

# **EMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH**

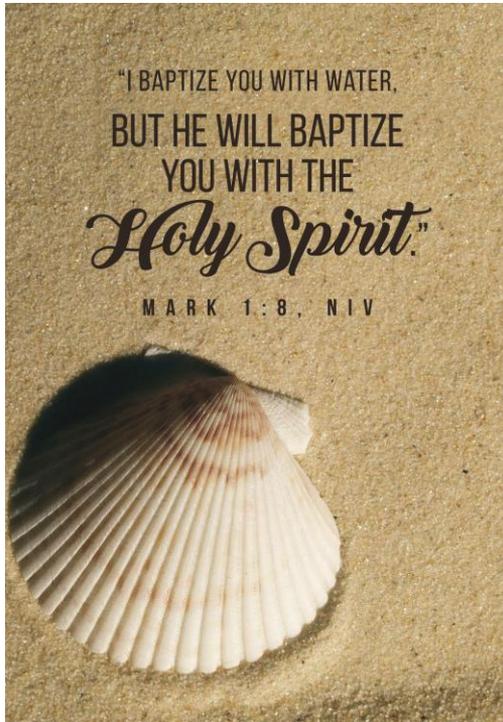
*A congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America*  
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**December 6, 2020 ~ 10:30a.m.**

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**Pastor Mark Schuring**

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**Deacon Kevin Kehn**

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**Allan Lust: Minister of Music**

**Mission Statement:**

*Emanuel: God with Us ~ Loving Christ, Loving Others*

## Our Ministers This Morning Include:

Pastor Mark Schuring

Parish Deacon Ann Thomas

Organist: Allan Lust

Sound Technician: Doug Ross

Prelude

Allan Lust

### Welcome

Good morning and welcome to worship this morning. We thank you for your efforts in making this a safe place to worship. As we move on through this pandemic we will now be allowing for quiet prayer in unison and we will be having one person singing the hymns.

### Lighting of the Advent Wreath

### Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever. **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. **Amen.**

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

\*Silence is kept for reflection.

P: Gracious God,

C: **have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and**

**unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.**

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of † Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith. **Amen.**

Gathering Hymn      “*The King Shall Come*”      #260

- 1 The King shall come when morning dawns and light triumphant breaks, when beauty gilds the eastern hills and life to joy awakes.
- 2 Not as of old a little child, to bear and fight and die, but crowned with glory like the sun that lights the morning sky.
- 3 Oh, brighter than the rising morn when Christ, victorious, rose and left the lonesome place of death, despite the rage of foes.
- 4 Oh, brighter than that glorious morn shall dawn upon our race the day when Christ in splendor comes, and we shall see his face.
- 5 The King shall come when morning dawns and light and beauty brings. Hail, Christ the Lord! Your people pray: come quickly, King of kings.

### Greeting

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

C: **And also with you.**

## Prayer of The Day

A: Stir up our hearts, Lord God, to prepare the way of your only Son. By his coming strengthen us to serve you with purified lives; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

## Special Music

### First Reading            Isaiah 40:1-11

<sup>1</sup>Comfort, O comfort my people, says your God. <sup>2</sup>Speak tenderly to Jerusalem, and cry to her that she has served her term, that her penalty is paid, that she has received from the LORD's hand double for all her sins. <sup>3</sup>A voice cries out: "In the wilderness prepare the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. <sup>4</sup>Every valley shall be lifted up, and every mountain and hill be made low; the uneven ground shall become level, and the rough places a plain. <sup>5</sup>Then the glory of the LORD shall be revealed, and all people shall see it together, for the mouth of the LORD has spoken." <sup>6</sup>A voice says, "Cry out!" And I said, "What shall I cry?" All people are grass, their constancy is like the flower of the field. <sup>7</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades, when the breath of the LORD blows upon it; surely the people are grass. <sup>8</sup>The grass withers, the flower fades; but the word of our God will stand forever. <sup>9</sup>Get you up to a high mountain, O Zion, herald of good tidings; lift up your voice with strength, O Jerusalem, herald of good tidings, lift it up, do not fear; say to the cities of Judah, "Here is your God!" <sup>10</sup>See, the Lord GOD comes with might, and his arm rules for him; his reward is with him, and his recompense before him. <sup>11</sup>He will feed his flock like a shepherd; he will gather the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom, and gently lead the mother sheep.

Psalm 85:1-2, 8-13

L: You have been gracious to your land, O LORD; you have restored the good fortune of Jacob.

C: **You have forgiven the iniquity of your people and blotted out all their sins.**

L: I will listen to what the LORD God is saying; for you speak peace to your faith

C: **Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.**

L: Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

C: **Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven.**

L: The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

C: **Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.**

Second Reading            2 Peter 3:8-15a

<sup>8</sup>Do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like one day. <sup>9</sup>The Lord is not slow about his promise, as some think of slowness, but is patient with you, not wanting any to perish, but all to come to repentance. <sup>10</sup>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and everything that is done on it will be disclosed. <sup>11</sup>Since all these things are to be dissolved in this way, what sort of persons ought you to be in leading lives of holiness and godliness, <sup>12</sup>waiting for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be set ablaze and dissolved, and the elements will melt with fire? <sup>13</sup>But, in accordance with his promise, we wait for new heavens and a new earth, where righteousness is at home. <sup>14</sup>Therefore, beloved, while you are waiting for these things, strive to be

found by him at peace, without spot or blemish; <sup>15a</sup>and regard the patience of our Lord as salvation.

The Holy Gospel

Mark 1:1-8

<sup>1</sup>The beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. <sup>2</sup>As it is written in the prophet Isaiah, “See, I am sending my messenger ahead of you, who will prepare your way; <sup>3</sup>the voice of one crying out in the wilderness: ‘Prepare the way of the Lord, make his paths straight.’” <sup>4</sup>John the baptizer appeared in the wilderness, proclaiming a baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins. <sup>5</sup>And people from the whole Judean countryside and all the people of Jerusalem were going out to him, and were baptized by him in the river Jordan, confessing their sins. <sup>6</sup>Now John was clothed with camel’s hair, with a leather belt around his waist, and he ate locusts and wild honey. <sup>7</sup>He proclaimed, “The one who is more powerful than I is coming after me; I am not worthy to stoop down and untie the thong of his sandals. <sup>8</sup>I have baptized you with water; but he will baptize you with the Holy Spirit.”

Children's Sermon

\*Please stay in your seats.

Sermon

“*PREPARE The Way!*”

Pastor Mark

Mark 1:1-8

Hymn

“Comfort, Comfort Now My People” #256

- 1 "Comfort, comfort now my people; tell of peace!" So says our God. Comfort those who sit in darkness mourning under sorrow's load. To God's people now proclaim that God's pardon waits for them! Tell them that their war is over; God will reign in peace forever.
- 2 For the herald's voice is crying in the desert far and near, calling us to true repentance, since the reign of God is here. Oh, that warning cry obey! Now prepare

for God a way. Valleys, rise to greet the Savior; hills, bow down in humble favor.

- 3 Straight shall be what long was crooked, and the rougher places plain. Let your hearts be true and humble, as befits God's holy reign. For the glory of the Lord now on earth is shed abroad, and all flesh shall see the token that God's word is never broken.

### 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, was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary and became truly human. 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and Glorified, who 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.**

### Prayers of Intercession

- A: Lord, in your mercy,  
C: **Hear our prayer**

Peace

\*Please remain seated

P: *The peace of Christ be with you always.*

C: **And also with you.**

Offering Music

\*There will be no offering collected by the passing of collection plates. Please either place your offering in the boxes at each entry/exit point or continue to give as you have been, by mail, your bank’s online bill pay, our new online giving tool, or mobile app.

Offering Prayer

The 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.**

Blessing

P: *Neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus. God, the creator, † Jesus, the Christ, and the Holy Spirit, the comforter, bless you and keep you in eternal love. Amen.*

Sending Hymn                    *“Fling Wide the Door”*                    #259

1 Fling wide the door, unbar the gate; the King of glory comes in state; the Lord of lords and King of kings, the Savior of the world who brings his great salvation to the earth. So raise a shout of holy mirth and praise our God and Lord, Creator, Spirit, Word.

- 2 He is the rock of our belief, the heart of mercy's gentle self. His kingly crown is holiness; his scepter is his loveliness; he brings our sorrows to an end. Now gladly praise our king and friend, and worship him with song for saving us from wrong.
- 3 Oh, happy towns and blessed lands that live by their true king's commands. And blessed be the hearts he rules, the humble places where he dwells. He is the rightful Son of bliss who fills our lives and makes us his, creator of the world, our only strength for good.
- 4 Come, Lord, our Savior, Jesus Christ; our hearts are open wide in trust. Oh, show us now your lovely grace, upon our sorrows shine your face, and let your Holy Spirit guide our journey in your grace so wide. We praise your holy name, from age to age the same!

### Dismissal

A: Go in peace. Prepare the way of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

\*Please remain seated. Ushers will release you by row.

### Postlude

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