Wed, Jan 3 Men’s Bible Study - 11am at Oasis  Sat, Jan 6 Eve of Epiphany Feast Worship Service - 4pm Wed, Jan 10 Men’s Bible Study - 11am at Oasis  -and- Women’s Bible Study – 1pm at Oasis  Sat, Jan 13 Eve of Epiphany 2 Worship Service - 4pm  Wed, Jan 17 Men’s Bible Study - 11am at Oasis  Sat, Jan 20 Eve of Epiphany 3 Worship Service - 4pm  Wed, Jan 24 Men’s Bible Study - 11am at Oasis  -and- Women’s Bible Study – 1pm at Oasis  Sat, Jan 27 Eve of Epiphany 4 Worship Service - 4pm  Wed, Jan 31 Men’s Bible Study - 11am at Oasis  -and- Women’s Bible Study – 1pm at Oasis  Sat, Feb 3 Eve of Epiphany 5 Worship Service - 4pm |

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