**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**

God of star and stable, you lead us to wonder and to hope.

You gather us together to hear your promise of love.

As we gather, we offer our concerns and our dreams, our hopes and fears… Hear us, O God. ***C:Your mercy is great.***

Like the shepherds who sought the stable, we seek your promise of peace.

We pray for your people broken by violence,

Those who live with fear, and those who live without hope.

We pray for your courage and peace… Hear us, O God. ***C:Your mercy is great.***

Like the wise men who dedicated their gifts, we remember those in need.

We pray for those who are lonely, hungry or forgotten;

For those who are ill in body and in spirit;

For those who are confused or afraid.

We pray for your joy and love, for all your people, especially those we remember now… Hear us, O God. ***C:Your mercy is great.***

Holy One, you came as a child, offering renewal of spirit and of living.

May our prayers be a new beginning: for healing, truth and trust.

May we embody love that is forgiving, compassionate and gracious.

May we sing the angels’ song of peace and joy.

We pray these things in the name of Jesus who became the Christ. ***C: 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.*