

*The Lord's Prayer: *Traditional Version*

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 & of the Son & of the Holy Spirit, and believe that Jesus Christ, crucified & risen, is truly present in, with and under the forms of bread & wine for the forgiveness of sins, life & salvation." We are practicing distancing Communion following worship tonight. Please follow the directions of the ushers. With repentant hearts, we receive the body and blood of Jesus for the forgiveness of our sins. Gluten-free wafers and consecrated grape juice are also available.

*Benediction:

P: May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit." **C: Amen.**

*Sending Hymn: "Rejoice, Rejoice Believers" — #25

*Dismissal:

P: Go in peace. Serve the Lord!

C: Thanks be to God!

Postlude

Worship Servants Tonight: Thanks!

Pianist: MarJean Damerval

Assisting Minister, Scripture Reader/Prayers: Julie Steffenson

Usher: Rich Sunde Sound: Don Holtan

Sanitizing Team: Lee & Judy Pearce

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

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 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. 12, 2020
6:00 p.m.**

Lutheran Book of Worship—Advent Liturgy

“The WORD Made Flesh”

Holy Communion

* 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: “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.

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

*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 61:1-4, 8-11

Psalms 126:1-6 (See Insert)

Second Lesson: I Thessalonians 5:16-24

***Gospel Acclamation: “What Child Is This” — Verse 2 of #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: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Children’s Message: “God’s Will for you!” (Posted on Facebook)

Sermon: “Sent to Bear Witness” Rev. David Steffenson

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

***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.

*The Prayers: (Each petition ends with “Lord in your mercy”) to which the congregation responds, “**Hear our prayer**”).

*The Peace: (*Sharing of God’s peace may be done as an expression from the heart, without actual physical contact.*)

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.)

***The Great Thanksgiving** — Eucharistic Prayer for Advent

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.

P: The Gospel of the Lord.

C: Praise to you, O Christ.

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???

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.

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

***Gathering Hymn: "Prepare the Royal Highway"—LBW #26**

1. Prepare the royal highway, the King of kings is near;
let every hill and valley, a level road appear.

Then greet the king of glory, foretold in sacred story:

Refrain: 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:

Refrain: Hosanna to the Lord, for He fulfills God's Word!

***Hymn of the Day: "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 and floods, rocks, hills, and plains
Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

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.

***Sending 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 saints, who here in patience,
Their cross & suffrings bore,

Shall live and reign forever, When sorrow is no more:
Around the throne of glory, The Lamb they shall behold,
In triumph cast before him, Their diadems of gold.

3. Our hope and expectation, O Jesus, now appear;
Arise, O Sun so longed for, O'er this benighted sphere.
With hearts and hands uplifted, We plead, O Lord, to see
The day of earth's redemption, That sets your people free!

Isaiah 61:1-4, 8-11 — Sent to the Brokenhearted

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.”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 126:1-6 (Responsively)

L: When the LORD restored the fortunes of Zion,

C: We were like those who dream.

L: Then our mouth was filled with laughter, and our tongue with shouts of joy;

C: Then they said among the nations, The LORD has done great things for them.”

L: The LORD has done great things for us; we are glad.

C: Restore our fortunes, O LORD like streams in the Negeb!

L: Those who sow in tears

C: Shall reap with shouts of joy!

L: He who goes out weeping, bearing the seed for sowing,

C: Shall come home with shouts of joy, bringing his sheaves with him.

I Thessalonians 5:16-24 — The Will of God for you

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.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Gospel Reading: John 1:6-8, 19-28

P: 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

Third Sunday of Advent: God puts people in our lives to prepare us for Christ. Their job is to till the soil of our hearts to prepare us to receive the seed of the Word. John the Baptist was called to prepare the people for the coming Lord. Many heard his message and repented, but many others resisted and turned away from John's witness thereby rejecting the coming Christ. Will we listen to the call and receive him or will we turn away?

2021 Membership Covenants! Advent I begins on Saturday, November 28. 2021 Discipleship Covenants will be available that night 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 & give generously. Those signing an Emmanuel Discipleship may have membership in another congregation as well. Questions? Contact Pastor Dave!
25 Covenants have been received and signed thus far for 2021!

Advent & Christmas 2020: "The WORD Made Flesh"

- Advent Liturgy during the four weeks of Advent with the lighting of the Advent Wreath each week.
 - Saturday, Dec. 12: Holy Communion
 - Saturday, December 19: Children's Nativity.
 - **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.
- Pastor Steffenson on Vacation from December 27, 2020-January 3, 2021. Pulpit Supply (Jan. 2) is Pastor Gies.
- A Special Liturgy will be used during the Season of Epiphany.

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The Emmanuel Weekly

Saturday, Dec. 12, 2020
Advent III — 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—January.**



CALENDAR ITEMS

- Saturday, December 12
Advent III — In-Person &
Virtual Worship at 6pm
with The Lord's Supper
served following worship
- Sunday, December 13
Implementation Team
Mtg. at 5pm—Oasis
- Tuesday, December 15
Men's email Bible Study
at 8:30am.
- Thursday, December 17
Deadline for submitting
Nativity pictures!
- Saturday, December 19
"Advent IV" In-Person
and Virtual Worship at
6pm with Virtual
Children's Nativity

• **Acts 4:31**
The Church Prayed!

Prayers for Advent III—December 12, 2020

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, O strong Deliverer of Israel and the Redeemer of the world. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Clothe your Church with the joy of your salvation. Cover it with the righteousness of Christ. Adorn it with the jewels of your Word & Sacraments. Through it, let the poor hear the Good News, the sorrowful find comfort, & captives to sin & death experience your salvation. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Restore the fortunes of Christians who are persecuted for confessing Jesus as Lord. Turn their weeping into rejoicing. Cause those who hate them to repent and believe in the Good News. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Bless and guide the people of this congregation. Give us faithful hearts; ears attentive to your Word; eyes which see the needs of others; hands skilled in building up the body of Christ; and tongues swift to pray, forgive, and encourage. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Anoint the rulers of the world with your Spirit, so that, like you, they love justice and hate evil. Use them to repair lives and cities ruined by violence. Direct their words and

their works in your truth. Establish your peace among the nations. Make each of us into trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, bearing much fruit to your glory, and for the building up of your people. Lord, in your mercy,
C: Hear our prayer.

L: Grant your healing to the brokenhearted and to all who suffer in body, mind or spirit, especially **[NAMES]**. Give them beauty for ashes; the oil of joy for mourning; and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness. Strengthen all who care for them; and give them, and all of us, your everlasting joy. 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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 Wednesday, Dec. 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 practicing physical distancing. Bring a Bible and a heart eager to receive God's WORD.

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