**SALT PARISH**

## Christmas Eve

## ~ ~ December 24, 2022 ~~

**Prelude**

**Welcome**

**Hymn “*O Come, All Ye Faithful”*** *ELW #283*

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

***Refrain: O come, let us adore him, O come, let us adore him,  
 O 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]***

**Lighting of the Advent Wreath**

Pastor: “While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger.” (Luke 2:6-7). Tonight, angels far and near sing tender lullabies; well-worn fabric full of years holds in the warmth of a parent’s love; animals and shepherds crowd in tight, glowing with adoration, while a baby’s cry squeezes out to greet the world.

***People: Tonight we give thanks for every child among us. Each new birth -- regardless of who, when or where -- reminds us of the preciousness of life, the potential of tomorrow, and the promise of God.***

Pastor: On this Christmas Eve, we light the Christ candle for the child-King, the infant-Redeemer, the humble-Lord. And now we know . . . He is born and nothing will ever be the same!

**Dialog**

P: The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light.

**C The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.**

P: Those who dwelt in the land of deep darkness, on them light has shined.

**C We have beheld Christ's glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father.**

P: To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

**C In him was life, and the life was the light of all people.**

**Opening Prayer**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. Almighty God, you made this holy night shine with the brightness of the true Light. Grant that here on earth we may walk in the light of Jesus’ presence and in the last day wake to the brightness of his glory; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen**

**Lessons and Carols**

**Lesson: Isaiah 9:2-7 (Dave)**

2The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. 3You have multiplied the nation, you have increased its joy; they rejoice before you as with joy at the harvest, as people exult when dividing plunder. 4For the yoke of their burden, and the bar across their shoulders, the rod of their oppressor, you have broken as on the day of Midian. 5For all the boots of the tramping warriors and all the garments rolled in blood shall be burned as fuel for the fire. 6For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. 7His authority shall grow continually, and there shall be endless peace for the throne of David and his kingdom. He will establish and uphold it with justice and with righteousness from this time onward and forevermore. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will do this.

**Hymn *“Hark! The Herald Angels Sing”*** *ELW #270*

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 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 ever-lasting Lord,  
 late in time behold him come, offspring of the virgin's womb.  
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see! Hail, the incarnate deity!  
 Pleased as man with us to dwell, Jesus, our Emmanuel! ***Refrain***

**Lesson: Micah 5:2-5a (June, Amber)**

2But you, O Bethlehem of Ephrathah, who are one of the little clans of Judah, from you shall come forth for me one who is to rule in Israel, whose origin is from of old, from ancient days. 3Therefore he shall give them up until the time when she who is in labor has brought forth; then the rest of his kindred shall return to the people of Israel. 4And he shall stand and feed his flock in the strength of the Lord, in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God. And they shall live secure, for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; 5and he shall be the one of peace. If the Assyrians come into our land and tread upon our soil, we will raise against them seven shepherds and eight installed as rulers.

**Hymn *“O Little Town of Bethlehem”*** *ELW #279*

Vs.1 O little town of Bethlehem, how still we see thee lie!  
 Above thy deep and dreamless sleep the silent stars go by;  
 yet in thy dark streets shineth the everlasting light.  
 The hopes and fears of all the years are met in thee tonight.

Vs. 2 For Christ is born of Mary, and, gathered all above  
 while mortals sleep, the angels keep their watch of wond'ring love.  
 O morning stars, together proclaim the holy birth,  
 and praises sing to God the king, and peace to all on earth!

**Lesson: Luke 1:26-35, 38 (Dave)**

26In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent by God to a town in Galilee called Nazareth, 27to a virgin engaged to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin’s name was Mary. 28And he came to her and said, “Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you.” 29But she was much perplexed by his words and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. 30The angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. 31And now, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you will name him Jesus. 32He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give to him the throne of his ancestor David. 33He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.” 34Mary said to the angel, “How can this be, since I am a virgin?” 35The angel said to her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God. 38Then Mary said, “Here am I, the servant of the Lord; let it be with me according to your word.” Then the angel departed from her.

**Hymn *“What Child Is This”*** *ELW #296*

Vs. 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mary’s lap is sleeping?  
 Whom angels greet with anthems sweet while shepherds watch are keeping?  
 This, this is Christ the king, whom shepherds guard and angels sing;  
 haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mary!

Vs. 2 Why lies he in such mean estate where ox and ass are feeding?  
 Good Christian, fear; for sinners here the silent Word is pleading.  
 Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;  
 hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mary!

**Lesson: Luke 2:1-7 (June, Amber)**

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. 2This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. 3All went to their own towns to be registered. 4Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. 5He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. 6While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. 7And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

**Carol *“Away in a Manger”***

Vs. 1 Away in a manger, no crib for his bed,  
 The little Lord Jesus laid down his sweet head;  
 The stars in the sky looked down where he lay,  
 The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

Vs. 2 The cattle are lowing; the poor baby wakes,  
 But little Lord Jesus no crying he makes.  
 I love you, Lord Jesus; look down from the sky  
 And stay by my cradle till morning is nigh.

Vs. 3 Be near me, Lord Jesus; I ask you to stay  
 Close by me forever and love me, I pray.  
 Bless all the dear children in your tender care  
 And fit us for heaven to live with you there.

**Lesson: Luke 2:8-16 (Dave)**

8In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. 9Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. 10But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: 11to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. 12This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” 13And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying, 14“Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favors!” 15When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” 16So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

**Hymn *“Infant Holy, Infant Lowly”*** *ELW #276*

Vs. 1 Infant holy, infant lowly, for his bed a cattle stall;  
 oxen lowing, little knowing Christ the child is Lord of all.  
 Swiftly winging, angels singing, bells are ringing, tidings bringing:  
 Christ the child is Lord of all! Christ the child is Lord of all!

Vs. 2 Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping vigil till the morning new  
 saw the glory, heard the story, tidings of a gospel true.  
 Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow, praises voicing, greet the morrow:  
 Christ the child was born for you! Christ the child was born for you!

**Lesson: Luke 2:21-36 (June, Amber)**

21After eight days had passed, it was time to circumcise the child; and he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb. 22When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), 24and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

25Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. 26It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. 27Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, 28Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 29“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; 30for my eyes have seen your salvation, 31which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” 33And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 34Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed 35so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” 36There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage

**Hymn *“Angels from the Realms of Glory”*** *Hymn #275*

Vs. 1 Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;  
 once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

***Refrain: Come and worship, come and worship,***

***worship Christ, the new-born king.***

Vs. 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,  
 God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light. ***[Refrain]***

**Lesson: Matthew 2:1-11 (Dave)**

2In the time of King Herod, after Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea, wise men from the East came to Jerusalem, 2asking, “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? For we observed his star at its rising, and have come to pay him homage.” 3When King Herod heard this, he was frightened, and all Jerusalem with him; 4and calling together all the chief priests and scribes of the people, he inquired of them where the Messiah was to be born. 5They told him, “In Bethlehem of Judea; for so it has been written by the prophet: 6‘And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a ruler who is to shepherd my people Israel.’” 7Then Herod secretly called for the wise men and learned from them the exact time when the star had appeared. 8Then he sent them to Bethlehem, saying, “Go and search diligently for the child; and when you have found him, bring me word so that I may also go and pay him homage.”

9When they had heard the king, they set out; and there, ahead of them, went the star that they had seen at its rising, until it stopped over the place where the child was. 10When they saw that the star had stopped, they were overwhelmed with joy. 11On entering the house, they saw the child with Mary his mother; and they knelt down and paid him homage. Then, opening their treasure chests, they offered him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.

**Hymn *“We Three Kings”*** *WOV #646*

We three kings of Orient are; bearing gifts we traverse afar,

Field and fountain, moor and mountain, following yonder star.

Oh, star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright;

Westward leading, still proceeding guide us to thy Perfect Light!

Born a King on Bethlehem’s plain, gold I bring to crown him again;

King forever, ceasing never over us all to reign

Oh, star of wonder, star of light, star with royal beauty bright;

Westward leading, still proceeding guide us to thy Perfect Light!

**Lesson: Matthew 2:13-18 (June, Amber)**

13Now after they had left, an angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, “Get up, take the child and his mother, and flee to Egypt, and remain there until I tell you; for Herod is about to search for the child, to destroy him.” 14Then Joseph got up, took the child and his mother by night, and went to Egypt, 15and remained there until the death of Herod. This was to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet, “Out of Egypt I have called my son.”

16When Herod saw that he had been tricked by the wise men, he was infuriated, and he sent and killed all the children in and around Bethlehem who were two years old or under, according to the time that he had learned from the wise men. 17Then was fulfilled what had been spoken through the prophet Jeremiah: 18“A voice was heard in Ramah, wailing and loud lamentation, Rachel weeping for her children; she refused to be consoled, because they are no more.”

**Hymn *“The First Noel”*** *Hymn #300*

Vs. 1 The first Noel the angel did say was to

certain poor shepherds in fields as they lay;  
 in fields where they lay, keeping their sheep,  
 on a cold winter's night that was so deep.

***Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.***

Vs. 2 They looked up and saw a star  
 shining in the east beyond them far;  
 and to the earth it gave great light,  
 and so it continued both day and night.

***Refrain: Noel, Noel, Noel, Noel! Born is the King of Israel.***

**Lesson: John 1:1-14 (Dave)**

In 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.

5The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it. 6There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. 7He came as a witness to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. 8He himself was not the light, but he came to testify to the light. 9The true light, which enlightens everyone, was coming into the world. 10He was in the world, and the world came into being through him; yet the world did not know him. 11He came to what was his own, and his own people did not accept him. 12But to all who received him, who believed in his name, he gave power to become children of God, 13who were born, not of blood or of the will of the flesh or of the will of man, but of God. 14And 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.

**Children’s Sermon**

**Christmas Message**

**Hymn of the Day *“Let There Be Peace on Earth”***

Vs. 1 Let there be peace on earth

And let it begin with me

Let there be peace on earth

The peace that was meant to be

With God as our Father

Brothers all are we

Let me walk with my brother

In perfect harmony

Vs. 2 Let peace begin with me

Let this be the moment now

With ev'ry step I take

Let this be my solemn vow

To take each moment

And live each moment

In peace eternally

Let there be peace on earth

And let it begin with me

**Responsive Prayer**

L Glory to God in the highest,

C **and peace to God's people on earth.**

L Blessed are you, Prince of peace. You rule the earth with truth and justice.

C **Send your gift of peace to all nations of the world.**

L Blessed are you, Son of Mary. You share our humanity.

C **Have mercy on the sick, the dying, and all who suffer this day.**

L Blessed are you, Son of God. You dwell among us as the Word made flesh.

C **Reveal yourself to us in word and sacrament that we may bear your light to all the world.**

**Offering**

**Offering Prayer**

P: Eternal God, with Mary we treasure the gift of your Son, and in our hearts we ponder the mystery of his birth. Receive these offerings, that our lives

may declare the wonders of your love in Jesus Christ our Lord.

***C: Amen.***

**Great Thanksgiving**

P: The Lord be with you.

***C: And also with you.***

P: Lift up your hearts.

***C: We lift them to the Lord.***

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

**Words of Institution**

P: In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take and eat; this is my body, given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying: This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin. Do this for the remembrance of me.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

***C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

**Lord’s Prayer**

P: Let us pray as Jesus has taught us.

***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.***

**Communion**

**Post Communion Blessing**

**Prayer after Communion**

P: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

***C: Amen.***

**Blessing**

P: May you be filled with the wonder of Mary, the obedience of Joseph, the joy of the angels, the eagerness of the shepherds, the determination of the magi, and the peace of the Christ child. Almighty God, Father, + Son, and Holy Spirit bless you now and forever.

**C: Amen**

**Sending Hymn “*Silent Night, Holy Night”*** *ELW #281*

Vs***.*** 1 Silent night, holy night! All is calm, all is bright  
 round yon virgin mother and child. Holy Infant, so tender and mild,  
 sleep in heavenly peace, sleep in heavenly peace.

Vs. 2 Silent night, holy night! Shepherds quake at the sight;  
 glories stream from heaven afar, heav'nly hosts sing, alleluia!  
 Christ, the Savior, is born! Christ, the Savior, is born!

Vs. 3 Silent night, holy night! Son of God, love’s pure light  
 radiant beams from your holy face, with the dawn of redeeming grace.  
 Jesus, Lord, at your birth, Jesus, Lord, at your birth.

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace, Christ is born!

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

**Postlude**