

Service Folder



The Fourth Sunday in Advent

Rorate Coeli – “Rain down, O heavens, from above!”
December 20, 2020

Emmanuel Lutheran Church

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Rev. Paul A. Rydecki, Pastor
member of the Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America (ELDoNA)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Welcome! Emmanuel is a liturgical, traditional, historical, evangelical, catholic, orthodox, confessional Lutheran congregation, in communion with the Evangelical Lutheran Diocese of North America (ELDoNA). We believe that the Bible is the very Word of God, inspired and without any errors. We confess the truth of Scripture according to the Lutheran Book of Concord of 1580, without exception or reservation. We observe the calendar of the traditional Church Year and follow the Historic Lectionary. We celebrate the Divine Service (also known as the Mass) every Sunday and on other festivals, and we welcome visitors to hear God's Word with us.



With regard to Holy Communion, we ask our visitors to respect our practice of *closed Communion*, which means that only communicant members of our congregation or of other congregations in communion with us are invited to commune at the Lord's Table here, after they have been examined and absolved. Classes are offered throughout the year by the pastor so that those who are interested in joining our Communion fellowship have the opportunity to learn about the Christian faith and our confession of it.

The Order of Service is *The Order of Holy Communion* (page 15) from *The Lutheran Hymnal* (TLH). The Propers (the parts that change from week to week) are noted on the following page of this Service Folder.

Note: The *Gloria in Excelsis* is omitted during the Advent season.

There will be no Sunday School or Bible class for the next two Sundays.

EVENTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE...

- TODAY - Bible Class/Sunday School, 9AM
 - Divine Service, 10:15 AM (Advent 4)
 - ***Stay and decorate for Christmas!***
 - Wed., Dec. 23 - Advent Vespers 6 PM
 - Thur., Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve Vespers, 6:30 PM
 - Fri., Dec. 25 - Christmas Day Divine Service, 10 AM
 - Sat., Dec. 26 - Matins for St. Stephen, 10 AM
 - Sun., Dec. 27 - ***No Bible class or Sunday School***
 - Divine Service, 10:15 AM (Festival of St. John)
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HYMNS

OPENING HYMN

TLH #95 - Savior of the Nations, Come

HYMN *(after the Creed)*

TLH #61 - Comfort, Comfort Ye My People

HYMN *(after General Prayer)*

TLH #60 - Hark! A Thrilling Voice is Sounding

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

TLH #316 - O Living Bread from Heaven

Epistle: *Philippians 4:4-7*

Gospel: *John 1:19-28*

The Order of Holy Communion begins on p. 15 of The Lutheran Hymnal.

INTROIT

Isaiah 45:8; Psalm 19:1, 4-6

After the Refrain is introduced one time (1x) by the organ/guitar, all join to sing it three times (3x). The Psalm verses and Gloria Patri are spoken while the music plays softly in the background. Then the Refrain is sung by all twice (2x) more.

Refrain

James J. Chepponis



Come, come Em - man - u - el. Come, Em - man - u - el.

- C** *(Sing Refrain 3x while the Pastor sings the first line of the Psalm: Rain down, O heav'ns, from above!)*
- P** Rain down, you heavens, from above, *
- C** **And let the skies pour down righteousness;**
- P** Let the earth open her womb, *
- C** **And bring forth salvation.**
- P** The heavens declare the glory of God; *
- C** **And the firmament shows His handiwork.**
- P** Their line is gone out into all the earth, *
- C** **And their words to the end of the world.**
- P** In the heavens He has set a tabernacle for the sun, *
- C** **Which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber.**
- P** Its rising is from one end of the heaven, *
- C** **And its circuit to the other end.**
- C** **Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**
- C** *(Sing Refrain 2x)*

The service continues with The Kyrie on p.17, followed by the Salutation & Collect.

After the Epistle follows the Gradual & Hallelujah.



- P** The Lord is near to all who | call upon Him,
 To all who call up- | on Him in truth. _
 My mouth shall speak the | praise of the Lord,
 And all flesh shall bless | His holy name. _
- C** **Alleluia. Alleluia. You are my help and my | deliverer;**
Do not delay, O my God. | Alleluia. _

The service continues with The Triple Hallelujah and The Gospel, p. 20-21.

WE BELIEVE, TEACH AND CONFESS...

from the Smalcald Articles, Part 3, Art. III

This is what true repentance means. Here a person needs to hear something like this, “You are all of no account, whether you are obvious sinners or saints <in your own opinions>. You have to become different from what you are now. You have to act differently than you are now acting, no matter how great, wise, powerful, and holy you may be. Here no one is godly.”

But to this office of the Law, the New Testament immediately adds the consoling promise of grace through the Gospel. This must be believed. As Christ declares, “Repent and believe in the gospel” (Mark 1:15). That is, become different, act differently, and believe My promise. John the Baptist (preceding Christ) is called a preacher of repentance, but this is for the forgiveness of sins. That is, John was to accuse all and convict them of being sinners. This is so they can know what they are before God and acknowledge that they are lost. So they can be prepared for the Lord [Mark 1:3] to receive grace and to expect and accept from Him the forgiveness of sins. This is what Christ Himself says, “Repentance and forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in [My] name to all nations” (Luke 24:47).