

L: O Wisdom, proceeding from the mouth of the Most High, fill the Church with your Spirit. Sustain & order its preaching & its works of charity, especially in the presence of its enemies according to your most holy will. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

L: O Bright and Morning Star, you gladden the hearts of those who sit in darkness. Shine upon all who are overwhelmed by grief, despair, doubt, anger, confusion, hatred, sickness or unbelief [**NAMES**]. Come with healing and lead them into the brightness of your holy love. 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, & to trust & obey him always. 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:** *"O come, dear child of Mary, come, God's Word made flesh within our earthly home; Love stir within the womb of night, Revenge and hatred put to flight. Rejoice, rejoice! Take heart and do not fear, God's chosen one, Immanuel, draws near."*—Tune of "Oh, Come, Oh, Come, Emmanuel"—*Rev. Barbara Lundblad.*

\*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 IV  
Dec. 19, 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:** 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: “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.**

**\*Opening Hymn: “Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel” — #34**

\*Prayer of the Day:

P: Let us pray. 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 & forever.

**C: Amen.**

First Lesson: II Samuel 7:1-11, 16

Second Lesson: Romans 16:25-27

**\*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!*

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

**Hymn: “Savior of the Nations, Come” — #28 (vs. 1-2)**

Sermon: “The Obedience of Faith” Rev. David Steffenson

**\*Hymn: “Savior of the Nations, Come” — #28 (vs. 3-5)**

**\*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 come, O come, Emmanuel, that the Church, your people Israel, and the whole world may rejoice in the splendor of your appearing. Lord, in your mercy,

**C: Hear our prayer.**

## 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. Our Children's Nativity tonight (Saturday, Dec. 19) will be a *virtual retelling* of the birth of Jesus. *A collage of pictures* will be presented on the BIG SCREEN in the front of the worship space as the Nativity Story is told. Thanks is offered to all the children who submitted pictures and took part in this year's Nativity.

**Holiday Cookies:** Plates of store-bought holiday cookies are being shared with area Hospitality Houses during the Season of Advent! Thanks is offered to all who are participating in the distribution & delivery of Christ-centered love and holiday cookies. Judy Pearce coordinated this ministry and received a Thrivent Action Team grant in support of this offering.

**Men's Bible Study IN-PERSON:** Join us on Wednesday, December 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, practicing safe, physical distancing. Bring a Bible and a heart eager to receive God's WORD.

**Fourth Sunday of Advent:** God had dangerous business in mind for the young Galilean girl who was betrothed but not yet married. She was chosen by the Most High God to carry, give birth, and raise the Lord's Son. If anyone found out she was pregnant out of wedlock, she could have been stoned, or at the very least shunned and rejected. But Mary, who answered the call of God, instead is known for her unwavering faith and obedience.

**Jupiter and Saturn:** Closing in on their great conjunction on the day of the solstice, December 21, 2020. At their closest, they'll be only 0.1 degrees apart. They're already amazing! Start watching them now.

**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)**

**\*Gathering Hymn: "Oh Come, Oh Come, Emmanuel"**  
**LBW #34**

1. O come, O come, Emmanuel,  
And ransom captive Israel,  
That mourns in lonely exile here  
Until the Son of God appear.

**Refrain:** Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel  
Shall come to thee, O Israel!

2. O come, Thou Branch of Jesse, free,  
Your own from Satan's tyranny  
From depths of hell your people save,  
And give them vict'ry o'er the grave. **Refrain**

3. O come, blest Dayspring, come and cheer,  
Our spirits by your advent here;  
Disperse the gloomy clouds of night,  
And death's dark shadows put to flight. **Refrain**

**\*Hymn of the Day: "Savior of the Nations, Come" — #28**  
**(vv. 1-2 before the sermon; vv. 3-5 after the sermon)**

1. Savior of the nations, come,  
Virgin's Son, make here Your home!  
Marvel now, O heav'n and earth,  
That the Lord chose such a birth.

2 Not by human flesh and blood,  
By the Spirit of our God,  
Was the Word of God made flesh—  
Woman's Offspring, pure and fresh.

3. God the Father was His source,  
back to God He ran His course.  
Into hell His road went down,  
back then to His throne and crown.

4. From the manger newborn light  
shines in glory through the night.  
Darkness there no more resides;  
in this light faith now abides.

5. Glory to the Father sing,  
Glory to the Son, our king,  
glory to the Spirit be  
now and through eternity.

## II Samuel 7:1-11, 16— God’s House

1 When [David] the king lived in his house and the Lord had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, 2 the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” 3 And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the Lord is with you.” 4 But that same night the word of the Lord came to Nathan, 5 “Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord: Would you build me a house to dwell in? 6 I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. 7 In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?” 8 Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the Lord of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. 9 And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. 10 And I will appoint a place for my people Israel & will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place & be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, 11 from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the Lord declares to you that the Lord will make you a house. ... 16 And your house and your kingdom shall be

made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’”

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Romans 16:25-27—Obedience of Faith

25 Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages 26 but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— 27 to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

L: The Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

26 In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, 27 to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin’s name was Mary. 28 And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!” 29 But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. 30 And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31 And behold, you will conceive in your womb & bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. 32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, 33 and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” 34 And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?” 35 And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, & the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy — the Son of God. 36 And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, & this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. 37 For nothing will be impossible with God.” 38 And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

**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! 39 Covenants received thus far!

### Worship Servants Tonight: Thanks!

*Pianist: Karen Salz*

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

*Ushers: Larry & Deb Vomhof*

*Sound: Don Holtan*

*Sanitizing Lee & Judy Pearce*

*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, December 19: Virtual Children’s Nativity. Thanks is offered to all who submitted pictures for the 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.

**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. 19, 2020**

**Advent IV — 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 19  
 Advent IV — In-Person & Virtual Worship at 6pm with Children’s Nativity
- Tuesday, December 22  
 Men’s email Bible Study at 8:30am.
- Wednesday, Dec. 23  
 Men’s In-Person Bible Study @ 11am (Oasis)
- Dec. 24: No Emmanuel Christmas Eve Worship
- Friday, Dec. 25 @ 10am  
Christmas Day Worship
- Saturday, December 26  
 “Bell Ringing—12 Days of Christmas” In-Person & Virtual Worship @6pm.

**• Acts 4:31  
 The Church Prayed!**