

Church of the divine love

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD

JESUS CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

FEBRUARY 2, 2025 10:15 AM

HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II

Please observe silence

Prayer for the New Year – on insert

THE WORD OF GOD

Processional Hymn –

Opening Acclamation page 355

Collect for Purity page 355

Gloria (sung)

Collect of the Day - lectionary sheet insert

First Lesson: **Malachi 3:1-4**

Psalm

Second Lesson: **Hebrews 2:14-18**

Gradual Hymn –

Gospel: **Luke 2:22-40**

Sermon – The Rev. Jean Lenord Quatorze (on insert)

The Nicene Creed page 358

Prayers of the People, Form IV page 388

The Confession of Sin page 360

The Peace

Welcome and Announcements

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Offertory Hymn –

Doxology (sung)

The Great Thanksgiving:

Eucharistic Prayer C page 369

Sanctus (S-130 in hymnal) page 367

The Lord's Prayer page 364

The Breaking of the Bread, Anthem & Prayer page 337

The Communion of the People

Communion Hymn –

Post Communion Prayer page 365

Prayer for Peace – on insert

Prayer For the Parish page 817

Prayer of St. Francis page 833

Dismissal Hymn –

Dismissal

Sermon Sunday February 2nd, 2025

Malachi 3:1-4; Psalm 84; Hebrews 2:14-18; Luke 2: 22-40.

Sisters and brothers in Christ,

I recently heard a man say, "I feel as if I have dropped into my own life and it fits." It made me smile. It was such a great description. I think we all want to be able to say that. He went on, however, to say that it wasn't about his family, his work, or even anything he could specifically name. It was more about what was happening within him than what was happening around him.

There are moments in our lives when our senses awaken and open to a greater reality, a larger world, a

more whole life. Those are the moments when our seeing gives way to recognition and acknowledgment of a deeper and more profound reality. They are the moments of presentation, moments of meeting, moments when divinity and humanity touch, and heaven and earth are joined. That's what this day, the Feast of the Presentation of our Lord in the Temple, is all about. In those moments we are living today's gospel (**Luke 2:22-40**). In those moments we catch a glimpse of what Saint Simeon saw. We stand in his shoes and we see with his eyes. We've all had those moments. Now we probably don't say, Oh, wow! Look! Heaven and earth are joined, humanity and divinity are touching. No, we say it differently. Nevertheless, that's what's happening. Think about a time when you said aloud or maybe to yourself, I never want this moment to end. That wasn't about the passing of time. It was about presence. You were fully present to the moment. You were acknowledging that somehow all the pieces of your life fit. There was an integrity and authenticity about you and your life. There was a reality greater than the circumstances of that moment.

How about this? Have you ever been so immersed in the presence of another person, your work, a hobby, a conversation with a friend, that you lose all track of time? We look at our watch and wonder, where did the time go? I'm not talking about time that was wasted but time that was full and complete. In those minutes and hours, we had softened and opened ourselves to the eternal. Maybe you've experienced it this way. You look back on a particular time in your life and think, I don't know how I got through that. I didn't think I would. I didn't think I could. You don't know how you got through that; you only know that you did. That was a moment of presentation, a moment of meeting with a presence greater than yourself. In all those and a thousand others like them it seems as if that moment is presenting itself to us but I think it is just the opposite. We are being presented to the moment. God's Spirit guides and takes us to that place of meeting. We see that moment but not with our eyes. We hold it but not with our hands. We taste it but not with our tongues. We smell it but not with our nose. We hear it but not with our ears. We meet a presence greater than what our physical senses can experience or understand. That's why this man I just told you about couldn't name what was going on, what had changed, only that it had changed and he was somehow different. He wasn't just living. He was alive.

I think that's what's happening for Simeon today. He took the child, Jesus, in his arms and praised God saying, Lord, you now have set your servant free to go in peace as you have promised; For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, whom you have prepared for all the world to see: A Light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel. Simeon saw more than just a child. He looked at the child and he saw salvation. He saw the fulfillment of God's promise. He saw the Lord's Messiah. He saw the Light of God's glory. He saw the freedom to go in peace. He saw the fullness of his own life and it fit him perfectly. On this Feast of Meeting, as it is sometimes called, Mary, called **Theotokos** in Greek, it means God-bearer or God-birther, would place her son in the hands of the old man Simeon. He had been waiting for this moment all his life. It's why he went to the temple on this day. Guided by the Holy Spirit,

Simeon was being presented to the child he would hold. In that presentation and in that holding, Simeon would be **Theodochos**. It's Greek and it means God-receiver. Simeon is the God-receiver.

Who among us doesn't want that? Who here doesn't want to be **Theodochos**, a God-receiver? At some level that's what we're all searching for. It's our heart's desire and the longing that drives our life. Whether we know it or not that's why we've shown up here today. We want to hold the child. We want to be presented. We want to receive God. We want to see our salvation and know the fulfillment of God's promises in our own lives. We want to be set free to go in peace. We want to try on our life and discover that it fits. Today is not just for or about Simeon. It is also for and about us. This is our day. All of us have the possibility of becoming God-receivers. All of us are intended to be God-receivers. The light Simeon sees is not just for himself but for the nations, all the peoples, you and me included.

Just as Joseph and Mary dedicated Jesus, we are called to dedicate ourselves and our families to the Lord. Are we taking the time to guide our children, or those under our care, in the ways of the Lord? Are we actively seeking to follow God's commands in our lives? This dedication is not merely a ritual; it is a way of life that honors our relationship with God. Upon entering the Temple, Simeon, a righteous and devout man, is prompted by the Holy Spirit to recognize Jesus. His proclamation that Jesus is "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" and "the glory of your people Israel" highlights the universal message of salvation. Simeon had waited for this moment his entire life, and now he sees it unfold. Simeon's encounter teaches us the importance of patience and faith. He trusted in God's promise and lived in expectation. What promises are you waiting on from God? Sometimes we may become discouraged, yet we must remember that God's timing is perfect. Like Simeon, we must be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit to recognize God's work in our lives and in the lives of others.

Anna, the prophetess, offers us another example. At the age of 84, she dedicates her life to fasting and prayer, waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. Her faithfulness and worship position her at the right moment to encounter Jesus. When she sees Him, she gives thanks and speaks about Him to all who were waiting for the redemption. Anna's faithfulness beckons us to ask how we engage in worship and prayer. Are we actively seeking God in our lives? Worship is not just a Sunday activity; it is a lifestyle of gratitude and communion with God. In our times of waiting, let us be like Anna—steadfast in prayer, looking for opportunities to testify about God's faithfulness, especially as we witness His work around us

The truth of this story and the fulfillment of God's promise, for Simeon and for us, do not depend on resolving the factual contradiction. They are found in the paradox. We spend so much time and effort trying to make life fit by resolving the facts and controlling the circumstances. Simeon didn't do that. Maybe we shouldn't either. He showed up at the temple knowing he was blind and believing he would see. That was enough for Simeon and it was enough for God. Let it be enough for us.

In those moments you experienced a presence greater than the people who were there. You heard more

than the words spoken in conversation. You felt more than what you could touch. You saw more than what was in front of you. You knew there was more going on than the events of that moment. Regardless of the circumstances you somehow experienced that all was well. Everything was just right, perfect, and complete. Nothing was lacking. Your life was more than you had ever previously known it to be. Those are the moments of presentation. Those are the moments when we see salvation and are now free to go in peace. **Amen.**

All baptized Christians, regardless of age, are welcome to receive communion in the Episcopal Church.

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS
MONDAY	8:30 PM	AA MEETING
TUESDAY	7:00 PM	BIBLE STUDY (held in the room across from the office)
WEDNESDAY	7:00 PM	AL-ANON MEETING
THURSDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
	8:30 PM	AA MEETING
SATURDAY	10AM-2PM	THRIFT SHOP
5 EPIPHANY	10:15 AM	HOLY EUCHARIST, RITE II COFFEE HOUR FOLLOWS

	Today	Next Week	
Eucharistic Minister		Dana Kenn	Jess Berbeck
Coffee Hour		Nolans	Jess Berbeck

SUPPORT THE FOOD PANTRY – DROP-OFF IN THE KITCHEN

PARISH PRAYER LIST

Loving God, comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind or spirit. Give them courage and hope in their troubles and bring them the joy of your salvation. Especially we remember before you:

Jane Alva Quallo	Betty Curley	Jess
Bob Curley	Steve Curley	Art
Chris Dickson	John Rocco	Deb P.
John Mulligan	Marjorie Guerrier	Lynette
Manetta Family	Robert Hosey	Ryan
Sister Eddie	Bernie Walther	Celeste
Beverly Noel	Phil Ryder	Warren
Anthony Paribello	Barbara Curran	Del
Donna Amundsen	Kate Jones	Aidan
Sally & Roger	Sophia	Ciara
Mary & Family	Wendy	Jan
Nathan Treadwell	Gladys Hadija	Vincent
Michael & Family	Matthew Treasure	Mo
Michelle & Baby	Joseph	Annie

Jerry & Family

Shannon & Family

Donna A.

Christopher

Oitice Family

All people and countries suffering from violence, hatred and natural disaster.

The homeless and food insecure.

Help us speak words of encouragement and offer deeds of kindness to them.

Bring us with them, into the unending joy of your kingdom. Amen.

To add or make changes to prayer list during the week, email

Janet Croft at jmc220@optonline.net.

Prayer for the New Year:

O God, our Creator, you have divided our life into days and seasons, and called us to acknowledge your providence year after year. Accept our praise and thanksgiving for this past year and hear our prayers for the new year. Plant in every heart, we pray, the love of him who is the Savior of the world, Jesus. Grant that we who begin this year in his Name, may complete it to his honor and glory. Pardon our transgressions of the past and guide us by your Holy Spirit that we may turn our feet into your paths, serve you in peace, and live in your

presence. All this we ask in the holy name of your Son,
Jesus, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
One God, in glory everlasting. Amen.

Hymn to be sung during the consecration:

Father I adore you,
Lay my life before you,
How I love you.

Repeat twice with second verse starting with Jesus
And third verse starting with Spirit.

Prayer for Peace

Eternal God, in whose perfect kingdom no sword is drawn
but the sword of righteousness, no strength known but the strength of love: So
mightily spread abroad your Spirit, that
all peoples may be gathered under the banner of the Prince
of Peace, as children of one Father; to whom be dominions
and glory, now and for ever. Amen

