

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's join in praising our Lord Jesus!

Hymn ELW (red book) **244** "Rejoice, Rejoice, Believers"

**¹Rejoice, rejoice, believers, and let your lights appear;
the evening is advancing, and darker night is near.
The bridegroom is arising and soon is drawing nigh.
Up, pray and watch and wrestle; at midnight comes the cry.**

**²The watchers on the mountain proclaim the bridegroom near;
go forth as he approaches with alleluias clear.
The marriage feast is waiting; the gates wide open stand.
Arise, O heirs of glory; the bridegroom is at hand.**

**³The saints, who here in patience their cross and suff'rings 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.**

**⁴Our 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!**

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.**

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.**

Candle-lighting Prayer

Praise to you, O God, our salvation who is near. You hold us in our waiting and keep us awake to the world. You show up in our lives at unexpected times. Bless us as we light this candle to keep vigil for your arrival. We trust that even though we do not know the day or the hour, you hurry to gather all people to your peace. **Amen.**

Candle-lighting ELW (red book) **253** "He Came Down"

Sung by the Congregation

**¹He came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
he came down that we may have love;
hallelujah forevermore.**

**²He came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
he came down that we may have light;
hallelujah forevermore.**

**³He came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
he came down that we may have peace;
hallelujah forevermore.**

**⁴He came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
he came down that we may have joy;
hallelujah forevermore.**

You may be seated.

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 Rachel Hacker

Hymn ELW (red book) 260 "The King Shall Come"

**¹The King shall come when morning dawns
and light triumphant breaks,
when beauty gilds the eastern hills
and life to joy awakes.**

**²Not as of old a little child,
to bear and fight and die,
but crowned with glory like the sun
that lights the morning sky.**

**³Oh, brighter than the rising morn
when Christ, victorious, rose
and left the lonesome place of death,
despite the rage of foes.**

**⁴Oh, brighter than that glorious morn
shall dawn upon our race
the day when Christ in splendor comes,
and we shall see his face.**

**⁵The King shall come when morning dawns
and light and beauty brings.
Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray:
come quickly, King of kings.**

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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

As we prepare for Emmanuel, God-with-us, let us pray for all people and places that long for God's presence.

Lord, in your mercy, **receive our prayer.**

Savior of the nations, come, and receive these prayers and the pleas of our hearts, in the name of Jesus Christ. **Amen.**

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, alive in the world, reviving creation, arriving soon. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

(Silence is kept for reflection.)

God of mercy, **we confess that we have sinned. We trust earthly powers and human authority alone. We grow fearful. We cling to false comforts.**

God of might, **we confess that we have sinned. We have turned away from our neighbors. We have trusted false promises.**

God in our midst, **we confess that we have sinned. We plead: come to us. Bring your mercy to birth in us.**

A righteous branch springs forth: it is Christ the Lord, our Savior, in whom we have forgiveness, life, and mercy. By the power of the Holy Spirit, receive the grace and forgiveness of God through † Christ Jesus, whose day draws near. **Amen.**

Sharing of the Peace

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

Please greet one another in the name of the Lord, shaking hands or embracing and saying "The Peace of the Lord be with you" After sharing God's peace, you may be seated.

Musical Offering: "Fairest Jesu" Benjamin Harlan

Please stand 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:

Creator God, you made the whole world, even the farthest stars, and you draw near to feed us. We praise you for these gifts of bread and wine. Strengthen us with this food that we may live in expectation for the advent of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. 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 right and good 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

God feeds us with tender mercy. Come to the table. **Amen!**

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 come to receive communion here.

Instructions for Today's Communion (Continuous Intinction)

Please move to the front by the side aisles. Receive the wafer in your open hands. Then move to the assistant with the cup. Dip the wafer edge into the wine and then place the wafer in your mouth. For any with medical or personal reasons for not using wine, the wafer (host) alone will impart the full benefit - you need not intinct (dip) your wafer into the wine. Gluten-free wafers are available, as is non-alcoholic grape juice. Simply ask when you get up to the altar. Return to your seat via the center aisle.

Children are Welcome, Too!

Children who have not received instruction for first Holy Communion are welcome to come to the altar to receive a blessing.

Sharing of communion for those attending online:

Body of Christ, given for you.

Blood of Christ shed for you.

Hymns During Communion: ELW (red book) **242 715**

After all have communed, at the Pastor's invitation: Please stand

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

Generous God, we thank you for the gift of life, for the bread of salvation. We thank you for coming among us, for leading us into peace. We thank you for showering us with mercy, for sending us into the world. Come, Lord Jesus, and go with us as we feed the hungry in your name. **Amen.**

Benediction:

God of endings and beginnings, God in the darkness and the light, God, our hope for the journey, † bless and keep you now and forever. **Amen.**

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

**¹People, 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.**

**²Furrows, 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.**

**³Stars, 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.**

**⁴Angels 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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Sending Forth to Serve

Go in peace. Prepare the way for Emmanuel.
Thanks be to God.

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