**SALT Parish**

**Wednesday, March 8, 2023**

**Faith Lutheran Church, Culver**

***“Open My Hands, Lord”***

**Opening Dialog**

P: Into your hands, almighty God, we place ourselves:

***C: our minds to know you, our hearts to love you, our wills to serve you, for we are yours.***

P: Into your hands, incarnate Savior, we place ourselves:

***C: receive us and draw us after you, that we may follow your steps.***

P: Into your hands, O hovering Spirit, we place ourselves:

***C: take us and fashion us after your image; let your comfort strengthen us and your fire cleanse us.***

P: Into your hands, almighty God, we place ourselves:

***C:* gather us in your light eternal.**

**Gathering Song *“Blessed Assurance”*** WOV #699

Vs. 1 Blessed assurance: Jesus is mine! Oh, what a foretaste of glory divine!  
 Heir of salvation, purchase of God, born of his Spirit, washed in his blood.

***Refrain: This is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long;  
 this is my story, this is my song, praising my Savior all the day long.***

Vs. 2 Perfect submission; perfect delight, visions of rapture now burst on my sight;  
 angels descending bring from above echoes of mercy, whispers of love.

***[Refrain]***

Vs. 3 Perfect submission: all is at rest, I in my Savior am happy and blest;  
 watching and waiting, looking above, filled with his goodness, lost in his love.

***[Refrain]***

**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.***

**Prayer**

P: Open our hands, Lord, to reach out to a world in need. May our arms enfold those who sorrow, our palms bear mercy and grace, and our fingers point to your love. In Jesus' name we pray.

***C: Amen.***

**Lesson: Deuteronomy 15:7-11**

7 If there is among you anyone in need, a member of your community in any of your towns within the land that the Lord your God is giving you, do not be hard-hearted or tight-fisted towards your needy neighbour. 8You should rather open your hand, willingly lending enough to meet the need, whatever it may be. 9Be careful that you do not entertain a mean thought, thinking, ‘The seventh year, the year of remission, is near’, and therefore view your needy neighbour with hostility and give nothing; your neighbour might cry to the Lord against you, and you would incur guilt. 10Give liberally and be ungrudging when you do so, for on this account the Lord your God will bless you in all your work and in all that you undertake. 11Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you, ‘Open your hand to the poor and needy neighbour in your land.’

**Psalm 139:1-10**

1 O Lord, you have searched me and known me.  
**2 You know when I sit down and when I rise up; you discern my thoughts from far away.**3 You search out my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways.  
**4 Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.**  
5 You hem me in, behind and before, and lay your hand upon me.  
**6 Such knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is so high that I cannot attain it.**

7 Where can I go from your spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?  
**8 If I ascend to heaven, you are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, you are there.**9 If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea,  
**10 even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.**

**Lesson: Mark 6:1-5**

He left that place and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. 2On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, ‘Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! 3Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?’ And they took offence at him. 4Then Jesus said to them, ‘Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.’ 5And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them.

**Message**

**Hymn of the Day *“Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me”*** Hymn #327

Vs. 1 Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee;  
 Let the water and the blood, From thy riven side which flowed,  
 Be of sin the double cure: Cleanse me from its guilt and pow'r.

Vs. 2 Not the labors of my hands Can fulfill thy law's demands;  
 Could my zeal no respite know, Could my tears forever flow,  
 All for sin could not atone; Thou must save, and thou alone.

Vs. 3 Nothing in my hand I bring; Simply to thy cross I cling.  
 Naked, come to thee for dress; Helpless, look to thee for grace;  
 Foul, I to the fountain fly; Wash me, Savior, or I die.

Vs. 4 While I draw this fleeting breath, When mine eyelids close in death,  
 When I soar to worlds unknown, See thee on thy judgment throne,  
 Rock of Ages, cleft for me, Let me hide myself in thee.

**Prayers**

P: Lord of all life, when we cannot see the beauty of your creation,

***C: open our eyes, that all living things thrive and grow.***

P: When we neglect the poor, the sick, and the grieving,

***C: open our hands to do your work in the world.***

P: When we ignore the cries of injustice in our midst,

***C: open our ears, that all will know your love.***

P: When we are hardened against our neighbor,

***C: open our hearts and heal our resentment.***

P: When we are closed to the grace you long to give us,

***C: open our lives and turn us to follow in the way of the cross.***

P: Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.

***C: Amen.***

**Lord’s Prayer** ELW pg. 145

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.***

**Peace** Page 143

P: The peace of the Lord be with you all.

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

**Offering *“We Give Thee but Thine Own” vs. 1*** *Hymn #686*

We give thee but thine own, what e’er the gift may be;

All that we have is thine alone a trust, O Lord from thee.

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray, Blessed are you, O God maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, or Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Blessing**

P: Go into the world with eyes open to the transforming light of Christ, hands open to serve those you meet, ears open to the call of the Spirit, hearts open to the bountiful love of God, and lives open to follow Christ to the cross. The God who opened for us the way of everlasting life + bless you now and forever. ***C: Amen.***

**Sending Hymn *“Now the Day is Over”***  vs. 1-4 ELW #570

Vs.1 Now the day is over; night is drawing nigh;  
 shadows of the evening steal across the sky.

Vs. 2 Jesus, give the weary calm and sweet repose;  
 with your tend'rest blessing may our eyelids close.

Vs. 3 Comfort ev'ry suff'rer watching late in pain;  
 those who plan some evil, from their sin restrain.

Vs. 4 Through the long night-watches may your angels spread  
 their bright wings above me, watching round my bed.

**Dismissal**

P: Go in peace. Christ is with you.

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