

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.

*Lord's Prayer: *Traditional Version*

*Benediction:

*Sending Hymn: "Savior of the Nations Come!" — LBW #28

*Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord! Celebrate the miracle of Christmas!

C: **Jesus is my miracle! Thanks be to God!**

Postlude

Worship Servants Tonight: Thanks!

*Pianist: Mary Ann Groven Guest Preacher: Pastor Gies
Assisting Minister, Scripture Reader & Prayers: Julie Steffenson*

Greeters: Pending

Sound/Video Recording: Don Holtan

Set-up and Take-down: Julie Steffenson & Peg Holtan

Advent & Christmas 2021: "The WORD Made Flesh"

- Advent Liturgy during the four weeks of Advent with the lighting of the Advent Wreath each week.
 - Saturday, December 18: Children's Nativity.
 - Friday, December 24: Christmas Eve Worship at 2pm.
 - **CHRISTMAS DAY Worship at 6pm!**
- Saturday, January 1, 2022: Twelve Days of Christmas Liturgy with Bell Ringing and Lighting of Candles (6pm).

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! May the Advent of our Lord keep hope in our hearts!

Visit us at: www.emmanuelofrochester.org.



**Worship—Eve
of Advent II
Dec. 4, 2021
6:00 p.m.**

Lutheran Book of Worship—Advent Liturgy "The Miracle of Christmas!"

** indicates stand as you are able*

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

Prayer: O faithful & loving God, we praise you for your tender compassion and give you thanks for your steadfast love for us and all creation. Bless us who see the light of this wreath, that we may be strengthened by the hope of your advent among us, and live toward the completion of all things in you. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Lighting of Advent Candles

Sing: Tune of "I Am So Glad Each Christmas Eve" — LBW #69

- 1. The Incarnation, mystery, The WORD made flesh for me;
The miracle of Christmas is, The gift of Calvary.*
- 2. Before the altar of our Lord, we shall confess and see;
Forgiveness is the grace of God, that sets the sinner free.*

*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.

***Hymn: “Prepare the Royal Highway” — LBW #26**

*Prayer of the Day: Stir up our hearts, O Lord, to make ready the way of your only-begotten Son, that by his coming we may be enabled to serve you with pure minds; through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Lesson: Malachi 3:1-7b

Psalm 66:1-12 (See Insert)

Second Lesson: Philippians 1:2-11

***Gospel Acclamation: “Advent is Here” to the tune of “Earth & All Stars” — LBW #558**

Advent is here, waiting continues! Jesus our Savior is always Good News! Open our ears, help us to listen! Jesus a lamp and a light to our feet! Christmas is coming and we shall rejoice! Give God the glory, Alleluia!

*Holy Gospel: Luke 3:1-14 (15-20)

Children’s Message: “Prepared!” (Posted on Facebook)

Sermon: Rev. Waldemar Gies

***Hymn: “On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry” — LBW #36**

***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.

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.)*

***Closing Prayers:**

L: As we await the coming of our Savior in mercy and majesty, let us pray to our Heavenly Father for the Church, the world, and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence

L: (Each petition ends with “Lord, in Your mercy,” to which the people respond **“Hear our prayer”**).

than you are authorized to do.” 14 Soldiers also asked him, “And we, what shall we do?” And he said to them, “Do not extort money from anyone by threats or by false accusation, and be content with your wages.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

***Hymn: “On Jordan’s Banks the Baptist’s Cry”-LBW #36**

1. On Jordan's bank the Baptist's cry,
announces that the Lord is nigh;
awake and harken, for he brings,
glad tidings of the King of kings!
2. Then cleansed be ev'ry life from sin;
make straight the way for God within,
and let us all our hearts prepare,
for Christ to come and enter there.
3. All praise to you, eternal Son,
whose advent has our freedom won,
whom with the Father we adore,
and Holy Spirit, evermore.

***Hymn: “Savior of the Nations, Come” —LBW #28**

1. Savior of the nations come; Show the glory of the Son!
Every people stand in awe; Praise the perfect Son of God!
2. Advent of our Lord & King; Miracle of Christmas sing!
Wondrous birth, oh wondrous child, Of the virgin undefiled.
3. God the Father’s precious Son, Girds himself in flesh to run.
For the trophies of our souls, longer than this round earth rolls.

Second Sunday of Advent (Year C): It is easy to lose heart and abandon our hope when life becomes challenging. The reality of this struggle is that we try to do it all on our own, failing to rely on Jesus our Lord and Savior. Faith is a matter of putting our complete trust in the one who calls us his own and who began a good work in us in the first place. Turning from our self-sufficiency toward relying on Christ is repentance that leads to real life.

***Hymn: “Prepare the Royal Highway” — LBW #26**

1. Prepare the royal highway; The King of kings is near!
Let ev’ry hill and valley, A level road appear!
Then greet the King of Glory, Foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God’s Word!
2. God’s people, see Him coming: Your own eternal king!
Palm branches strew before Him! Spread garments! Shout & sing!
God’s promise will not fail you! No more shall doubt assail you!
Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God’s Word!
3. Then fling the gates wide open, To greet your promised king!
Your king, yet ev’ry nation, Its tribute too should bring.
All lands, bow down before Him! All nations, now adore Him!
Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God’s Word!
4. His is no earthly kingdom; it comes from heav’n above.
His rule is peace and freedom, And justice, truth, and love.
So let your praise be sounding For kindness so abounding:
Hosanna to the Lord, For He fulfills God’s Word!

Malachi 3:1-7b—God’s Messenger is Coming!

1 “Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. 2 But who can endure the day of his coming, & who can stand when he appears? For he is like a refiner’s fire & like fullers’ soap. 3 He will sit as a refiner & purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi & refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. 4 Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years. 5 Then I will draw near to you for judgment. I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts. 6 For I the Lord do not change; therefore you, O children of Jacob, are not consumed. 7 From the days of your fathers you have turned aside from my statutes and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you, says the Lord of hosts.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 66:1-12 (Responsively)

L: Shout for joy to God, all the earth; sing the glory of his name;

C: Give to him glorious praise!

L: Say to God, “How awesome are your deeds!

C: So great is your power that your enemies come cringing to you.

L: All the earth worships you and sings praises to you;

C: They sing praises to your name.”

L: Come and see what God has done:

C: He is awesome in his deeds toward the children of man.

L: He turned the sea into dry land; they passed through the river on foot.

C: There did we rejoice in him, who rules by his might forever, whose eyes keep watch on the nations—let not the rebellious exalt themselves.

L: Bless our God, O peoples; let the sound of his praise be heard,

C: Who has kept our soul among the living and has not let our feet slip.

L: For you, O God, have tested us;

C: You have tried us as silver is tried.

L: You brought us into the net;

C: You laid a crushing burden on our backs;

L: You let men ride over our heads;

C: We went through fire and through water; yet you have brought us out to a place of abundance.

L: I will come into your house with burnt offerings; I will perform my vows to you,

C: That which my lips uttered and my mouth promised when I was in trouble.

Philippians 1:2-11—Thanking God for Faithfulness

2 Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. 3 I thank my God in all my remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine for you all making my prayer with joy, 5 because of your partnership in the gospel from the first day until now. 6 And I am sure of this, that he who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. 7 It is right for me to feel this way about you all, because I hold you in my heart, for you are all partakers with me of grace, both in my imprisonment and in the defense and confirmation of the gospel.

8 For God is my witness, how I yearn for you all with the affection of Christ Jesus. 9 And it is my prayer that your love may abound more & more, with knowledge & all discernment, 10 so that you may approve what is excellent, and so be pure and blameless for the day of Christ, 11 filled with the fruit of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ, to the glory and praise of God.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 3:1-14

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 3rd. Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

1 In the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate being governor of Judea, and Herod being tetrarch of Galilee, and his brother Philip tetrarch of the region of Ituraea and Trachonitis, and Lysanias tetrarch of Abilene, 2 during the high priesthood of Annas and Caiaphas, the word of God came to John the son of Zechariah in the wilderness. 3 And he went into all the region around the Jordan, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 4 As it is written in the book of the words of Isaiah the prophet, “The voice of one crying in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. 5 Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be made low, and the crooked shall become straight, and the rough places shall become level ways, 6 and all flesh shall see the salvation of God.’” 7 He said therefore to the crowds that came out to be baptized by him, “You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? 8 Bear fruits in keeping with repentance. And do not begin to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father.’ For I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham. 9 Even now the axe is laid to the root of the trees. Every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.” 10 And the crowds asked him, “What then shall we do?” 11 And he answered them, “Whoever has two tunics is to share with him who has none, and whoever has food is to do likewise.” 12 Tax collectors also came to be baptized and said to him, “Teacher, what shall we do?” 13 And he said to them, “Collect no more

The Emmanuel Weekly

Saturday, Dec. 4, 2021
Advent II – 6 pm

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

The ADVENT of our LORD

A new church year begins tonight with the Season of Advent. Happy New Year! This year’s Advent & Christmas theme is: **“The Miracle of Christmas”**. Each week during the Season of Advent we will be celebrate the miracle of saving faith in the name of Jesus! Prayerfully we say, “Amen! Come Lord Jesus!”

Thank you...to Pastor Gies, serving as our guest preacher tonight!

EMMANUEL HUDDLE
Tonight following worship at 7pm.
Please join us!

The Littlest Watchman

On Advent I, households at Emmanuel received a free copy of the book, “The Littlest Watchman,” by Scott James. Pastor Dave will be sharing Advent devotions in his 4:31 each day during the month of December. A few copies of the book remain if you would like one!

The December Emmanuel Epistle Newsletter & Prayer Calendar are available! Also, pick up your copy of Our Daily Bread Devotional for December 2021—January 2022.

Emmanuel Huddle: December 4 at 7pm! Join us following worship tonight (Dec. 4) for conversation regarding our shared ministry. We’ll have a first look at our mission plan budget for 2022, an update on our Building project, and also conversation regarding Ten Goals for our Ten Year Church Anniversary!

2022 Membership Covenants! Advent I begins on Saturday, November 27. 2022 Discipleship Covenants are available for servants of Emmanuel wishing to sign or renew their membership covenant for the new year 2022. A Covenant Renewal Service will take place on Jan. 22 at our 6pm Worship Service. Membership at Emmanuel is an annual renewal; a yearly commitment to the walk of discipleship in the footsteps of Jesus. Disciples seek to pray daily, worship weekly, grow spiritually, read & study Scripture on a regular basis, serve others, share the good news, & live and give generously. Those signing an Emmanuel Discipleship Covenant may have membership in another congregation as well. Questions? Contact Pastor Dave Steffenson! 35 Discipleship Covenants have already been signed and submitted. Thank you!

Christmas Keepsake Ornament: Each year, Emmanuel Lutheran Church celebrates the Season of Christmas with a commemorative ornament. This year’s Theme is “The Miracle of Christmas”. One ornament per household. Thanks is offered to Lee and Judy Pearce for providing this keepsake ornament!

Holiday Cookies: Plates of store-bought holiday cookies are being shared with area Hospitality Houses during the Season of Advent! Those wishing to help with this distribution of Christ-centered love may contact Judy Pearce. Judy received a Thrivent Action Team grant in support of this ministry.

Thrivent Choice Dollars: If you have Thrivent Products don’t forget to designate your Choice Dollars. Call #1-800-847-4836 or go online at www.thrivent.org. We’ve received \$1,572.00 in Thrivent Choice Dollars thus far in 2021.

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



CALENDAR ITEMS

- Saturday, Dec. 4 —Eve of Advent II Worship, 6pm; Emmanuel Huddle, 7pm
- Sunday, December 5 Implementation Team Mtg. at 5pm—Oasis
- Wednesday, Dec. 8 Men’s Bible Study at 11am (Oasis Church)
- Saturday, Dec. 11—Eve of Advent III Worship, 6pm with Communion
- Pick up your gift of this year’s Emmanuel Christmas Ornament.
- Holy Communion will be offered on December 24 (Christmas Eve), and Jan. 1 (New Year’s Day)
- **Acts 4:31—The Church Prayed!**

Announcements//Prayers

Nominating Committee: Members of Emmanuel are to prayerfully consider ways they can serve Christ and put their discipleship into practice during the year 2022. Members of the Nominating Committee will be contacting you soon.

Church Land Update: Things are moving forward on God's Land. A contract has been signed. The driveway and parking area are in. Weather permitting, an electrical transformer will be installed soon; if not this winter, then certainly in early spring. Preparations have been made for the Shelter, and construction of the roof will begin in January. The Cross has been placed near the church sign. Thanks is offered to LeRoy and Margaret Quam for the gift of a beautiful cross with an eternal circle. Forever is God's love, in Christ, for you!

Men's Bible Study: Men of Emmanuel Lutheran meet on Tuesday mornings at 8:30am via email & study the Bible Readings for the upcoming weekend. Let Pastor Dave know if you would like the study notes emailed to you. In-person study will be offered on **Wednesday, Dec. 8 at 11am.** Location: Oasis Church. Bring a Bible, & a friend.

Women's Bible Study! A Bible Study on "Women of the Bible" continues on Wednesdays at 1pm at the home of Judy Pearce with Leitha Bothun as the study leader. **On December 15** the Bible Study will include a potluck Christmas Lunch. Contact Judy or Leitha with questions.

Snow Removal: Emmanuel is responsible for removal of snow on the Oasis sidewalks, one day each week during the winter months. In the past, Mondays have been our day of choice. Larry Vomhof and his sons will spearhead this work. Volunteers are needed to assist with snow removal. Contact Larry if you would like to assist with this ministry! Thanks.

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Prayers for Advent 1 (November 27, 2021)

L: As we await the coming of our Savior in mercy and majesty, let us pray to our Heavenly Father for the Church, the world, and for all people according to their needs.

A brief silence

L: (Each petition ends with "Lord, in Your mercy," to which the people respond "**Hear our prayer**").

L: Thank you, dear Father, for promising that not one of your lambs, tended by your Son the Good Shepherd, shall be lost. Thank you that Jesus levels mountains, fills in valleys, and takes every road, until he finds and saves them. Unite us with him, so we, too may seek the lost & lead them to his embrace. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Make your Church the herald of good tidings, fearless in proclaiming your Word. Through it, grant your comfort to those who are lost and afflicted by sin, sorrow, and suffering. In everything it says and does, may your Church constantly and faithfully announce: "Behold: Here is your God! Lord on your mercy,

C: Hear our Prayer.

L: Remove the burden of pain and sorrow from the backs of all who suffer, especially [NAMES]. Bring them into a broad and spacious place. Let them rejoice in your goodness and give thanks for their deliverance. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Merciful Father, we entrust into your never-failing care our beloved dead. Comfort those whose grief runs deep. Revive our spirits, direct our days and our deeds in your peace, and make us abound in every good work. Strengthen our hearts with the gift of your Spirit, so that we may be blameless at the coming of Jesus. 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.