

O Redeemer of the world. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Prepare your Church for the coming of your Son. From valleys of lukewarm worship and half-hearted service, raise it to heights of praise and compassion. Level mountains of false teaching and self-importance. Lead it along level pathways of faithfulness & humility, so that many may journey to your Kingdom. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Prepare the hearts of our children for the coming of their dear Savior. Protect and bless them; and help us teach them to love Jesus and to trust him always. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: Prepare the hearts of those who suffer for the coming of Christ, the Great Physician. We lift before you the needs of your people [NAMES]. Raise them up from sickness and sorrow; lay low the mountains of pain; and by your Son's gentle hand, lead them & their loved ones along level pathways into health and hope. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

P: Graciously answer our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit reigns, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

\*Lord's Prayer: *Traditional Version*

\*Benediction:

\***Hymn:** "On Jordan's Banks the Baptist's Cry" — #36

\*Dismissal

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

Postlude

*Thanks for worshiping 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 alive in our hearts!*

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



**Worship—Eve  
of Advent II  
Dec. 5, 2020  
6:00 p.m.**

## **Lutheran Book of Worship—Advent Liturgy “The WORD Made Flesh”**

*\* indicates stand as you are able*

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

**Prayer:** O faithful and 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: “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.**

**\*Hymn: “Comfort, Comfort, Now My People” — #29**

\*Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray. 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: Isaiah 40:1-11

Psalm 85:1-13 (See Insert)

Second Lesson: II Peter 3:8-14

**\*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!*

\*Holy Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

Children’s Message: “Jolly Old St. Nicholas” (Posted, Facebook)

Sermon: “Tidings of Comfort & Joy!” Rev. David Steffenson

**\*Hymn of the Day: “Hark the Glad Sound” — #35**

**\*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: Let us pray to the Lord on behalf of the Church, the world, and all people according to their need.

*A brief silence*

L: O Lord, we long for your salvation; make haste and help us. Come quickly with blessing and comfort for your people,

## II Peter 3:8-14—One Day is a Thousand Years

8 Do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, & a thousand years as one day. 9 The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. 10 But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a roar, and the heavenly bodies will be burned up and dissolved, and the earth and the works that are done on it will be exposed. 11 Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of people ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness, 12 waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set on fire and dissolved, and the heavenly bodies will melt as they burn! 13 But according to his promise we are waiting for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, since you are waiting for these, be diligent to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

### Gospel Reading: Mark 1:1-8

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Mark the 1st. Chapter.

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

1 The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. 2 As it is written in Isaiah the prophet, "Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way, 3 the voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight,'" 4 John appeared, baptizing in the wilderness and proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. 5 And all the country of Judea and all Jerusalem were going out to him and were being baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. 6 Now John was clothed with camel's hair and wore a leather belt around his waist and ate locusts and wild honey. 7 And he preached, saying, "After me comes he who is mightier than I, the strap of whose sandals I am not worthy to stoop down and untie. 8 I have baptized you with water, but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit."

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

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

### \*Gathering Hymn: "Comfort, Comfort, Now My People" LBW #29

1. "Comfort, comfort now my people;  
Tell of peace!" So says our God.  
Comfort those who sit in darkness  
Mourning under sorrow's load.  
To God's people now proclaim  
That God's pardon waits for them!  
Tell them that their war is over;  
God will reign in peace forever!
2. For the herald's voice is crying  
In the desert far and near,  
Calling us to true repentance,  
Since the Kingdom now is here.  
Oh, that warning cry obey!  
Now prepare for God a way!  
Let the valleys rise to meet him,  
And the hills bow to greet him!
3. Straight shall be what long was crooked,  
And the rougher places plain!  
Let your hearts be true and humble,  
As befits his holy reign!  
For the glory of the Lord  
Now on earth is shed abroad,  
And all flesh shall see the token  
That God's word is never broken.

### \*Hymn of the Day: "Hark the Glad Sound" —LBW #35 (vv. 1-2 before the sermon; vv. 3-4 after the sermon)

1. Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior  
promised long! Let ev'ry heart prepare a throne, and ev'ry  
voice a song.
2. He comes the pris'ners to release, in Satan's bondage  
held; the gates of brass before Him burst, the iron fetters  
yield.

3. He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure, and with the treasures of His grace, to enrich the humble poor.

4. Our glad Hosannas, Prince of Peace, Your welcome shall proclaim; & heav'n's eternal arches ring, with Your beloved Name.

**\*Sending 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.

**Isaiah 40:1-11—Comfort My People**

1 Comfort, comfort my people, says your God. 2 Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that her warfare is ended, that her iniquity is pardoned, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. 3 A voice cries: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD; make straight in the desert a highway for our God. 4 Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. 5 And the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all flesh shall see it together, for the mouth of the Lord has spoken." 6 A voice says, "Cry!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All flesh is grass, & all its beauty is like the flower of the field. 7 The grass withers, the flower fades when the breath of the LORD blows on it; surely the people are grass. 8 The grass

withers, the flower fades, but the word of our God will stand forever. 9 Go on up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good news; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good news; lift it up, fear not; say to the cities of Judah, "**Behold your God!**" 10 Behold, the Lord God comes with might, and his arm rules for him; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. 11 He will tend his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms; he will carry them in his bosom, and gently lead those that are with young.

L: The Word of the Lord.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Psalm 85:1-13 (Responsively)**

L: LORD, you were favorable to your land;

**C: You restored the fortunes of Jacob.**

L: You forgave the iniquity of your people;

**C: You covered all their sin.**

L: You withdrew all your wrath;

**C: You turned from your hot anger.**

L: Restore us again, O God of our salvation,

**C: And put away your indignation toward us!**

L: Will you be angry with us forever?

**C: Will you prolong your anger to all generations?**

L: Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you?

**C: Show us your steadfast love, O LORD, and grant us your salvation.**

L: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints;

**C: But let them not turn back to folly.**

L: Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him,

**C: That glory may dwell in our land.**

L: Steadfast love and faithfulness meet;

**C: Righteousness and peace kiss each other.**

L: Faithfulness springs up from the ground,

**C: And righteousness looks down from the sky.**

L: Yes, the LORD will give what is good, and our land will yield its increase.

**C: Righteousness will go before him and make his footsteps a way.**

**Membership Covenants!** Discipleship Covenants are available for servants of Emmanuel wishing to sign or renew their membership covenant for the new year 2021. A Covenant Renewal Service will take place on Jan. 23 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!

### **Worship Servants Tonight: Thanks!**

*Pianist: Mary Ann Groven*

*Assisting Minister, Scripture Reader & Prayers: Julie Steffenson*

*Ushers: Pending*

*Sound: Don Holtan*

*Sanitizing Team: Pending*

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

**Year-End Gifts & Offerings:** Members wishing to give a year-end contribution to the 2020 Emmanuel Budget or an Emmanuel Designated Gift, will need to do so no later than Monday, Dec. 28. **All gifts must be received by Emmanuel NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 28!** Thanks for your attention to this matter! — Judy Caudill, Emmanuel Church Treasurer.

### **Advent & Christmas 2020: “The WORD Made Flesh”**

- Saturday, Dec. 5: Celebrating the Feast of St. Nicholas.
- Saturday, December 19: Virtual Children’s Nativity. Pictures need to be submitted to Pastor Dave by Thursday, Dec. 17.
  - **NO CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE THIS YEAR!**
- Friday, December 25: Christmas Day Worship at 10am.
- Saturday, December 26: Twelve Days of Christmas Liturgy with Bell Ringing and Lighting of Candles.

**Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Rochester, Minnesota**  
**Contact Information: 3819—18th Ave. NW, Rochester, MN**  
**Phone: 507-206-3048**     [www.emmanuelofrochester.org](http://www.emmanuelofrochester.org)

# The Emmanuel Weekly

**Saturday, Dec. 5, 2020**  
**Advent II — 6 pm**

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

### **The ADVENT of our LORD**

This year’s Advent & Christmas theme is: **“The WORD Made Flesh”**. Each week, during the Season of Advent, we are celebrating God’s Gift of the Incarnation! In the Flesh of Jesus, we have a down-to-earth God who saves us!

### **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 and lying in a manger.” There is one ornament per household.

### **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.

**The December Emmanuel Epistle Newsletter & Prayer Calendar are available! Also, pick up your copy of Our Daily Bread Devotional for December 2020—January 2021.**



### **CALENDAR ITEMS**

- Saturday, December 5  
Advent II — In-Person & Virtual Worship at 6pm
- Sunday, December 6  
Feast of St. Nicholas
- Monday, Dec. 7—Zoom  
Council Mtg. at 1pm
- Tuesday, December 1  
Men’s email Bible Study  
at 8:30am.
- Wednesday, Dec. 9  
Men’s In-Person Bible  
Study @ 11am (Oasis)
- Saturday, December 12  
“Advent III” In-Person  
and Virtual Worship at  
6pm. The Lord’s Supper  
served following worship

• **Acts 4:31**  
**The Church Prayed!**

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Virtual Children's Nativity:** The children of our congregation and their friends treat us each year to a "retelling of the birth of our Savior Jesus." Dressed in costumes, the little ones present the Nativity Story and become proclaimers of God's Saving WORD. COVID-19 has forced us to adjust our plans this year. We will still have a Children's Nativity on Saturday, Dec. 19, but it will be *a virtual retelling* of the birth of Jesus. If you have children or grandchildren who would like to play a role in God's Christmas story, then give Pastor Dave a call or send him an email. Once a decision is made as to which part the child will play, then you need to get creative. Maybe Dad & his son will dress up like sheep, or like shepherds. Maybe three brothers will dress up like the 3 Wise Men or 3 Kings. Maybe 2 or 3 sisters will dress up like angels. You get the idea. We need a cow, a donkey, a cat, a dog, etc. Once you've made a costume, then snap some pictures and send them to Pastor Dave. *A collage of pictures* will be presented on the BIG SCREEN in the front of the worship space as the Nativity Story is told on December 19. Interested???

**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.

**Men's Bible Study IN-PERSON:** Join us on Wednesdays, December 9 & 23 from 11am-12:00 Noon for a study of the Bible Readings appointed for the week ahead. We'll meet in the Oasis church worship space & practice safe, physical distancing. Bring a Bible and a heart eager to receive God's WORD.

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