

Sermon: “He’s the One! Look No Further!” Rev. David Steffenson	
*Hymn of the Day: “Hail to the Lord’s Anointed”	#87
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<i>Invitation & Distribution</i>	
<i>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 and wine for the forgiveness of sins, life & salvation.” We practice Intinction at Emmanuel Lutheran. Receive a wafer (the body of Christ) & dip it into the cup of wine (the blood of Christ).</i>	
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Postlude	

The Prayers

A: 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 need.
a brief silence

A: Most holy Lord, grant that, in Word and Sacrament, in service and in fellowship, your Church may constantly preach the Good News of what Jesus has done: “the blind receive their sight and the lame walk; lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear; the dead are raised up; and the poor have

good news preached to them.” Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Establish this congregation, O Lord, in words and deeds of patience, mercy, and gentleness. Make this a place of refreshment for the heavy-hearted; of healing for everyone wounded by sin, temptation, or despair; of illumination and wisdom for the innocent and the ignorant; of safety for those beaten down by adversity; and of joy for all whom our Savior has redeemed. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: For our sister congregations, and for all missionaries throughout the world, we pray, dear Lord. Grant that through their labors and witness, many eyes see your goodness, many ears hear your Word, and the poor of body or spirit have the Good News preached to them. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Bless your persecuted Church, and keep it patient, faithful and steadfast. Teach those of us who live in relative comfort and security to honor their witness & provide for their needs; & turn their tormentors from their evil ways. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: We remember before you all for whom this season of light is shadowed by sorrow, conflict, hardship or anxiety. Help us to bring them your mercy, comfort and kindness; to speak words of forgiveness and encouragement; and to accompany them in their wilderness, in the sure hope that you will bring us all into your everlasting joy. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

Guide, strengthen, and shield all who must take up arms to protect the innocent, establish justice and safety, and defend life and liberty. Use their valor and competence to accomplish your will; and speed the day when everyone may walk in safety, peace and joy throughout this world. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

A: Your Son brought sight to the blind, hearing to the deaf, wholeness to the sick, and life to the dead. Grant his deep compassion and loving care to everyone bowed down by suffering, pain, and affliction [Names]. Bring them refreshment, hope, & health. 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.

Psalm 146:1-10—responsively

L: Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord, O my soul!

C: I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have my being.

L: Put not your trust in princes, in a son of man, in whom there is no salvation.

C: When his breath departs, he returns to the earth; on that very day his plans perish.

L: Blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose hope is in the Lord his God,

C: Who made heaven and earth, the sea, & all that is in them,

L: Who keeps faith forever;

C: Who executes justice for the oppressed, who gives food to the hungry.

L: The Lord sets the prisoners free; the Lord opens the eyes of the blind.

C: The Lord lifts up those who are bowed down; the Lord loves the righteous.

L: The Lord watches over the sojourners; he upholds the widow and the fatherless,

C: But the way of the wicked he brings to ruin.

L: The Lord will reign forever, your God, O Zion, to all generations.

C: Praise the Lord!

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 & practicing Emmanuel – God with us – in daily life! May the hope & promise of Advent equip the saints for Witness in the World!

Visit us at: www.emmanuelofrochester.org.



**Worship—Eve of
Advent Three
Dec. 10, 2016
6:00 p.m.**

Lutheran Book of Worship—Setting II

** indicates stand as you are able*

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

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. Amen.

Lighting of Advent Candles

Sing: “Light One Candle to Watch for Messiah” (2x) vs. 3—Insert

**Brief Order for Confession & Forgiveness* Page 77

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

**Prayer of the Day:*

P: Let us pray. Lord Jesus Christ, give ear to our prayers, & 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.

First Lesson: Isaiah 35:1-10

Psalm 146:1-10

Bulletin Page 4

Second Lesson: James 5:7-11

**Gospel Acclamation: “Alleluia”*

Page 83

**Holy Gospel: Matthew 11:2-15*

Children’s Message: “Patience”

Kid’s Choir

WORSHIP SERVANTS Tonight:

Pianist: MarJean Damerval

Scripture Reader & Prayers: Sharon Matzke

Communion Server: Jenna Serr

Ushers: Matt Serr & Nora and Scarlett

Acolyte: Emma Matzke

Sound: Don Holtan

Coffee: Peg Holtan

Treats: Jenna Serr

Set-up and Take-down: Julie Steffenson & Janet Sunde & friends

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. A new Study on Revelation has begun. Read Revelation 20-22 in preparation for this week's study.

Women's Bible Studies: Emmanuel Women are studying the Book of Revelation. The afternoon Study is meeting twice a month on Thursday afternoons at Oasis Church (1pm). Next session: Thursday, December 15. An evening study is offered once a month at the home of Katie Siebenaler at 6:30pm. Next Session is Wednesday, December 21.

Worship at Madonna Towers Skilled Care Chapel: On the first and third Wednesdays of each month, Emmanuel members are invited to participate in a ministry to area seniors. Our next Worship Service will be on Wednesday, December 21 at 1:00 pm. Give Lee Pearce a call if you would like to participate in this wonderful ministry.

Saturday School & G.I.F.T. 2016: Join us at 5:10 p.m. each Saturday in the Oasis Church Fellowship Hall as children learn Bible Stories and grow in their walk with Jesus. Once a month, MarJean is leading our children in music. The kids are providing a gift of music in worship. Each week, adults are meeting and participating in a GIFT (Growing In Faith Together) Class, discussing Faith Webbing and Faith Stones. No Saturday School or GIFT on December 24 & 31.

Isaiah 35:1-10—Your God Will Come & Save You

1 The wilderness and the dry land shall be glad; the desert shall rejoice and blossom like the crocus; 2 it shall blossom abundantly and rejoice with joy and singing. The glory of Lebanon shall be given to it, the majesty of Carmel and Sharon. They shall see the glory of the Lord, the majesty of our God. 3 Strengthen the weak hands, and make firm the feeble knees. 4 Say to those who have an anxious heart, "Be strong; fear not! Behold, your God will come with vengeance, with the recompense of God. He will come and save you." 5 Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf unstopped; 6 then shall the lame man leap like a deer, and the tongue of the mute sing for joy. For waters break forth in the wilderness, and streams in the desert; 7 the burning sand shall become a pool, and the thirsty ground springs of water; in the haunt of jackals, where they lie down, the grass shall become reeds and rushes. 8 And a highway shall be there, and it shall be called the Way of Holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it. It shall belong to those who walk on the way; even if they are fools, they shall not go astray. 9 No lion shall be there, nor shall any ravenous beast come up on it; they shall not be found there, but the redeemed shall walk there. 10 And the ransomed of the Lord shall return & come to Zion with singing; everlasting joy shall be upon their heads; they shall obtain gladness and joy, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

James 5:7-11—Be Patient

7 Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains. 8 You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand. 9 Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door. 10 As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. 11 Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Emmanuel Lutheran Church of Rochester, Minnesota
Contact Information: 1815—38th Street NW, Rochester, MN
Phone: 507-206-3048 www.emmanuelofrochester.org

Gospel Reading—Matthew 11:2-15

P: The Holy Gospel According to St. Matthew the 11th. Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

2 Now when John heard in prison about the deeds of the Christ, he sent word by his disciples 3 and said to him, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” 4 And Jesus answered them, “Go and tell John what you hear and see: 5 the blind receive their sight and the lame walk, lepers are cleansed and the deaf hear, and the dead are raised up, and the poor have good news preached to them. 6 And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” 7 As they went away, Jesus began to speak to the crowds concerning John: “What did you go out into the wilderness to see? A reed shaken by the wind? 8 What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who wear soft clothing are in kings’ houses. 9 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 10 This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ 11 Truly, I say to you, among those born of women there has arisen no one greater than John the Baptist. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he. 12 From the days of John the Baptist until now the kingdom of heaven has suffered violence, and the violent take it by force. 13 For all the Prophets & the Law prophesied until John, 14 and if you are willing to accept it, he is Elijah who is to come. 15 He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

Emmanuel Nominating Committee: Is God calling you to serve in leadership at Emmanuel Lutheran? Opportunities: Church Council, Audit Committee, Voting Delegates, or Nominating Committee.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing! Emmanuel Lutheran Church is partnering again this year with the Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringing campaign. There are locations throughout the Rochester area. Contact Lee Pearce to sign-up as part of the Emmanuel Bell Ringing Team to get your choice locations and times. Make it a family affair! Our Emmanuel Goal this year is 58 Servant Hours! Last year we logged 45 hours. On November 19, Emmanuel hosted two red kettles at the HyVee N.W. location, netting a total of \$1,788.28. We’ve logged 32 hours so far, with 14 hours more already scheduled. 46 total hours.

The Emmanuel Weekly

Saturday, Dec. 10, 2016
Eve of Advent Three—6 pm

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

The 2016 Discipleship Covenants

are available for signing. Remember, Membership at Emmanuel is an annual renewal. 58 Covenants were signed in 2016. 25 signed covenants have been received for 2017. Thanks!

Luther Exhibit - MN Institute of Art

In honor of the 500th Anniversary of Luther’s posting of the 95 Theses (Oct. 31. 1517), a special exhibition is being offered, entitled: **“Martin Luther: Art & the Reformation”**. The Exhibit runs from October 30-January 15. **Call #612-871-3000 to reserve tickets.** Address: 2400 Third Ave. South, Minneapolis, MN. Price of Tickets is \$20.00 each, but with a Thrivent discount code ([thriventmia](#)) the price is only \$10.00 per ticket. Thrivent members attend free on Fridays. The Luther Exhibit is also now open on Mondays!

Kid’s Choir

Special thanks to our children, under the direction of MarJean Damerval, for offering a gift of music in worship tonight!

The December Emmanuel Prayer Calendar & Epistle Newsletter are available in print! Also, pick up your copy of the Our Daily Bread Devotional for December 2016—February 2017



CALENDAR ITEMS

- Saturday, Dec. 10; Saturday School @ 5:10pm; GIFT at 5:15pm; Advent III Worship @ 6pm with Kid’s Choir
- Tues, Dec. 13 - Men’s Bible Study Breakfast at Oasis Church (8am); Text Study at 10:30am
- Thursday, Dec. 15 Women’s Bible Study at Oasis (1pm)
- Friday, December 16 Clergy Mtg. at Oasis (12:00 noon)
- Saturday, Dec. 17; Saturday School @ 5:10pm; GIFT - 5:15pm; Advent IV Worship @ 6pm