

Emanuel Lutheran Church, Napoleon, Ohio

419-592-2616

emanuel@bright.net

www.emanuelnapoleon.org

Pastor Janine Shearer

330-524-2552 jshearer520@gmail.com

Fourth Sunday after Epiphany † January 28 & 31, 2021

PRELUDE

RINGING OF THE BELL

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Blessed be the holy Trinity, one God, whose voice is upon the waters, whose mercy is poured out upon all people, whose goodness cascades over all creation. **Amen.**

Let us confess our sin, trusting in the abundant grace of God.

Holy God,

you search us and know us. You are acquainted with all our ways. We confess that our hearts are burdened by sin— our own sins and the broken systems that bind us. We turn inward, failing to follow your outward way of love. We distrust those who are not like us. We exploit the earth and its resources and fail to consider generations to come. Forgive us, gracious God, for all we have done and left undone. Even before the words are on our tongues, you know them; receive them in your divine mercy. Amen.

How vast is God's grace! Through the power and promise of Christ Jesus, our sins are washed away and we are claimed as God's own beloved. Indeed, we are forgiven. In the wake of God's forgiveness, we are called to be the beloved community living out Christ's justice and the Spirit's reconciling peace. **Amen.**

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Compassionate God, you gather the whole universe into your radiant presence and continually reveal your Son as our Savior. Bring wholeness to all that is broken and speak truth to us in our confusion, that all creation will see and know your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 18:15-20

[Moses said:] ¹⁵The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you shall heed such a prophet. ¹⁶This is what you requested of the Lord your God at Horeb on the day of the assembly when you said: "If I hear the voice of the Lord my God any more, or ever again see this great fire, I will die." ¹⁷Then the Lord replied to me: "They are right in what they have said. ¹⁸I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their own people; I will put my words in the

mouth of the prophet, who shall speak to them everything that I command. ¹⁹Anyone who does not heed the words that the prophet shall speak in my name, I myself will hold accountable. ²⁰But any prophet who speaks in the name of other gods, or who presumes to speak in my name a word that I have not commanded the prophet to speak—that prophet shall die."

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 111

¹Hallelujah! I will give thanks to the Lord with | my whole heart,
in the assembly of the upright, in the | congregation.

²**Great are your | works, O Lord,
pondered by all who delight in them.**

³Majesty and splendor | mark your deeds,
and your righteousness endures forever.

⁴**You cause your wonders to | be remembered;
you are gracious and full | of compassion.**

⁵You give food to | those who fear you,
remembering forever your covenant.

⁶**You have shown your people the power | of your works
in giving them the lands | of the nations.**

⁷The works of your hands are faithfulness and justice;
all of your precepts are sure.

⁸**They stand fast forever and ever,
because they are done in | truth and equity.**

⁹You sent redemption to your people and commanded your covenant forever;
holy and awesome | is your name.

¹⁰**The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom;
all who practice this have a good understanding. God's praise endures forever.**

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 8:1-13

¹Now concerning food sacrificed to idols: we know that "all of us possess knowledge." Knowledge puffs up, but love builds up. ²Anyone who claims to know something does not yet have the necessary knowledge; ³but anyone who loves God is known by him.

⁴Hence, as to the eating of food offered to idols, we know that "no idol in the world really exists," and that "there is no God but one." ⁵Indeed, even though there may be so-called gods in heaven or on earth—as in fact there are many gods and many lords—⁶yet for us there is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist, and one Lord, Jesus Christ, through whom are all things and through whom we exist.

⁷It is not everyone, however, who has this knowledge. Since some have become so accustomed to idols until now, they still think of the food they eat as food offered to

an idol; and their conscience, being weak, is defiled. ⁸"Food will not bring us close to God." We are no worse off if we do not eat, and no better off if we do. ⁹But take care that this liberty of yours does not somehow become a stumbling block to the weak. ¹⁰For if others see you, who possess knowledge, eating in the temple of an idol, might they not, since their conscience is weak, be encouraged to the point of eating food sacrificed to idols? ¹¹So by your knowledge those weak believers for whom Christ died are destroyed. ¹²But when you thus sin against members of your family, and wound their conscience when it is weak, you sin against Christ. ¹³Therefore, if food is a cause of their falling, I will never eat meat, so that I may not cause one of them to fall.

The Word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL: Mark 1:21-28

²¹[Jesus and his disciples] went to Capernaum; and when the sabbath came, he entered the synagogue and

taught. ²²They were astounded at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes. ²³Just

then there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit, ²⁴and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." ²⁵But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" ²⁶And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. ²⁷They were all

amazed, and they kept on asking one another, "What is this? A new teaching—with authority! He commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." ²⁸At once his fame began to spread throughout the surrounding region of Galilee.

The Gospel of our Lord.

Thanks be to God.

SERMON

SPECIAL MUSIC "Rise, Shine, You People!"

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

APOSTLES' CREED

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

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord. He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell. On the third day he rose again. He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again 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

Guided by Christ made known to the nations, let us offer our prayers for the church, the world, and all people in need.

A brief silence.

For all who share the gospel and proclaim freedom in Christ throughout the world: prophets, teachers, pastors, deacons, and lay leaders; for the church and its ministries, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For all God's works in creation: plants and animals, water and soil, forests and farms; and for those tasked with protecting our natural resources and all that exists, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For government and leaders: cities and nations, rescue professionals and legal aid attorneys, elected officials and grassroots organizers; for all responsible for the well-being of civil society, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For those who suffer in mind, body, or spirit: those who are sick and hospitalized, those living with HIV/AIDS, those struggling with mental illness, those who are hungry or homeless, and all in any need, especially we remember those in our hearts and minds; for caregivers, hospice workers, and home health aides, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the concerns of this congregation: those who travel, those absent from worship, those celebrating birthdays or anniversaries; for the people of God in this place and for other needs in our community, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

For the covenant God made with us in the waters of baptism, in thanksgiving for the baptized

who have died in the Lord, let us pray.

Have mercy, O God.

Merciful God, hear the prayers of your people, spoken or silent, for the sake of the one who dwells among us, your Son, Jesus Christ our Savior.

Amen.

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

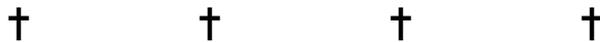
BENEDICTION

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Serve the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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This week please hold in prayer: Marilyn Kruse, Evelyn Allen, Oneta Wiechers, for all those on our hearts and minds, and for peace in our nation and the whole world.

VBS Coordinator Needed

Emanuel is looking for a new VBS Coordinator. Laura Ellis-Kruse has graciously filled this position for several years and feels it is time to turn the reigns over to someone new. The VBS Coordinator is responsible for representing Emanuel in the Downtown VBS Program held every summer. Responsibilities include attending meetings, coordinating with the other churches on the curriculum, and the recruitment of volunteers. If you are interested, please contact Deanna McCabe at 419-276-2709 or Kaitlin Cordes at 419-822-1762 or at kaitlin.rohrs@gmail.com.

BIBLE STUDY: Next weeks readings are: First Reading: Isaiah 40:21-31, Psalm 147:1-11, 20c, Second Reading: 1 Corinthians 9:16-23, Gospel: Mark 1:29-39. Please join us weekly on Wednesday at 6:00 pm on Zoom. We discuss the texts for the upcoming Sunday. Some guiding questions are: what sticks out, what are you noticing, and what is challenging you in this text. We have a lot of fun and learn some, too! We would love for you to join us! You can join host Carey Plummer and Pastor Janine Shearer a little before the hour by entering the following information on the Zoom page: Meeting #817 3901 3743 and Password: church12. No need to be a Bible scholar!! Just have your Bible handy!!

JOIN US in reading the New Testament in chronological order in 2021! This week's readings are:

January 31: 1 Corinthians 12
February 1: 1 Corinthians 13
February 2: 1 Corinthians 14
February 3: 1 Corinthians 15

February 4: 1 Corinthians 16
February 5: 2 Corinthians 1
February 6: 2 Corinthians 2

Communion will be offered the 1st Sunday of each month from 10-11am. If the county is yellow or orange, we will do this like we have done before. If the county is red, we invite you to bring your own elements. You can use bread, crackers, or any ordinary substance for the body and wine, grape juice, other juice, or any celebratory drink for the blood. We will have prefilled communion kits available if needed. You will pull into the parking lot from Clinton Street and remain in your vehicle. I will be standing at the back corner of the building. When it's your turn, I will say a prayer and bless the elements and invite you to partake, then bless you! When you're done you can leave through the alley. If you aren't available during that time, feel free to set up a time throughout the week for you to receive communion this way.

Ash Wednesday worship will have a few different parts this year. First, ashes will be available in the mailbox by the back door to pick up in advance if you want. I will be outside from 12-1pm and again from 5:30-6:30pm offering ashes and communion. We will have the ashes for you and you will put them on yourselves. Bring your own elements for communion (we will have prepackaged elements available if needed, too). At 7pm we will gather online for the full Ash Wednesday liturgy via Facebook and Zoom.

Offering

If you are interested, you may sign up for Simply Giving through Vanco by contacting treasurer Julie Kohout, or send your offering to Emanuel Lutheran Church, PO Box 501, Napoleon, OH 43545. **Please do not send cash in the mail!**

Available now, Mobile and OnLine Donations

GivePlus Mobile App

1. Download the free GivePlus app from the App Store or Google Play.
2. Find our church by our zip code **43545** or by searching for the name of our church.

GivePlus Online

1. Visit our website at **EmanuelNapoleon.org**
2. Locate the link Give at the top of the page.

You can make a one-time contribution or a recurring gift. Any questions, please contact Julie Kohout.

**PLEASE TAKE YOUR BULLETIN WITH YOU AS YOU LEAVE CHURCH
PLEASE EXIT THE SOUTH DOORS FACING DOLLAR GENERAL
IF YOU USED THE ELEVATOR EXIT THROUGH THE ELEVATOR**