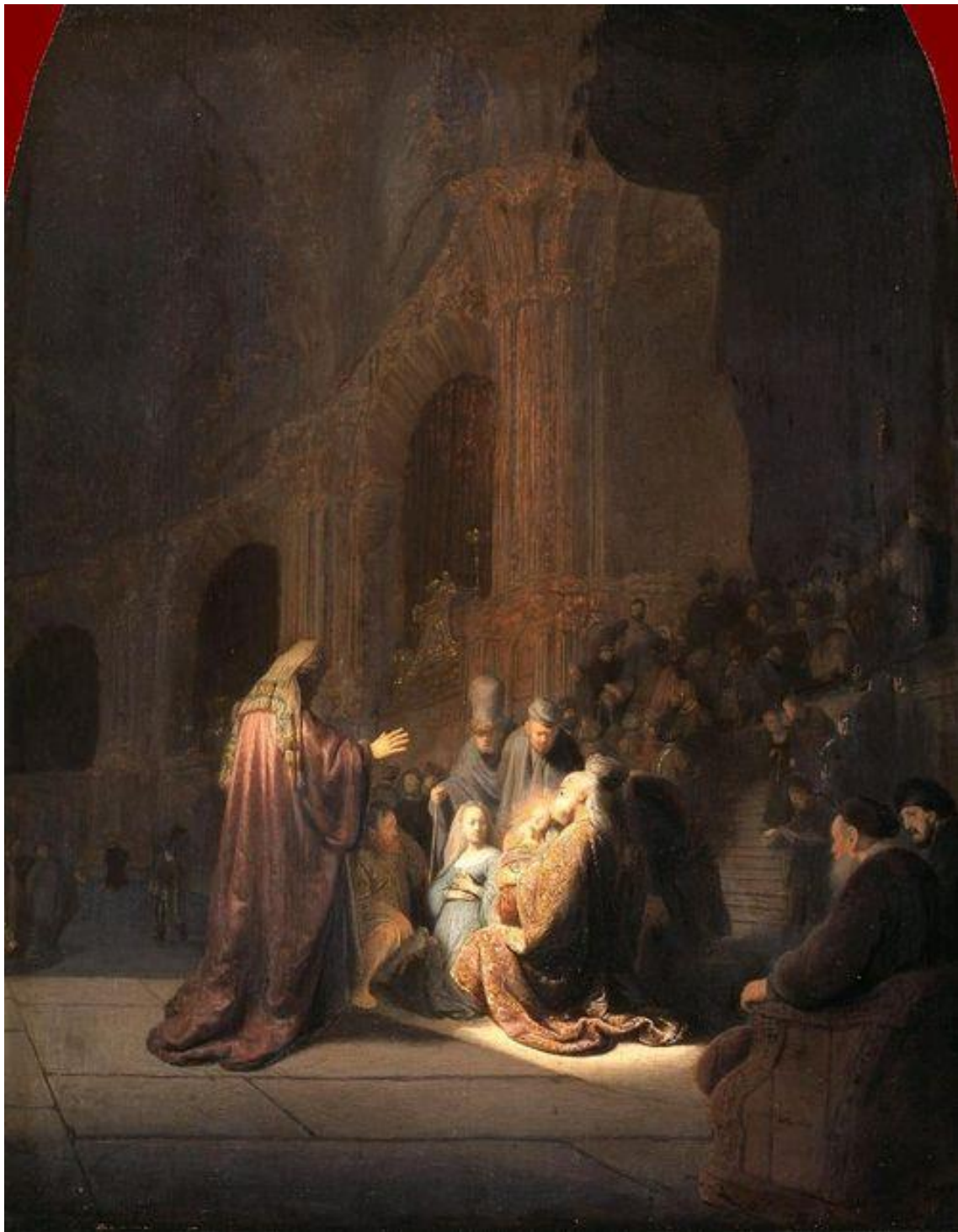


Epiphanytide

FEBRUARY 2, 2025 ◦ SUNDAY, 10:00 A.M.

THE PURIFICATION OF MARY AND THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD



Simeon's Song of Praise (1631). Rembrandt (1606 – 1669). Oil on oak panel.



T. PAUL REPEATS, CONFIRMS, AND EXPLAINS CHRIST'S WORDS [OF INSTITUTION] WHERE HE WRITES AS FOLLOWS, "THE CUP OF BLESSING THAT WE BLESS, IS IT NOT A PARTICIPATION IN THE BLOOD OF CHRIST? THE BREAD THAT WE BREAK, IS IT NOT A PARTICIPATION IN THE BODY OF CHRIST?" (1 CORINTHIANS 10:16). THIS IS TO BE CONSIDERED WITH ALL DILIGENCE AND SERIOUSNESS. IT IS AN ESPECIALLY CLEAR TESTIMONY OF THE TRUE, ESSENTIAL PRESENCE AND DISTRIBUTION OF THE BODY AND BLOOD OF CHRIST IN THE SUPPER. FROM THIS WE CLEARLY LEARN THAT NOT ONLY THE CUP THAT CHRIST BLESSED AT THE FIRST SUPPER, AND NOT ONLY THE BREAD THAT CHRIST BROKE AND DISTRIBUTED, BUT ALSO THE BREAD WE BREAK AND THE CUP WE BLESS, IS THE COMMUNION OF CHRIST'S BODY AND BLOOD. SO ALL WHO EAT THIS BREAD AND DRINK THIS CUP TRULY RECEIVE, AND ARE PARTAKERS OF, CHRIST'S TRUE BODY AND BLOOD. SO ALL WHO EAT THIS BREAD AND DRINK THIS CUP TRULY RECEIVE, ARE PARTAKERS OF, CHRIST'S TRUE BODY AND BLOOD. IMAGINE THAT CHRIST'S BODY WAS PRESENT AND PARTAKEN OF—NOT TRULY AND ESSENTIALLY—BUT ONLY ACCORDING TO ITS POWER AND EFFICACY. THEN THE BREAD WOULD HAVE TO BE CALLED NOT A COMMUNION OF THE BODY, BUT OF THE SPIRIT, POWER, AND BENEFITS OF CHRIST, AS THE APOLOGY ARGUES AND CONCLUDES [AP X 54 QUARTO]. NOW IMAGINE THAT PAUL WERE SPEAKING ONLY OF THE SPIRITUAL COMMUNION OF CHRIST'S BODY THROUGH FAITH (AS THE SACRAMENTARIANS PERVERT THIS PASSAGE). THEN PAUL WOULD NOT SAY THAT THE BREAD, BUT THAT THE SPIRIT OR FAITH, WAS THE COMMUNION OF CHRIST'S BODY. BUT HE SAYS THAT THE BREAD IS THE COMMUNION OF CHRIST'S BODY AND THAT ALL WHO PARTAKE OF THE CONSECRATED BREAD ALSO BECOME PARTAKERS OF CHRIST'S BODY.

-FORMULA, SOLID DECLARATION. ARTICLE VII. THE HOLY SUPPER, 54-56.

DIVINE SERVICE – SETTING THREE

“Our churches are falsely accused of abolishing the Mass. The Mass is held among us and celebrated with the highest reverence. Nearly all the usual ceremonies are also preserved”. -*Augsburg Confession*, Article XXIV. The Mass, 1-2a



PRELUDE

To Obey is Better Than Sacrifice

Keith Green

WELCOME

PROCESSIONAL HYMN

Please stand and face the processional cross.

Lutheran Service Book 981

“To Your Temple, Lord, I Come”



1 To Your tem - ple, Lord, I come, For it
2 I through Him am rec - on - ciled, I through
3 While Your glo - rious praise is sung, Touch my
4 While the prayers of saints as - cend, God of



is my wor - ship home. This earth has no
Him be - come Your child. Ab - ba, Fa - ther,
lips, un - loose my tongue That my joy - ful
love, to mine at - tend. Hear me, for Your



bet - ter place, Here I see my Sav - ior's face.
give me grace In Your courts Your love to trace.
soul may bless Christ the Lord, my righ - teous - ness.
Spir - it pleads; Hear, for Je - sus in - ter - cedes.

5 While I listen to Your Law,

Fill my soul with humble awe

Till Your Gospel bring to me

Life and immortality.

6 While Your ministers proclaim

Peace and pardon in Your name,

Through their voice, by faith, may I

Hear You speaking from the sky.

7 From Your house when I return,
May my heart within me burn,
And at evening let me say,
"I have walked with God today."

CANDLEMAS ~ *The Blessing of Candles*

The sign of the cross ✠ may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism.

P In the name of the Father and of the ✠ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C Amen.

Matthew 28:19b; [18:20]

P Dearly beloved, the Word of God tells us that "God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all." Therefore, it is customary to light candles in the Lord's church as a sign of His presence. In the season of Epiphany, God manifests the light of His glory in the person of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ who is "the light of the world." His light led the way for the Magi by the star of Bethlehem. And shined like the sun in the face of Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration. Today, at the Presentation of our Lord, Simeon speaks of Christ as a "light to reveal [Him] to the Gentiles and the glory of [His] people Israel." For in the person of Jesus, the Scripture is fulfilled, "The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who dwelt in a land of deep darkness, on them has light shone." On this occasion of Candlemas, churches traditionally bless candles for congregational use as a sign that the light of Christ shines on us. To remind us that our Lord is with us in His Word and Sacrament, we will light our candles at the reading of the Holy Gospel and the Liturgy of the Sacrament of the Altar.

1 John 1:5; John 8:12; [cf. Matthew 2:1-12; 17:1-13]; Luke 2:32

P Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C who made heaven and earth.

Psalms 124:8

P The Lord be with you.

C And with your spirit.

2 Timothy 4:22

P Let us pray.

O Lord Jesus Christ, the light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of Your people Israel, this Sunday in Epiphany You give to us a new manifestation of Your glory. You were once presented in the temple to faithful Simeon, and for those gathered here in the new temple of the Church You present Yourself to us in Word and Sacrament. As we light these candles for the reading of the Holy Gospel and the liturgy of Your Holy Sacrament, let these candles be a reminder of Your gracious presence among us as You illumine our hearts with the light of life; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

P The Lord Almighty, the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless these candles for use in His Holy Church.

C Amen.

At this time, candles are distributed to be lighted for the reading of the Holy Gospel and the Service of the Sacrament.

SERVICE OF THE WORD

INTROIT

Psalm 48:1-3, 8; antiphon: Psalm 48:9



- L** We have thought on your steadfast love, | O God,*
in the midst of your | temple.
- L** Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised*
in the holy city | of our God!
- C** His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of | all the earth,*
Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the | great King.
- L** Within her | citadels*
God has made himself known as a | fortress.
- C** As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts,
in the city | of our God,*
which God will establish for- | ever.



C Glo-ry be to the Fa-ther and to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost;



as it was in the be-gin-ning, is now, and ev-er shall be, world with-out end. A-men.

- L** We have thought on your steadfast love, | O God,*
in the midst of your | temple.

KYRIE ~ *Lord, Have Mercy*

Mark 10:47



C Lord, have mer - cy up - on us. Christ, have mer - cy up -



on us. Lord, have mer - cy up - on us.

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS ~ *Glory to God in the Highest*

Luke 2:14; John 1:29

Glory be to God on high; and on earth peace, good - will toward
men. We praise Thee, we bless Thee, we wor - ship Thee,
we glorify Thee, we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heav'n - ly King, God the Fa - ther Al - mighty.
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Je - sus Christ;
O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy up - on us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world, re - ceive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy up -
on us. For Thou only art holy; Thou on - ly art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Ho - ly Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. A - men.

P The Lord be with you.

C **And with thy spirit.**

P Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, as Your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in the substance of our flesh, grant that we may be presented to You with pure and clean hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

Sitting

PROPHECY

Malachi 3:1–4

A The Prophecy for the Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord is from Malachi, chapter three.

A Thus says the LORD God: “Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, He is coming,” says the LORD of hosts. “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 launderers’ soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the LORD an offering in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasant to the LORD, as in the days of old, as in former years,” says the LORD Almighty.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA AND VERSE

Luke 2:34b



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

L Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel.



C Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia. Al-le - lu - ia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-32

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

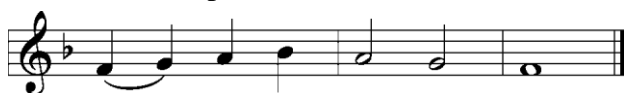


C Glo - ry be to Thee, O Lord.

P When the days of Mary's purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Jesus to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the LORD"), and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons." And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been

revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel."

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.



C Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

All may now extinguish their individual candles.

NICENE CREED

C **I believe in one God**, *Romans 10:10; Deuteronomy 6:4*
the Father Almighty, *Matthew 6:9; Exodus 6:3*
maker of heaven and earth *Genesis 1:1; John 1:1*
and of all things visible and invisible. *Colossians 1:16*

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, *Romans 10:9*
the only-begotten Son of God, *John 3:16; Matthew 16:16*
begotten of His Father before all worlds, *John 1:2*
God of God, Light of Light, *John 17:22; John 8:12; John 1:1*
very God of very God, *Colossians 2:9*
begotten, not made, *John 1:2*
being of one substance with the Father, *John 10:30*
by Whom all things were made; *Hebrews 1:2; John 1:3*
Who for us men and for our salvation *1 Timothy 2:4; Romans 3:23*
came down from heaven *John 6:41; Luke 15:20*
and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary *Luke 1:34-35*
and was made man; *John 1:14*
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. *Mark 15:25; John 19:16-18*
He suffered and was buried. *John 19:1-3; Luke 23:53*
And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures *1 Corinthians 15:4; Luke 24:6*
and ascended into heaven *Acts 1:9*
and sits at the right hand of the Father. *Acts 7:55*
And He will come again with glory *Matthew 26:64*
to judge both the living and the dead, *Acts 10:42; Matthew 3:12*
Whose kingdom will have no end. *2 Peter 1:11*

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, *John 14:26; Genesis 1:2; Acts 2:38*
the Lord and giver of life, *Genesis 1:2; John 3:6*
Who proceeds from the Father and the Son, *John 15:26*
Who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, *Matthew 3:16-17; Luke 2:14*
Who spoke by the prophets. *Ezekiel 11:5*
And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, *1 Peter 2:5; Ephesians 2:19-22*
I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, *Ephesians 4:5*
and I look for the resurrection of the dead *1 Corinthians 15:35-49; 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18*
and the life ✠ **of the world to come.** *Mark 10:29-30; Matthew 10:40-42*
Amen. *Psalm 106:48*

P How can water do such great things?

C Certainly not just water, but the word of God in and with the water does these things, along with the faith which trusts this word of God in the water. For without God’s word the water is plain water and no Baptism. But with the word of God it is a Baptism, that is, a life-giving water, rich in grace, and a washing of the new birth in the Holy Spirit, as St. Paul says in Titus, chapter three: “He saved us through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom He poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by His grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life. This is a trustworthy saying.

Titus 3:5-8

Sitting

HYMN OF THE DAY

Lutheran Service Book 519

“In His Temple Now Behold Him”



1 In His tem - ple now be - hold Him, See the long - ex -
 2 In the arms of her who bore Him, Vir - gin pure, be -
 3 Je - sus, by Your pre - sen - ta - tion, When they blessed You,



pect - ed Lord; An - cient proph - ets had fore - told Him,
 hold Him lie While His a - ged saints a - dore Him
 weak and poor, Make us see Your great sal - va - tion,



God has now ful - filled His word. Now to praise Him,
 Ere in per - fect faith they die. Al - le - lu - ia,
 Seal us with Your prom - ise sure; And pre - sent us



His re - deem - ed Shall break forth with one ac - cord.
 al - le - lu - ia! Lo, the in - car - nate God Most High!
 in Your glo - ry To Your Fa - ther, cleansed and pure.

SERMON

Standing

OFFERTORY

Psalm 51:10-12



C Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re -
new a right spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a -
way from Thy pres - ence, and take not Thy Ho - ly Spir - it
from me. Re - store un - to me the joy of Thy sal - va -
tion, and up - hold me with Thy free spir - it. A - men.

Sitting

OFFERING

The Lord's My Shepherd, I'll Not Want

William Gardner

Standing

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

[1 Timothy 2:1-4]

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.

Brief silence

P Everlasting God, we remember how Simeon faithfully trusted Your promise that he would not die until he had seen the Savior. Grant us the same trust in Christ for the forgiveness of our sins, that having received His body and blood and beholding Him by faith, we would be prepared for the day we meet Him face to face. Lord, in Your mercy,

C hear our prayer.

P Almighty God, in the depth of love for creation, You brought Your Son to the temple and placed Him in the hands of blessed St. Simeon. Abide with those placed in the Office of the Holy Ministry, that their hands would be ever ready to deliver Your gifts to Your people and their lips bold to speak Your Gospel. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious Father, You placed Your Son into the home of Mary and Joseph. Bless our homes, that they would be places where truth is taught and confessed. Like Joseph took Mary to be his wife, make all husbands courageous and compassionate in their love for their wives. As Mary submitted to Joseph, grant all wives grace for respectful submission to their husbands. Bless the work of parents as they instruct their children in Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Ruler of the nations, bless those placed in authority over us. Grant that they would serve with integrity and honor, having the welfare of all in mind. Look favorably on our country, that division, conflict and strife would give way to unity, peace and quietness. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, as Your Son has become our faithful High Priest, making propitiation for the sins of all people, hear His intercession for His Bride, the Church. Grant that the suffering, sick and sorrowful [*especially* _____] would be blessed by Your loving visitation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Father of lasting peace, show mercy to those who receive the Lord's Supper this day, that they would behold their salvation in the very body and blood of Christ given for them and, with St. Simeon, be well prepared to depart in peace according to Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Join these, our prayers and praises, with those of Your faithful people of all times and places, and unite them in the ceaseless petitions of our great High Priest, Jesus Christ, until He comes again in glory as victorious Lord of all. Through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is Yours, almighty Father, forever and ever.

C **Amen.**

SHARING OF THE PEACE

Matthew 5:22-24; Ephesians 4:1-3

Following the prayers, please greet one another in the name of the Lord by saying, "Peace be with you," as a sign of forgiveness and reconciliation in preparation for worthy reception of the Holy Supper.

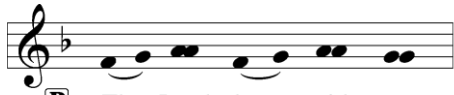
Please remain standing.

Individual candles may be lit at this time as a sign of Christ's luminous presence in the Holy Sacrament.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

PREFACE

2 Timothy 4:22; [Colossians 3:1]; [Psalm 136]



P The Lord be with you.



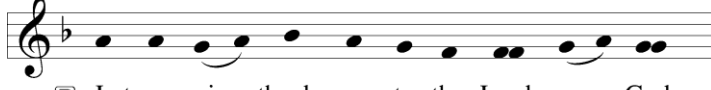
C And with thy spir - it.



P Lift up your hearts.



C We lift them up un - to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks un - to the Lord, our God.



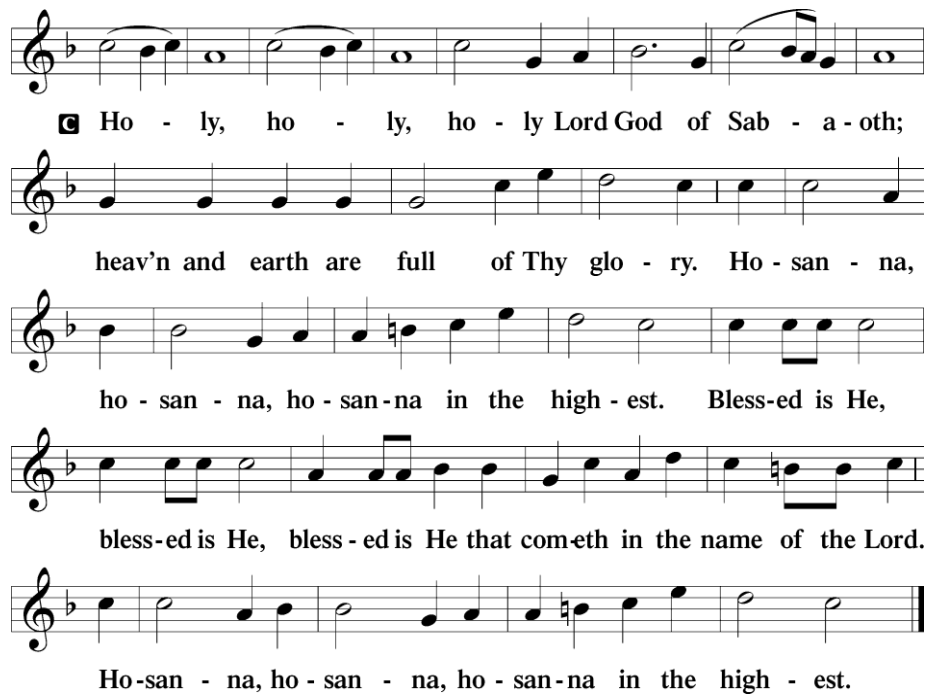
C It is meet and right so to do.

P It is truly meet, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, sharing Your eternal splendor, was presented on this day in Your temple in the substance of our human flesh and revealed by the Spirit as the glory of Israel and the light of all peoples. Therefore with angels and archangels, and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:



SANCTUS ~ *Holy, Holy, Holy*

Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord God of Sab - a - oth;
heav'n and earth are full of Thy glo - ry. Ho - san - na,
ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless-ed is He,
bless-ed is He, bless - ed is He that com-eth in the name of the Lord.
Ho-san - na, ho - san - na, ho - san - na in the high - est.

Kneeling or sitting forward.

LORD'S PRAYER

Matthew 6:9-13

- P** Lord, remember us in Your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
- C** **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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

Matthew 26; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1 Corinthians 11:23-25

P Our Lord Je-sus Christ, on the night when He was be-trayed, took bread,
and when He had giv - en thanks, He broke it and gave it to the
dis-ci-ples and said: "Take, eat; this is My [†] bod - y, which is giv-en for you.
This do in re-mem - brance of Me." In the same way al - so
He took the cup after sup - per, and when He had giv-en thanks, He gave it
to them, say - ing: "Drink of it, all of you; this cup is the new testament in
My [†] blood, which is shed for you for the for-give-ness of sins.
This do, as often as you drink it, in re-mem-brance of Me."

PAX DOMINI ~ *The Peace of the Lord*

John 20:19

P The peace of the Lord be with you al - ways.
C A - men.

AGNUS DEI ~ *Lamb of God*

John 1:29



O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak-est a-way the sin of the world, have mer-cy up - on us. O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that tak - est a-way the sin of the world, grant us Thy peace. A - men.

Sitting

All may now extinguish their individual candles.

About participation in the Lord's Supper:

The Lord's Supper is celebrated at this congregation in the confession and glad confidence that, as he says, our Lord gives into our mouths not only bread and wine but his very body and blood to eat and to drink for the forgiveness of sins and to strengthen our union with him and with one another. Our Lord invites to his table those who trust his words, repent of all sin, and set aside any refusal to forgive and love as he forgives and loves us, that they may show forth his death until he comes.

Because those who eat and drink our Lord's body and blood unworthily do so to their great harm and because Holy Communion is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar, any who are not yet instructed, in doubt, or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the sacrament, are asked first to speak with the pastor. [Those coming to the altar for a blessing rather than Holy Communion are asked to cross their arms over their chest.]

For further study, see Matthew 5:23f.; 10:32f.; 18:15-35; 26:26-29; 1 Cor. 11:17-34.

*(Above is the "Model Communion Card Statement" from *Theology and Practice of the Lord's Supper*, a 1983 report by the Commission on Theology and Church Relations (CTCR) of The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod.)*

MUSIC DURING THE DISTRIBUTION

Lutheran Service Book 624

"The Infant Priest Was Holy Born"



1 The in - fant Priest was ho - ly born For us un -
2 This great High Priest in hu - man flesh Was i - con
3 The ho - ly Lamb un - daunt - ed came To God's own
4 But death would not the vic - tor be Of Him who



ho - ly and for - lorn; From flesh - ly tem - ple
of God's righ - teous - ness. His hal - lowed touch brought
al - tar lit with flame; While weep - ing an - gels
hung up - on the tree. He leads us to the



forth came He, A - noint - ed from e - ter - ni - ty.
sanc - ti - ty; His hand re - moved im - pu - ri - ty.
hid their eyes, This Priest be - came a sac - ri - fice.
Ho - ly Place With - in the veil, be - fore God's face.

**5 The veil is torn, our Priest we see,
As at the rail on bended knee
Our hungry mouths from Him receive
The bread of immortality.**

**6 The body of God's Lamb we eat,
A priestly food and priestly meat;
On sin-parched lips the chalice pours
His quenching blood that life restores.**

**7 With cherubim and seraphim
Our voices join the endless hymn,
And "Holy, holy, holy" sing
To Christ, God's Lamb, our Priest and King.**



1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
 2 I want to see the bright-ness of God.
 3 I'm look - ing for the com - ing of Christ.



I want to fol - low Je - sus.
 I want to look at Je - sus.
 I want to be with Je - sus.



God set the stars to give light to the world.
 Clear Sun of Righ - teous - ness, shine on my path,
 When we have run with pa - tience the race,



The star of my life is Je - sus.
 And show me the way to the Fa - ther.
 We shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In Him there is no dark - ness at all.



The night and the day are both a - like.



The Lamb is the light of the cit - y of God.



Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

NUNC DIMITTIS ~ *Song of Simeon*

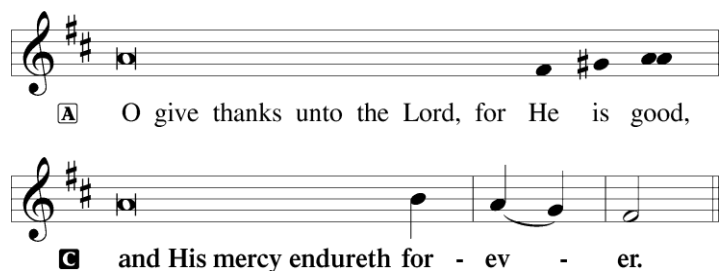
Luke 2:29-32



Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant de - part in peace ac-
cord-ing to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast pre - pared be - fore the face of all people,
a light to light - en the Gen - tiles and the glo - ry of Thy
peo-ple Is - ra - el. Glo - ry be to the Father and
to the Son and to the Ho-ly Ghost; as it was in the beginning,
is now, and ev - er shall be, world without end. A - men.

THANKSGIVING

Psalm 107:1



O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,
and His mercy endureth for - ev - er.

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

P Let us pray.

O God the Father, the fountain and source of all goodness, who in loving-kindness sent Your only-begotten Son into the flesh, we thank You that for His sake You have given us pardon and peace in this Sacrament, and we ask You not to forsake Your children but always to rule our hearts and minds by Your Holy Spirit that we may be enabled constantly to serve You; through Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C Amen.

SALUTATION AND BENEDICAMUS

2 Timothy 4:22, Psalm 103:1



P The Lord be with you.



C And with thy spir - it.



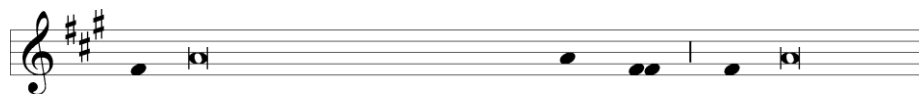
A Bless we the Lord.



C Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

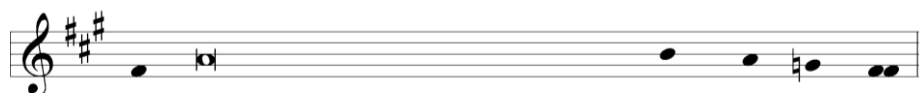
Numbers 6:24-26



P The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make



His face shine upon you and be gra - cious un - to you.



The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and † give you peace.



C A-men, a-men, a - men.

RECESSIONAL HYMN

Lutheran Service Book 412

"The People That in Darkness Sat"



1 The peo - ple that in dark - ness sat A glo - rious
2 To hail Thee, Sun of Righ - teous - ness, The gath - 'ring
3 To us a Child of hope is born, To us a
4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace, The Ev - er -



light have seen; The light has shined on them who long In
na - tions come; They joy as when the reap - ers bear Their
Son is giv'n, And on His shoul - der ev - er rests All
last - ing Lord, The Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - or, The



shades of death have been, In shades of death have been.
har - vest trea - sures home, Their har - vest trea - sures home.
pow'r in earth and heav'n, All pow'r in earth and heav'n.
God by all a - dored, The God by all a - dored.

**5 His righteous government and pow'r
Shall over all extend;**

**On judgment and on justice based,
His reign shall have no end,
His reign shall have no end.**

**6 Lord Jesus, reign in us, we pray,
And make us Thine alone,
Who with the Father ever art
And Holy Spirit, one,
And Holy Spirit, one.**

Individual candles may be taken home or placed in the designated box located in the church narthex.

POSTLUDE

God Moves in a Mysterious Way

William Cowper



SERVING IN OUR WORSHIP

Presiding Minister

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

Altar Assistant(s)

J.P. Morr, *Elder*

Emilie Schoellen, *Acolyte*

Jude Miller, *Gospel Bearer*

Organist

Laura Darden, *Director of Music*

Cantor

Briana Darden

Altar Guild

Lucie Woolery/Kati & Hank Durden

Usher(s)

Isaac Beckman/Joel May

(Ryan Licht)

SERVING NEXT WEEK

Presiding Minister

The Rev. David V. Miller, *Pastor*

Altar Assistant(s)

J.P. Morr, *Elder*

Emilie Schoellen, *Acolyte*

Jude Miller, *Gospel Bearer*

Organist

Laura Darden, *Director of Music*

Cantor

Briana Darden

Altar Guild

Linda Rathje

Usher(s)

Isaac Beckman/Joel May

(Ryan Licht)

L

OVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, WITH ALL YOUR SOUL,
AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND. THIS IS THE GREATEST AND MOST IMPORTANT
COMMANDMENT. THE SECOND IS LIKE IT: LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS
YOURSELF.”

-JESUS CHRIST (MT. 22:37-39)

THIS WEEK'S CALENDAR

Sunday 2/2	Purification of Mary and Presentation of Our Lord Nursery available Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>The History of the Kingdom of Israel</i> Holy Mass Fellowship Hour	8:30 – 11:30 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 10:00 AM Following Holy Mass
Monday 2/3	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Tuesday 2/4	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Wednesday 2/5	Open Arms LCDC Church Office Open Arms LCDC Chapel	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM 10:15 AM
Thursday 2/6	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Friday 2/7	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	7:00 AM – 6:30 PM 9:30 AM – 2:30 PM
Saturday 2/8	Open Arms LCDC Church Office	Closed Closed
Sunday 2/9	The Transfiguration of Our Lord Nursery available Children's Sunday School Adult Bible Study: <i>The History of the Kingdom of Israel</i> Holy Mass Fellowship Hour Open Arms Board Meeting Super Bowl Party	8:30 – 11:30 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 9:00 – 9:45 AM 10:00 AM Following Holy Mass Following Fellowship Hour 6:00 PM

LOVING THE LORD

✠ **Adult Bible Study: *The History of the Kingdom of Israel***

Sundays at 9:00 A.M.
Church fellowship hall

A barren woman's miraculous pregnancy. God passed over for a human king. The wicked sons of a righteous prophet. A king's crimes of murder and adultery. A son's coup against his father's throne. A prophet's persecution. The Word of God lost and found again. These are just a handful of what you will encounter in this provocative Bible study covering the history of the kingdom of Israel. We began with 1 and 2 Samuel, now we will pick up with 1 Kings, as we continue the turbulent history of God's people and their Lord's unwavering faithfulness.

✠ **Small Group Bible Study: *The Books of the Church***

Sunday February 23 at 3:30 P.M.: Judith; Wisdom of Solomon; Tobit
Sunday March 23 at 3:30 P.M.: Ecclesiasticus (Sirach); Baruch; The Letter of Jeremiah
Sunday April 27 at 3:30 P.M.: 1 & 2 Maccabees
Pastor Miller's home (see church directory for address)

God has blessed us with His inspired Word in the canon of Holy Scripture. From Genesis to Revelation, God has given us everything we need to establish the doctrine of His Church. Nevertheless, there are ecclesiastical texts that, while not inspired by the Holy Spirit, are still helpful in recording the history of God's people and clarifying biblical contexts. Even Martin Luther retained many of these texts in his German translation of the Bible. Lutherans since have also included them in their daily lectionary. And the Jews in Jesus' day made frequent use of them in their Septuagint (Greek translation of the Old Testament).

This might explain why the Bible itself makes references to them. For example, when Jesus calls Himself "the Light of the world" (John 8:12), it's in the context of Hanukkah which originated in 1 Maccabees. And the author of Hebrews refers to Tobit when he says, "some have entertained angels unawares" (13:2), and 2 Maccabees when Hebrews says, "women received back their dead, raised to life again" (11:35). Because these texts have been judged as worthwhile reading in the Church, yet not to detract from God's inspired Word in Sunday Adult Bible Class, we would like to begin a supplemental Small Group Bible Study.

Concordia Publishing House (LCMS) has compiled *The Apocrypha: The Lutheran Edition with Notes*. It is available for purchase at \$44.99 through its website (cph.org). This is a nice companion volume to your *Lutheran Study Bible*. However, a bare bones version of the texts is also available at no cost online via apocrypha.org.

✦ Sermons on YouTube

Missed a sermon? Had to walk out halfway through? Want to hear it again? No problem! Most sermons are now being recorded and posted to an official YouTube channel for you to watch at your leisure. Simply type in <https://www.youtube.com/@lcaatlanta> and you will be directed to the YouTube page where you have access to Pastor Miller's sermons online. Sermons are posted in the order of the date they were preached.

LOVING OUR NEIGHBOR

✦ LCMS Disaster Response: Support Victims of the California Wildfires

The wildfires that began in Los Angeles County, California, earlier this week continue to inflict widespread damage and suffering throughout the Los Angeles area. The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) is in close communication with the LCMS Pacific Southwest District (PSD) regarding the response.

As with past disasters, LCMS Disaster Response will walk alongside the PSD and its congregations to assist with the response. That response consists not only of spiritual support in the form of prayers and spiritual resources to assist church workers as they care for their congregations, but practical support in the form of ongoing counsel and advice, and material support in the form of supplies, grants and volunteers.

If you would like to financially support the church's response to wildfires in California, please prayerfully consider a contribution to:

LCMS Pacific Southwest District (<https://www.psd-lcms.org/disaster-response>)

LCMS Disaster Response (<https://www.lcms.org/givenow/wildfires>)

If you would prefer to mail a check, please send it to The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod, or LCMS, at P.O. Box 66861, St. Louis, MO 63166-6861. On the memo line, write "Disaster Response—Strategic Use (TR9206)" or "Disaster Response—Wildfire (NM8020-26020)." For other options, contact Mission Advancement by calling 800-930-4438 or emailing mission.advancement@lcms.org.

In addition, please continue to keep all who are suffering the effects of these fires, and all who are offering assistance, in your prayers.

✦ **Super Bowl Party**

Sunday February 9 at 6:00 P.M.
Church fellowship hall

Join us for food, fellowship, and football! The big game between the Chiefs and Eagles is a great excuse to get together and have some fun. In addition to streaming the game live, there will be games, raffles, and activities for the whole family. Pizza and wings will be made available. All are welcome to bring a salad, side, or dessert to share. Also, you're welcome to bring a drink of your choice. See you at the Super Bowl!

✦ **Congregational Potluck: Dishes We Love**

Sunday February 23, following Mass
Church fellowship hall

February is the month of Valentine's Day, so what could be more appropriate than sharing a dish you love with the church family you love! After all, the best food is always made with a special ingredient: "love." Everything's better with a little added TLC. All are welcome then to bring a main course, side, salad, drink or dessert for all to enjoy. We request that persons with the last name M-Z please plan to stay and help clean up after the event. Thank you!

✦ **Book Club: *Travels with Charley***

Sunday March 9 at 3:30 P.M.
Tom & Linda's Home (see church directory for address)

Read *Travels with Charley* by John Steinbeck (author of *The Grapes of Wrath* and *Of Mice and Men*) to discuss with the Book Club. New attendees are always welcome!

Here's what some people are saying about *Travels with Charley*:

An intimate journey across America, as told by one of its most beloved writers

To hear the speech of the real America, to smell the grass and the trees, to see the colors and the light — these were John Steinbeck's goals as he set out, at the age of fifty-eight, to rediscover the country he had been writing about for so many years.

With Charley, his French poodle, Steinbeck drives the interstates and the country roads, dines with truckers, encounters bears at Yellowstone and old friends in San Francisco. Along the way he reflects on the American character, racial hostility, the particular form of American loneliness he finds almost everywhere, and the unexpected kindness of strangers.

LIFTING HOLY HANDS

Celebrations

Birthdays:

- + None this week

Rebirthdays (Baptismal Anniversaries):

- + None this week

Wedding Anniversaries:

- + None this week

Membership Anniversaries:

- + None this week

Recent Requests

For comfort, health, and recovery:

- + Bill Bigelow (brother of Anne Bigelow)
- + Hellen Kalugendo
- + Betty Licht
- + Donald Licht
- + Leslie Micek (daughter of Jan Knehans), and all those affected by the California wildfires
- + Rachel Preus (friend of Jeni Miller)

For those requesting special prayers:

- + The health and wellbeing of all the unborn, especially the child of Isaac & Bekah Beckman.
- + Faith Lutheran Church and School in Marietta, that God would provide them with a faithful pastor and principal.
- + Family and friends of Virginia Johnson (aunt of Betty Licht), for peace through their risen Lord Jesus Christ.
- + Family and friends of Lois Vick (mother of Darlene Beckman's friend), for hope in the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

Ongoing Requests

For family and friends of the congregation:

- + David Abee (brother of Nancy Grossberg)
- + Will Edinger (friend of the Beckmans)
- + Zachary Harmon (grandson of Steve and Patty Harmon, friends of Ascension)
- + Ruth Henry
- + Dee Keiger (sister of Eileen Buehl)
- + Michelle Levell (mother of Margaret Levell)
- + Michelle Noel
- + Heidi Schnakenberg (niece of Clara Smith)
- + Charles Schnell (former member), for his formation as a pastor.
- + Ed & Jackie Sherwood (grandfather and grandmother of Bekah Beckman)
- + Evan Woolery (son of Tracy and Lucie Woolery)

For the leaders of Church and state:

- + Director Barbara Collins-Hopkins & Open Arms Board
- + English District Bishop Jeffrey G. Miskus & all district officials
- + LCMS President Matthew Harrison & all synodical officials
- + Pastor David Miller & Church Board of Lutheran Church of the Ascension
- + Rev. Dr. Jonathan & Dcs. Cheryl Naumann, missionaries to Dominican Republic
- + President Donald Trump & all U.S. government officials

THEREFORE, THE SACRAMENT [OF THE ALTAR] IS GIVEN AS A DAILY PASTURE AND SUSTENANCE, THAT FAITH MAY REFRESH AND STRENGTHEN ITSELF [PSALM 23:1-3] SO THAT IT WILL NOT FALL BACK IN SUCH A BATTLE [AGAINST THE WORLD, THE FLESH AND THE DEVIL], BUT BECOME EVER STRONGER AND STRONGER. THE NEW LIFE MUST BE GUIDED SO THAT IT CONTINUALLY INCREASES AND PROGRESSES. BUT IT MUST SUFFER MUCH OPPOSITION.

-LARGE CATECHISM. PART V. THE SACRAMENT OF THE ALTAR, 69-70.



THE LUTHERAN
CHURCH OF THE
ASCENSION

4000 ROSWELL ROAD · ATLANTA, GA 30342
404-255-0224 · 404-256-0037 FAX
WWW.ASCENSION-LCMS.COM