

Body & Blood who are baptized in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, & believe that Jesus Christ, crucified & risen, is truly present in, with & under the forms of bread & wine for the forgiveness of sins, life & salvation.”
With repentant hearts, we receive the body & blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins. Consecrated grape juice and gluten-free wafers & are available. When instructed, receive the body & blood of Jesus in the pre-filled containers.

***Table Blessing**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in His grace. **C: Amen.**

***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**”).

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.

***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

***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 in our hearts!*

Visit us at: www.emmanuelofrochester.org.



**Worship—Eve
of Advent III
Dec. 11, 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: 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: 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: “The Advent of our God” — LBW #22**

*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: Zephaniah 3:14-20

Psalm 85:1-13 (See Insert)

Second Lesson: Philippians 4:4-7

***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 7:18-35

Children’s Message: “Who are You?” (Posted on Facebook)

Sermon: “God is Always Near!” Rev. David Steffenson

***Hymn: “Joy to the World” — LBW #39**

(Verses 1-2 before sermon; verses 3-4 after the sermon)

***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.)*

Communion Hymn: “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”—LBW #25

*The Great Thanksgiving - Eucharistic Prayer

*Lord’s Prayer: Traditional Version

Invitation & Distribution: *Holy Communion is the Lord’s Supper for the Lord’s People: “All are welcome to receive the Lord’s*

***Hymn: “Joy to the World ”—LBW #39**

(Verses 3-4 after the sermon)

3. No more let sin & sorrow grow, Nor thorns infest the ground;
He comes to make his blessings flow, Far as the curse is found,
Far as the curse is found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
4. He rules the world with truth & grace, And makes the nations
prove. The glories of his righteousness, And wonders of his love,
And wonders of his love, And wonders, wonders of his love.

Communion Hymn: “Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers”—LBW #25

1. Rejoice, rejoice, believers, And let your lights appear!
The evening is advancing, And darker night is near.
The Bridegroom is arising, And soon he will draw nigh;
Up, watch in expectation! At midnight comes the cry.
2. The watchers on the mountain, proclaim the Bridegroom near;
Go forth, as he approaches, with alleluias clear.
Around the throne of glory, the Lamb you shall behold,
In triumph lay before him, your shining crowns of gold.
3. Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, O Sun so longed for, above this shadowed sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, we plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption, that sets your people free.

***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.

Worship Servants Tonight: Thanks!

Pianist: Jane Cabaya

Assisting Minister, Scripture Reader/Prayers: Kim Starr

Sound/Video Recording: Don Holtan

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

***Hymn: “The Advent of our God” — LBW #22**

1. The advent of our God, Shall be our theme for prayer;
Come, let us meet him on the road, And place for him prepare.
2. The everlasting Son, Incarnate stoops to be,
Himself the servant's form puts on, To set his people free.
3. Before the dawning day, Let sin be put to flight;
No longer let the law hold sway, But walk in freedom's light.
4. All glory to the Son, Who comes to set us free,
With Father, Spirit, ever one, Through all eternity.

Zephaniah 3:14-20 — Fear Not Daughter Zion

14 “Sing aloud, O daughter of Zion; shout, O Israel! Rejoice and exult with all your heart, O daughter of Jerusalem! 15 The Lord has taken away the judgments against you; he has cleared away your enemies. The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst; you shall never again fear evil. 16 On that day it shall be said to Jerusalem: Fear not, O Zion; let not your hands grow weak. 17 The Lord your God is in your midst, a mighty one who will save; he will rejoice over you with gladness; he will quiet you by his love; he will exult over you with loud singing. 18 I will gather those of you who mourn for the festival, so that you will no longer suffer reproach. 19 Behold, at that time I will deal with all your oppressors. And I will save the lame and gather the outcast, and I will change their shame into praise and renown in all the earth. 20 At that time I will bring you in, at the time when I gather you together; for I will make you renowned and praised among all the peoples of the earth, when I restore your fortunes before your eyes,” says the Lord.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 85:1-13 (Responsively)

L: LORD, you were favorable to your land; you restored the fortunes of Jacob.

C: You forgave the iniquity of your people; you covered all their sin.

L: You withdrew all your wrath; you turned from your hot anger.

C: Restore us again, O God of our salvation, and put away your indignation toward us!

L: Will you be angry with us forever? Will you prolong your anger to all generations?

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

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

C: Let me hear what God the LORD will speak, for he will speak peace to his people, to his saints; but let them not turn back to folly.

L: Surely his salvation is near to those who fear him, that glory may dwell in our land.

C: Steadfast love and faithfulness meet; righteousness and peace kiss each other.

L: Faithfulness springs up from the ground, and righteousness looks down from the sky.

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

L: Righteousness will go before him & make his footsteps a way.

Philippians 4:4-7—Rejoice in the Lord, Always!

4 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. 5 Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; 6 do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. 7 And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: Luke 7:18-35

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke the 7th. Chapter.

C: Glory to you, O Lord.

18 The disciples of John reported all these things to him. And John, 19 calling two of his disciples to him, sent them to the Lord, saying, “Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?” 20 And when the men had come to him, they said, “John the Baptist has sent us to you, saying, ‘Are you the one who is to come, or shall we look for another?’” 21 In that hour he healed many people of diseases and plagues and evil spirits, and on many who were blind

he bestowed sight. 22 And he answered them, “Go and tell John what you have seen and heard: the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, the poor have good news preached to them. 23 And blessed is the one who is not offended by me.” 24 When John’s messengers had gone, 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? 25 What then did you go out to see? A man dressed in soft clothing? Behold, those who are dressed in splendid clothing and live in luxury are in kings’ courts. 26 What then did you go out to see? A prophet? Yes, I tell you, and more than a prophet. 27 This is he of whom it is written, ‘Behold, I send my messenger before your face, who will prepare your way before you.’ 28 I tell you, among those born of women none is greater than John. Yet the one who is least in the kingdom of God is greater than he.” 29 (When all the people heard this, and the tax collectors too, they declared God just, having been baptized with the baptism of John, 30 but the Pharisees and the lawyers rejected the purpose of God for themselves, not having been baptized by him.) 31 “To what then shall I compare the people of this generation, and what are they like? 32 They are like children sitting in the marketplace and calling to one another, ‘We played the flute for you, and you did not dance; we sang a dirge, and you did not weep.’ 33 For John the Baptist has come eating no bread and drinking no wine, and you say, ‘He has a demon.’ 34 The Son of Man has come eating and drinking, and you say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!’ 35 Yet wisdom is justified by all her children.”

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

***Hymn: “Joy to the World ”—LBW #39**

(Verses 1-2 before sermon; verses 3-4 after the sermon)

1. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare him room, And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n & nature sing, And heav'n, & heav'n & nature sing.
2. Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,
While fields & floods, rocks, hills, & plains, Repeat the sounding
joy, Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

2022 Membership Covenants! 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 January 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 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.

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.

Advent & Christmas 2021: "The Miracle of Christmas"

- Advent Liturgy during the four weeks of Advent with the lighting of the Advent Wreath each week @ 6pm.
 - Saturday, December 18: Children's Nativity @ 6pm.
 - 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).

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

The Emmanuel Weekly

Saturday, Dec. 11, 2021
Advent III — 6 pm

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

The ADVENT of our LORD

A new church year begins 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!"

Nominating Committee

Members of Emmanuel are asked to prayerfully consider ways they can serve Christ and put their discipleship into practice during the year 2022.

Snow Removal

Emmanuel is responsible for removal of snow on the Oasis sidewalks, one day each week during the winter months. Our day is Mondays! Larry Vomhof & his sons are coordinating this ministry.

Advent 4—Children's Nativity

On Dec. 18 the children of our church will share the miracle of Christmas!

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



CALENDAR ITEMS

- Saturday, Dec. 11 —Eve of Advent III Worship, 6pm with Communion
- Tuesday, Dec. 14 - Men's Email Bible Study at 8:30am
- Wednesday, Dec. 15 Women's Potluck lunch and Bible Study (1pm)
- Saturday, Dec. 18—Eve of Advent IV Worship, with Children's Nativity
- 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!**

Prayers for Advent 3 (December 11, 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: Heavenly Father, thank you for the joy, righteousness, peace, and love you lavish upon us in Jesus! Thank you for every moment of healing, forgiveness, and hope that happens in this sin-damaged and death-shadowed world. Thank you for your peace that passes human understanding and endures past human malice. Whatever our circumstances, give us hearts filled with lasting joy and imperishable hope. Give us grace to thank you for Jesus, and to lead others to the joy of knowing him. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: We remember before you those whom it is easy to ignore: prisoners, refugees, and people in mental institutions, nursing homes, or homeless shelters. Help us to shed the light of your love upon them – and also the light of simple human kindness. Help us to speak your word of peace, forgiveness, and salvation to them – and also a word of understanding, encouragement, and friendship. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Make the leaders of every nation acknowledge your justice, and govern in obedience to it. Let faithfulness spring up from every human heart, and your righteousness look down from the sky. Strengthen, protect, and guide our military, first responders, and aid workers. Show them your steadfast love and direct their deeds in righteous pathways. Bring the blessing of peace to us all. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Help all who suffer to turn to the One who made the deaf hear, the blind see, and the lame walk. We especially pray for:

[**NAMES**]. Give them confidence in you so that they do not worry about anything, but lift their needs to you by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving. Grant your peace to them and all who love them, and guard their hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Heavenly Father, as we await the coming of your Son in glory, we also anticipate reunion with our beloved dead. Help us comfort all who grieve. Make us gentle, joyful, and steadfast in love. Bring us, with all whom Jesus has redeemed, into your everlasting home, where we shall rejoice in your goodness forever. 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.