HOLY COMMUNION Presentation of Our Lord

February 2, 2025

8:00 am and 10:30 am

INTRODUCTION TO THE DAY

The Presentation of Our Lord is referred to in some corners of the church as Candlemas because of an ancient tradition of blessing all the candles to be used in the church in the coming year at the mass celebrated on that day. It was a way of underscoring the truth of Simeon's confession that this baby Jesus was "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" and a light for glory to Israel. Let the light of every candle in church be a little epiphany of the love of God for all people in the person of God's son, Jesus, the light of the world.

SILENT PRAYER

PRELUDE:

8:00 am: "I Want to Walk As A Child of the Light"

L. Wasson

10:30 am: "Regent Square"

E. Johnson

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

GATHERING (ENTRANCE RITE)

Stand

HYMN: God Himself Is Present

Printed on the next page.

God Himself Is Present



CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS (ABSOLUTION)

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

- **P** In the name of the Father, and of the **+** Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.
- P Almighty God,
 to whom all hearts are open,
 all desires known,
 and from whom no secrets are hid:
 cleanse the thoughts of our hearts
 by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
 that we may perfectly love you
 and worthily magnify your holy name,
 through Jesus Christ our Lord.
- **G** Amen.
- **P** Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

Kneel/Stand

- P Most merciful God,
- we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves.
 We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone.
 We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves.
 For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us.
 Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name.
 Amen.

- P In the mercy of almighty God,
 Jesus Christ was given to die for us,
 and for his sake God forgives us all our sins.
 As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ,
 and by his authority,
 I therefore declare to you
 the entire forgiveness of all your sins,
 in the name of the Father,
 and of the ♣ Son,
 and of the Holy Spirit.
- C Amen.

Stand

GREETING

- P The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- **And also with you.**

CANTICLE OF PRAISE (GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO) Glo-ry to God in the high-est, and peace to God's peo-ple on earth. Lord God, al-might-y God and heav - en - ly king, Fa - ther: We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo-ry. Lord Je-sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God: You sin of the world; have mer take a-way the us. You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer. you a-lone are the Ho-ly One, you a-lone are the Lord, For you a-lone are the Most Je-sus Christ, with the Ho-ly Spir-it, High,

God the

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PRAYER OF THE DAY

P Let us pray.

Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for you have sent us your salvation. Inspire us by your Holy Spirit to see with our own eyes him who is the glory of Israel and the light for all nations, your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

Sit

Later service only:

CHILDREN'S SERMON

Sit

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-4

This reading concludes a larger section (2:17—3:5) in which the prophet speaks of the coming of the God of justice. Malachi looks for that day when the wondrous power of God will purify the priestly descendents of Levi who minister in the temple at Jerusalem.

A reading from Malachi.

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the LORD of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

- A The word of the Lord.
- **G** Thanks be to God.

Later service only:

PSALM 84 (The congregation's verses are in bold face type.)

¹ How dear to me is your dwelling, O | LORD of hosts!

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the | living God.

² The sparrow has found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young,

by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King | and my God.

³ Happy are they who dwell | in your house!

They will always be | praising you.

- ⁴ Happy are the people whose strength | is in you, whose hearts are set on the | pilgrims' way.
- ⁵ Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a | place of springs, for the early rains have covered it with | pools of water.
- ⁶ They will climb from | height to height, and the God of gods will reveal him- | self in Zion.
- ⁷ LORD God of hosts, | hear my prayer; hearken, O | God of Jacob.
- ⁸ Behold our defend- | er, O God; and look upon the face of | your anointed.
- ⁹ For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in | my own room, and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents | of the wicked.
- ¹⁰ For the LORD God is both | sun and shield; he will give | grace and glory;
- 11 no good thing will the | LORD withhold from those who walk | with integrity.
- 12 O LORD of hosts, happy are they who put their trust in you!

SECOND READING

Jesus shared human nature fully so that his death might be for all humans a liberation from slavery to death's power. Here the writer uses the image of priestly service in the temple as a way of describing the life and saving death of the Lord Jesus. He is the high priest who offers his life on behalf of his brothers and sisters.

A reading from Hebrews.

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the

Hebrews 2:14-18

power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

- The word of the Lord.
- **G** Thanks be to God.

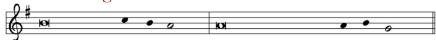
Stand

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The congregation sings the Acclamation.



The choir sings the Verse.



My eyes have seen | your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence | of all peoples.

The congregation repeats the Acclamation.



GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

This story is a study in contrasts: the infant Jesus with the aged prophets; the joy of birth with the ominous words of Simeon to Mary; the faithful fulfilling of the law with the presentation of the one who will release its hold over us. Through it all, we see the light of God's salvation revealed to the world.

P The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] 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"), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

²⁵ Now 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. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷ Guided 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, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then 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 ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶ There 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, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

P The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sit

SERMON Pastor Weleck

Stand

Later service only:

HYMN OF THE DAY: *In His Temple Now Behold Him Printed on the next page.*

In His Temple Now Behold Him



Stand

The Nicene Creed is appropriate during Advent, Christmas, Easter, and on festival days; the Apostles' Creed during Lent and at other times.

APOSTLES CREED

- P With the whole church, let us confess our faith.
- I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended into hell.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

- With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God's creation.
- We pray for the church, for its pastors and other ministers, for the newly baptized, for all the faithful, for this congregation here gathered, and for our growth in grace.

 Lord, in your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- We pray for all nations, for all rulers, legislators, and judges, for an increase of justice in our lands, and for all who work for peace among nations and among peoples.

 Lord, in your mercy,
- **©** hear our prayer.
- We pray for all in any need, for the hungry and the homeless, for victims of war and injustice, for prisoners, for all who suffer in mind, body, or spirit, for the sick and infirm, for all with incurable illness, and for all who this day will die. We pray especially for those we name in the silence of our hearts... Lord, in your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- We pray for the members of our armed forces wherever they serve, and especially when they serve in harm's way, that they might speedily complete their mission and be safely reunited with their loved ones.

 Lord, in your mercy,
- **C** hear our prayer.
- Into your hands, gracious God, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy; through Jesus Christ, our Savior.
- C Amen.

PEACE

- P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
- **C** And also with you.

Worshippers do not greet one another. The service continues with the Offertory.

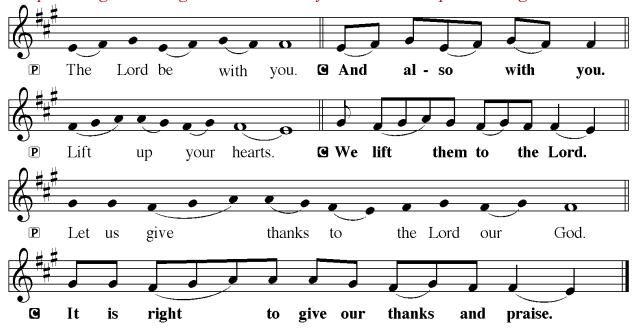
LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR

The Offering will be collected in the Narthex as you leave the church.



GREAT THANKSGIVING

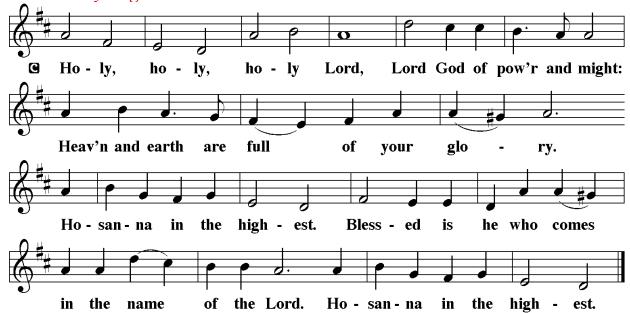
The presiding minister greets the assembly and invites all present to give thanks:



The minister continues with the PROPER PREFACE:

P It is indeed right, our duty and our joy... Here the minister continues with the preface for the day, concluding: ...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

The assembly sings the SANCTUS:



The WORDS OF INSTITUTION are sung to the music Blessed Martin Luther himself composed specifically for this purpose.

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.

LORD'S PRAYER

- P Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.
- 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.

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

- P Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.
- Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Sit

COMMUNION

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say
The body of Christ, given for you. The blood of Christ, shed for you.

and each person may respond

Amen.

We Lutherans believe that the Body and Blood of Christ are "truly and substantially" present "in, with, and under" the forms of bread and wine. We invite to the communion all who are baptized and communing in this or another Christian denomination. We welcome children and others who are not communing to come forward for a blessing.

Music during Communion:

LAMB OF GOD (AGNUS DEI)



Later service only:

ANTHEM: While Shepherds Watched Their Flocks by Night

Tate/Kirbye
Public Domain

- 1. While shepherds watched their flocks by night all seated on the ground, the angel of the Lord came down and glory shone around.
- 2. "Fear not", said he, for mighty dread had seized their troubles mind: "Glad tidings of great joy I bring to you and human kind."
- 3. "To you, in David's town this day is born of David's line, the Savior, who is Christ the Lord, and this shall be a sign:"
- 4. The heav'nly babe you there shall find to human view displayed, all humbly wrapped in swathing bands, and in a manger laid."
- 5. "All glory be to God on high and to the earth bring peace; good will to all from highest heav'n begin and never cease!"

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION: An Epiphany Prelude

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Ali Backlund - flute

Stand

BLESSING AFTER COMMUNION

- The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
- C Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

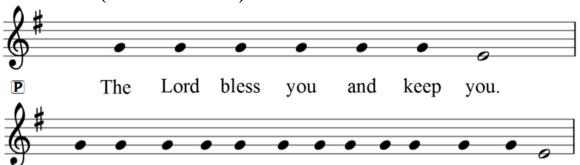
A Let us pray.

We give you thanks, almighty God, that you have refreshed us through the healing power of this gift of life. In your mercy, strengthen us through this gift, in faith toward you and in fervent love toward one another; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

C Amen.

SENDING

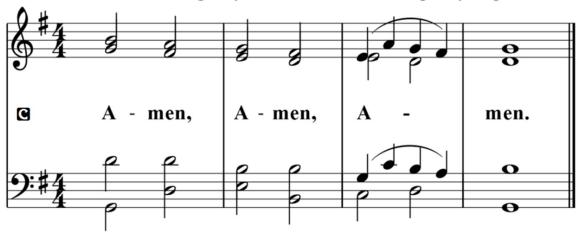
BLESSING (BENEDICTION)



The Lord make his face shine on you and be gracious to you.



The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.



DISMISSAL

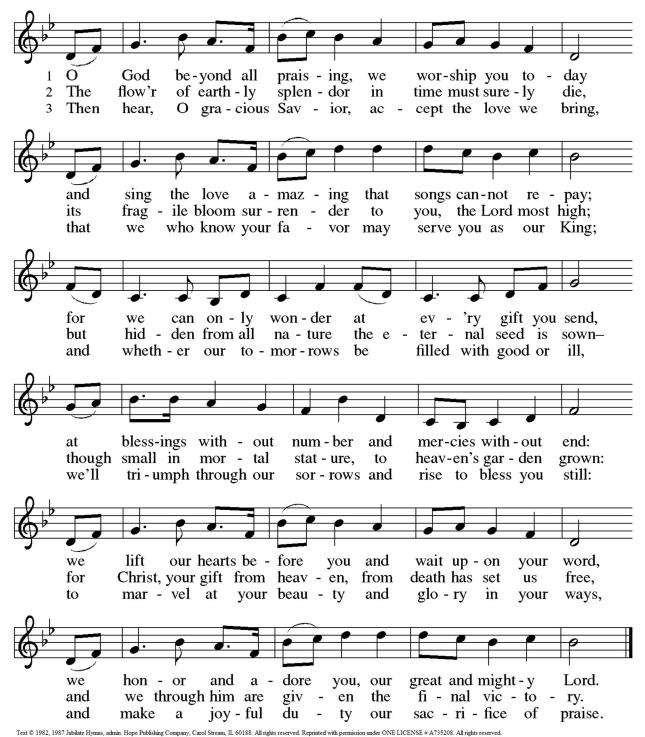
A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

HYMN: O God, Beyond All Praising

Printed on the next page.

O God beyond All Praising



OFFERING

The offering will be collected as you leave the Church.

POSTLUDE:

8:00 am: O Master Let Me Walk with You

L. Wasson

arr. B. Culli

10:30 am: "Thaxted"

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"In His Temple Now Behold Him" arr. R. Benson (from "Introductions and Alternate Accompaniments for Organ Vol.3 c.2008 AF All Rights Reserved)

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The Christmas Cycle celebrates the events surrounding Christ's coming — the prophecies, his birth, his manifestation (epiphany) to the Gentiles, and his baptism — through the Advent season, the Christmas season, and the Epiphany season.

On Sundays for which the color is green, it is appropriate to omit either the Kyrie or the Hymn of Praise, reserving both together for festival seasons.

The liturgical color green, symbolic of growth, is used for the season after Epiphany and after Pentecost.

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2025 Vestry		
Member	Special Area	E-mail Address
Gary Wessner	President/Property	gtwess@comcast.net
Dick Allebach	Vice President	Doot44@gmail.com
Alison Fishell	Secretary	alisonfishell@gmail.com
Jeannie Funk	General Treasurer	jeanniefunk@gmail.com
Sherry Jessee	Trust Fund Treasurer	dsajessee@hotmail.com
John Kochel	Parish Life	John.kochel@thrivent.com
Karl Stefan	Mutual Ministry	kssurf@verizon.net
Chilly Lyaro	Christian Education	chillylyaro@yahoo.com
Brian O'Hara	Outreach	Brian.ohara24@gmail.com
Shane Elison	Christian Education	scrabbie1@aol.com
Jennifer Wentworth	Old Church Committee	jawentw@aol.com
Matthew Vera	Cemetery Committee	Matthew vera@verizon.net

Worship Assistants

Ushers: Scott Halteman, Dick Allebach, Joe Cooney, and Karl Stefan

Elevator Attendant: Mike Taylor

Lectors: Lessons: Alanna Jessee Prayers: Jeannie Funk

Communion Assistant: Gary Wessner

Acolyte: Gavin Strasinksi Crucifer: Shealyn Frazier Altar Guild: 8:00 am: Deb Augustine and Sally Sweeney 10:30 am: Jim Lien and Mike Van Blaricum

Offering Tabulation: Gary Wessner, Matthew Vera, and Karl Stefan

Video Streaming: Jim Lien and Chilly Lyaro

<u>The Flowers that Adorn the Altar</u> are given to the glory of God by Ken and Stacie Missimer in loving memory of Wife and Mother Sherry, and Mother and Father Mary and Harold Missimer.

<u>The Sanctuary Candle</u> is given to the glory of God in memory of Betty Love and Mary Missimer by Anita Halteman.

<u>The Worship Bulletins</u> are given to the glory of God by Jeffrey and Mildred Stuffle in loving memory of our parents.

<u>Sanctuary Candle Sponsors Needed:</u> Please consider sponsoring a sanctuary candle on one of the dates below. February 16 or 23rd, March 16th, April 27th, May 4th or 25th. Weekly sponsorships are \$6 and can be given in honor or memory of friends or loved ones. Contact Charlotte Wentworth at caw226@aol.com.



PASTA BUFFET DINNER AT AUGUSTUS ON FEBRUARY 8th

You, your family, and friends are invited to a delicious meal of Penne Pasta with Meat Sauce, Spaghetti, a variety of Soups, Salad, Fruit and home-made desserts in Fellowship Hall on Saturday, February 8, 2025. Dinner will be served between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. Reservations are not necessary, and you may arrive at your convenience. There is no cost for the meal; however, you may donate towards the Augustus Soup Kitchen Outreach.

There will also be information for anyone who wants to learn more about volunteering for the Soup Kitchen. We serve lunch to the needy on the second Wednesday of every month at St. John's Episcopal Church in Norristown. Plan now to drop-in for dinner at Augustus on February 8th to support this important outreach and to enjoy the fellowship.

"For I was hungry, and you gave me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave me something to drink; I was a stranger, and you invited me in."
(Matthew 25:35)





This annual fundraiser helps support medical missionaries Dr. Stephen and Jodi Swanson to save infants and children at the

Arusha Lutheran Medical Center in Tanzania

*Food Prep

*Food Service

*Set-up/Clean-up

*Craft Fair

* Parking and SO MUCH MORE

The Turkey Dinner Committee would greatly appreciate early commitments to plan for this year's fundraiser. If you are able to provide an early commitment, please reach out to Nancy Loughery (nancyloughery63@gmail.com) or Dale O'Hara (oharadvd@aol.com)

Mark your calendars now and plan to help for

Saturday April 26th

WE SIMPLY CAN'T DO IT WITHOUT:



