**SALT Parish**

**Faith Lutheran Church, Culver**

**8:45 am**

**December 25, 2022**

***“Light of the World”***

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

**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.***

**Reading: Isaiah 52:7-10**

7 How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of the messenger who announces peace, who brings good news, who announces salvation, who says to Zion, ‘Your God reigns.’   
8 Listen! Your sentinels lift up their voices, together they sing for joy; for in plain sight they see the return of the Lord to Zion.

9 Break forth together into singing, you ruins of Jerusalem; for the Lord has comforted his people, he has redeemed Jerusalem. 10 The Lord has bared his holy arm before the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God.

**Hymn *“O Come, All Ye Faithful”*** *Hymn* #45

Vs. 1 Oh, come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant!  
 Oh, come ye, oh, come ye to Bethlehem;  
 Come and behold him born the king of angels:

***Refrain:  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Oh, come, let us adore him,  
Oh, come, let us adore him, Christ the Lord!***

Vs. 2 The highest, most holy, Light of Light eternal,  
 Born of a virgin, a mortal he comes;  
 Son of the Father Now in flesh appearing! ***[Refrain]***

Vs. 3 Sing, choirs of angels, Sing in exultation,  
 Sing, all ye citizens of heaven above!  
 Glory to God In the highest: ***[Refrain]***

Vs. 4 Yea, Lord, we greet thee, Born this happy morning;  
 Jesus, to Thee be glory giv'n!  
 Word of the Father, Now in flesh appearing: ***[Refrain]***

**Gathering Prayer**

P: God of light,

***C: we thank you for giving us the gift of Jesus Christ. We come before you with wonder and delight that you come to us in the child born in a manger. Be with us on this day of birth and rebirth. Come, honor us with the presence of your gracious, joyful Spirit. Fill our weary hearts with renewed hope and joy. Rekindle in our souls the light of Christ. Glory to you in the highest, O God, glory in the highest! Amen.***

**Reading:** **Hebrews 1:1-4**

1Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets, 2but in these last days he has spoken to us by a Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, through whom he also created the worlds. 3He is the reflection of God’s glory and the exact imprint of God’s very being, and he sustains all things by his powerful word. When he had made purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, 4having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

**Hymn*****“Hark! the Herald Angels Sing”*** *Hymn #60*

Vs. 1 Hark! The herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king;  
 Peace on earth, and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled."  
 Joyful, all you nations, rise; Join the triumph of the skies;  
 With the angelic hosts proclaim "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"

***Refrain: Hark! the herald angels sing, "Glory to the new-born king!"***

Vs. 2 Christ, by highest heav'n adored, Christ, the everlasting Lord,  
 Late in time behold him come, Offspring of a virgin's womb.  
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, incarnate deity!  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Immanuel! ***[Refrain]***

Vs. 3 Hail, the heav'n-born Prince of Peace! Hail the sun of righteousness!  
 Light and life to all he brings, Ris'n with healing in his wings.  
 Mild He lays his glory by, Born that we no more may die,  
 Born to raise each child of earth, Born to give us second birth. ***[Refrain]***

**Reading:** **John 1:1-4, 14, 16-17**

1In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2He was in the beginning with God. 3All things came into being through him, and without him not one thing came into being. What has come into being 4in him was life, and the life was the light of all people. 14 And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth. 16From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. 17The law indeed was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

**Christmas Message**

**Hymn “Angels We Have Heard on High”** *Hymn #71*

Vs. 1 Angels we have heard on high, Sweetly singing o'er the plains,  
 And the mountains in reply, Echoing their joyous strains.

***Refrain: Gloria in excelsis Deo; Gloria in excelsis Deo.***

Vs. 2 Shepherds, why this jubilee? Why your joyous strains prolong?  
 What the gladsome tidings be Which inspire your heav'nly song? ***[Refrain]***

Vs. 3 Come to Bethlehem and see Him whose birth the angels sing;  
 Come, adore on bended knee Christ the Lord, the new-born King. ***[Refrain]***

*(offering collected at this time)*

**Offering Prayer**

P: Good and loving God, we rejoice in the birth of Jesus, who came among the poor to bring the riches of your grace. As you have blessed us with your gifts, let them be blessing for others. With the trees of the field, with all earth and heaven,

we shout for joy at the coming of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

***C: Amen.***

**Blessing of the candles**

Source of all light, we celebrate today the coming of your Word made flesh, your Light of Life to dwell among us. Bless these candles that in their glow we may be blessed by your grace and abiding love. As these candles grace our tables and our homes today, let them remind us of your constant presence and your unwavering care. Bless us, that we might reflect the Light of Christ in our daily lives and in our world so desperate for the love, peace, hope and joy this day brings. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, the light of the world!

**Prayers of the People**

Joining our voices with the heavenly host and Christians throughout time and space, let us pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

Your Spirit calls your church to rejoice in Christ's birth. As we gather at the manger, help us see your face in all babies needing comfort and care. Equip the church in the nurture and encouragement of all children. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

The rocks and streams proclaim your praise. Attune us to the joyful sounds and groaning of your creation. Stir us to tend the earth wisely, that the whole earth may dwell in abundance and peace. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your messengers declare your joy to the world. Embolden leaders and nations to make your justice and peace known throughout the earth. Uphold justice advocates and social service providers who risk their safety to help others. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You choose those regarded as lowly to tell the good news of your love. Pour out your mercy and care on all who are sick, grieving, struggling, and the elderly who live alone (especially).

Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

You abide with your people in times of trouble. Accompany families and children who have nowhere to turn. Strengthen this congregation and local ministries in their care for those fleeing danger, abuse, or neglect. Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Your grace and mercy extend to all. Give comfort to those who mourn, and assure them of the peace you have granted those who have gone before us (especially). Merciful God, **receive our prayer.**

Rejoicing in your Word made flesh among us, we commend these prayers to you, confident of your grace and love made known to us in 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**

P: Proclaim the good news! The Word of God dwells among

us, the light of God shines in the world. Sing praises! Shout for joy! Celebrate the hope and promise of this day and go with the peace of God in your hearts.

***C: Amen.***

**Closing Hymn*****“Joy to the World”*** *Hymn* #39

Vs. 1 Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive its

King; Let ev'ry heart prepare him

Room And heav'n and nature sing, And heav'n and nature

sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and nature sing.

Vs. 2 Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns! Let all their songs employ,  
 While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and

plains Repeat the sounding joy, Repeat the sounding

joy, Repeat, repeat the sounding joy.

Vs. 3 No more let sin and sorrow grow Nor thorns infest the

ground; He comes to make his blessings

flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is

found, Far as, far as the curse is found.

Vs. 4 He rules the world with truth and grace And makes the nations

prove The glories of his righteousness  
 And wonders of his love, And wonders of his

love, And wonders, wonders of his love.

P: Walk in the light, Christ is born!

***C: Thanks be to God.***

**Postlude**

***\*\*****As you leave, please take home a candle as a way to remember the light of Jesus and God’s presence throughout the day.*