

Emmanuel's Lutheran Church
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Our vision for ministry ...

"God calls us to reach out and to grow in Christ's love"



FIRST SUNDAY OF

Advent

Announcements and Parish Concerns

Let all who await his coming prepare the way of the Lord!
We are here to prepare a place in our hearts for Jesus' birth!

Let's join in praising our Lord Jesus!

Hymn ELW (red book) **248** "People, Look East"

¹**People, look east. The time is near of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able, trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look east, and sing today—Love, the Guest, is on the way.**

²**Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare, one more seed is planted there.
Give up your strength the seed to nourish, that in course the flow'r may flourish.
People, look east, and sing today—Love, the Rose, is on the way.**

³**Stars, keep the watch. When night is dim, one more light the bowl shall brim,
shining beyond the frosty weather, bright as sun and moon together.
People, look east, and sing today—Love, the Star, is on the way.**

⁴**Angels announce with shouts of mirth him who brings new life to earth.
Set ev'ry peak and valley humming with the word, the Lord is coming.
People, look east, and sing today—Love, the Lord, is on the way.**

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Greeting

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. **And also with you.**

Kyrie Tune of ELW (red book) 599 "Lord Jesus, Think on Me"

**Have mercy on us Lord, and hear our solemn prayer.
We come to hear your living Word; it saves us from despair.**

**Have mercy on us, Christ, and wash away our sin.
Pour out your grace and make us whole that new life may begin.**

**Have mercy on us, Lord; make sin and shame depart.
Renew us with your saving pow'r; create in us new hearts**

Prayer of the Day

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Let us pray together: **Stir up your power, Lord Christ, and come. By your merciful protection alert us to the threatening dangers of our sins, and redeem us for your life of justice, for you live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

You may be seated.

Candle lighting Prayer

We praise you, O God, for this evergreen crown that marks our days of preparation for Christ's advent. As we light the first candle on this wreath, rouse us from sleep, that we may be ready to greet our Lord when he comes with all the saints and angels. Enlighten us with your grace, and prepare our hearts to welcome him with joy. Grant this through Christ our Lord, whose coming is certain and whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Candle lighting

ELW (red book) 257 "O Come, O Come, Emmanuel"

**¹O come, O come, Emmanuel, and ransom captive Israel,
that mourns in lonely exile here until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.**

Text: *Psalterium Canticum Catholicarum*, Köln, 1710; tr. composite Text sts. 2, 6, 7 © 1997 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. Reprinted under One License #A-707554.

First Lesson: Jeremiah 33: 14-16 The days are surely coming, says the LORD, when I will fulfill the promise I made to the house of Israel and the house of Judah. In those days and at that time I will cause a righteous Branch to spring up for David; and he shall execute justice and righteousness in the land. In those days Judah will be saved and Jerusalem will live in safety. And this is the name by which it will be called: "The LORD is our righteousness." nrsv

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God.**

Second Lesson: 1 Thessalonians 3: 9-13 How can we thank God enough for you in return for all the joy that we feel before our God because of you? Night and day we pray most earnestly that we may see you face to face and restore whatever is lacking in your faith. Now may our God and Father himself and our Lord Jesus direct our way to you. And may the Lord make you increase and abound in love for one another and for all, just as we abound in love for you. And

may he so strengthen your hearts in holiness that you may be blameless before our God and Father at the coming of our Lord Jesus with all his saints. nrsv

Word of God, word of life. **Thanks be to God**

Response: Please stand and Sing: Tune: ELW 264

**Prepare the royal highway; the King of kings is near!
Let ev'ry hill and valley / a level road appear!
Then greet the King of glory, foretold in sacred story:
Hosanna to the Lord, for he fulfills God's Word!**

Gospel Lesson: The Good News of Our Lord Jesus Christ!

The Good News according to St. Luke the 21st Chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

Luke 21: 25-36 [Jesus said:] “There will be signs in the sun, the moon, and the stars, and on the earth distress among nations confused by the roaring of the sea and the waves. People will faint from fear and foreboding of what is coming upon the world, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then they will see ‘the Son of Man coming in a cloud’ with power and great glory. Now when these things begin to take place, stand up and raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near.” Then he told them a parable: “Look at the fig tree and all the trees; as soon as they sprout leaves you can see for yourselves and know that summer is already near. So also, when you see these things taking place, you know that the kingdom of God is near. Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all things have taken place. Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away. “Be on guard so that your hearts are not weighed down with dissipation and drunkenness and the worries of this life, and that day does not catch you unexpectedly, like a trap. For it will come upon all who live on the face of the whole earth. Be alert at all times, praying that you may have the strength to escape all these things that will take place, and to stand before the Son of Man.” nrsv

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to You, O Christ.**

You may be seated

Sermon; Pastor Paulette Obrecht

Hymn ELW (red book) **254** "Come, Thou Long – Expected Jesus"

**¹Come, thou long-expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us; let us find our rest in thee.
Israel's strength and consolation, hope of all the earth thou art,
dear desire of ev'ry nation, joy of ev'ry longing heart.**

**²Born thy people to deliver, born a child, and yet a king;
born to reign in us forever, now thy gracious kingdom bring.
By thine own eternal Spirit rule in all our hearts alone;
by thine all-sufficient merit raise us to thy glorious throne.**

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried; he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

Prayers of the Church

In this season of watching and waiting, let us pray for all people and places that yearn for God's presence.

Hear us, O God. **Your mercy is great.**

God of new life, you come among us in the places we least expect. Receive these prayers and those of our hearts, in the name of Jesus. **Amen.**

Confession and Forgiveness

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the tender mercy of our God.

Silence is kept for reflection.

God for whom we wait,
in the presence of one another, we confess our sin before you. We fail in believing that your good news is for us. We falter in our call to tend your creation. We find our sense of self in material wealth. We fear those different from ourselves. We forget that we are your children and turn away from your love. Forgive us, Blessed One, and assure us again of your saving grace. Amen.

God, in Christ Jesus, has looked with favor upon you! Through the power of the Holy Spirit, ✠ your sins are forgiven. You are children of the Most High, inheritors of the eternal promise, and recipients of divine mercy. God strengthens you anew to follow the way of peace.. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

The peace of the Lord be with you always. **And also with you.**

The offering basket is available as you enter or exit the sanctuary – it will not be collected during the service.

Please remain standing as you are able.

Offertory Response (Tune: Greensleeves, WOV 701)

**What feast of love is offered here, what banquet come from heaven?
What food of everlasting life, what gracious gift is given?
This, this is Christ the king, the bread come down from heaven.
O taste and see and sing! The Son of God is given!**

Offertory Prayer

Let us pray together:

**God of our waiting and watching, we offer the gifts of our hearts and our lives to the service of all your people. Prepare the way before us as we meet you in this simple meal, through Christ Jesus, our pathway and our peace.
Amen.**

Preface to Communion

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God. You comforted your people with the promise of the Redeemer, through whom you will also make all things new in the day when he comes to judge the world in righteousness. And so, with all the choirs of angels, with all the faithful of every time and every place, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Sanctus (Tune: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing" LBW 60)

**Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of hosts, by all adored!
Heav'n and earth cannot contain all the glory of Your name!
Hail Hosanna, God most high! Blest is Christ who soon draws nigh
In the name of God the King! Hallelujahs glad we sing;
Hail, Hosanna! Praises due be forever, Lord, to You!**

The Great Thanksgiving

Lord's Prayer

**Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into
temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and
the power and the glory forever and ever. Amen.**

Invitation to the Table

Come to Christ's banquet. Feast on God's gift of grace. **Amen!**

Pastoral blessing for children and those not receiving communion.

You may be seated.

You are invited to Commune at our Table

Emmanuel's Church practices open communion, inviting all who are baptized and believe in the presence of Christ in the bread and wine to receive communion here.

Instructions for Today's Communion

We will be using Fellowship Cups for communion today. They contain a wafer packaged on top of a small cup of grape juice and will be distributed to the congregation by the ushers after being blessed on the altar. We will all partake of communion together once all the cups have been distributed. The ushers will collect the used cups after all have communed. There are gluten free wafers available – please let the usher know if you need one.

Sharing of Holy Communion

**Body of Christ, given for you.
Blood of Christ, shed for you.**

Please stand as you are able

Post-Communion Blessing

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen**

Post-Communion Prayer

Most High God, you have come among us at this table. By the Spirit's power, form us to be bearers of your word, sharing gifts of mercy and grace with all, through Christ Jesus, our host and our guest. **Amen.**

Benediction:

The God of hope fill us with all joy and peace in believing, so that we may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit, through Christ Jesus for whom we wait. **Amen.**

Hymn ELW (red book) **239** "Hark, the Glad Sound!"

**¹Hark, the glad sound! The Savior comes, the Savior promised long;
let ev'ry heart prepare a throne and ev'ry voice a song.**

**²He comes the pris'ners to release, in Satan's bondage held.
The gates of brass before him burst, the iron fetters yield.**

**³He comes the broken heart to bind, the bleeding soul to cure,
and with the treasures of his grace to enrich the humble poor.**

**⁴Our glad hosannas, Prince of peace, your welcome shall proclaim,
and heav'n's eternal arches ring with your beloved name.**

Sending Forth to Serve

Go in peace. Christ is near.

Thanks be to God.

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