

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

Assisting Minister, Scripture Reader & Prayers: Kim Starr

Greeters: Gary & Julie Engle

Sound/Video Recording: Don Holtan

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

Christmas 2021: "The Christmas Miracle"

- **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 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 always!*

***Visit us at:** www.emmanuelofrochester.org.*



**Worship—Eve
of Advent IV
Dec. 18, 2021
6:00 p.m.**

Lutheran Book of Worship—Advent Liturgy

"Children's Nativity: The Miracle of Christmas!"

** indicates stand as you are able*

Prelude

Welcome/Announcements

Prayer: Blessed are you, God of our salvation; you promised that the One of peace would come from Bethlehem to feed your flock & make us live securely. As we light these candles, kindle in us the fire of your love, infuse in us the gift of hope and the fruit of your Word, and empower us to lift up the lowly and to fill the hungry with good things; 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: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” — LBW #41**

*Prayer of the Day: Stir up your power, O Lord, and come. With your great might, give us your help, that whatever is hindered by our sins may be speedily accomplished by your grace; for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

First Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a

Psalms 80:1-7 (*Read Responsively*)

Second Lesson: Hebrews 10:5-10

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!

Children’s Message: Gospel Presentation—Children’s Nativity

***Hymn: “O Come All Ye Faithful”— LBW #45**

***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**”).

Prayers for Advent 4 (December 18, 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: Restore your Church, O God of hosts; let your face shine, that she may be saved. Fill her with your Holy Spirit. Grant that your persecuted people, who have been fed the bread of tears because they bless the name of Jesus, may be filled with good things. Humble their tormentors, and lead them to repent of their evil. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Bless our children, O God, and let your face shine, that they may be saved. Help us share with them a childlike wonder and delight in the gifts of peace, mercy and joy that you give us in your Son. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Restore our congregation, O God. Let your face shine, that we may be saved. Grant that through words and deeds, we may cause many hearts to leap with joy at the close approach of their Savior. Lord, in your mercy,

C: Hear our prayer.

L: Restore all who are afflicted by pain, grief, fear or despair, O God. Let your face shine, that they might be saved. We pray especially for [NAMES]. Remove the cup of tears from their lips, and remember unto them your promise of mercy. 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.

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

***Hymn: “O Little Town of Bethlehem” — LBW #41**

1. O little town of Bethlehem, How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep, The silent stars go by.
Yet in thy dark streets shineth, The everlasting light.
The hopes and fears of all the years, Are met in thee tonight.
2. For Christ is born of Mary, & gathered all above, While mortals sleep, the angels keep, Their watch of wondering love.
O morning stars together, Proclaim the holy birth,
And praises sing to God the King, And peace to all the earth!
3. How silently, how silently, The wondrous gift is given!
So God imparts to human hearts, The blessings of his heaven.
No ear may hear His coming, But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive him still, The dear Christ enters in.
4. O holy Child of Bethlehem: Descend to us, we pray
Cast out our sin and enter in, Be born to us today.
We hear the Christmas angels, The great glad tidings tell
O come to us, abide with us, Our Lord Emmanuel!

Micah 5:2-5a—He will be their Peace

2 But you, O Bethlehem Ephrathah, who are too little to be among the clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to be ruler in Israel, whose coming forth is from of old, from ancient days. 3 Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has given birth; then the rest of his brothers shall return to the people of Israel. 4 And he shall stand and shepherd his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall dwell secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth. 5 And he shall be their peace.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 80:1-7 (Responsively)

L: Give ear, O Shepherd of Israel, you who lead Joseph like a flock.

C: You who are enthroned upon the cherubim, shine forth.

L: Before Ephraim and Benjamin and Manasseh,

C: Stir up your might and come to save us!

L: Restore us, O God;
C: Let your face shine, that we may be saved!
L: O Lord God of hosts,
C: How long will you be angry with your people's prayers?
L: You have fed them with the bread of tears
C: And given them tears to drink in full measure.
L: You make us an object of contention for our neighbors,
C: And our enemies laugh among themselves.
L: Restore us, O God of hosts;
C: Let your face shine, that we may be saved!

Hebrews 10:5-10—A Second Order Established

5 Consequently, when Christ came into the world, he said, "Sacrifices and offerings you have not desired, but a body have you prepared for me; 6 in burnt offerings and sin offerings you have taken no pleasure. 7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book.'" 8 When he said above, "You have neither desired nor taken pleasure in sacrifices and offerings and burnt offerings and sin offerings" (these are offered according to the law), 9 then he added, "Behold, I have come to do your will." He does away with the first in order to establish the second. 10 And by that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.

L: The Word of the Lord.
C: Thanks be to God.

***Hymn: "O Come All Ye Faithful"—LBW #45**

1. O come, all ye faithful, Joyful and triumphant!
O come ye, O come ye, to Bethlehem;
Come and behold him, Born the king of angels:

***Refrain: O come let us adore him, O come let us adore him,
O come let us adore him, Christ the Lord!***

2. The highest, most holy, Light of light eternal,
Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;
Son of the Father, Now in flesh appearing! (*refrain*)

3. Sing choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,
Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!
Glory to God, In the highest: (*refrain*)
4. Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning,
Jesus, to thee be glory giv'n
Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing: (*refrain*)

***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.

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.

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 **Wednesdays, January 5, 12 & 19 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. Women will meet on Wednesdays, January 5 & 19, 2022. 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. Mondays are 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.

The Emmanuel Weekly

Saturday, Dec. 18, 2021
Advent IV – 6 pm

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



Discipleship Covenants for 2022

Membership at Emmanuel is a yearly renewal. We have received 40 signed covenants for 2022 thus far. Deadline for submission is January 5, 2022. Thanks for making Emmanuel a Church Home in your walk of Discipleship!

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! Thanks is offered to those who heled with the distribution of this Christmas gift: Pearce's, Holtan's, Botun's & Kim Starr!

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

CALENDAR ITEMS

- Saturday, Dec. 18 –Eve of Advent IV Worship, 6pm with Children's Nativity; 7pm—Treats being served by Judy & Lee Pearce
- Tues, Dec. 21—Men's Email Bible Study at 8:30am
- Wed, Dec. 22—Worship at Madonna Tower's at 11am
- Fri, Dec. 24—Christmas Eve Worship with Holy Communion and Candlelight at 2pm
- Saturday, December 25 Christmas Day Worship at 6pm
- **Acts 4:31—The Church Prayed!**

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