



God's love, Our service.

St. Mark's Lutheran Church

Sunday, February 2, 2025

Presentation of Our Lord

INTRODUCTION

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.

WELCOME/ANNOUNCEMENTS

The February Noisy Offering collection will go to the UN Disaster Relief Fund, chosen by our Confirmation class.

The flowers today are from Susan & Bob Fetsch, in celebration of Ruth Ann Hackler's birthday.

Happy Birthday, Ruth Ann!



Upcoming Commemorations

Presentation of Our Lord

Forty days after the birth of Jesus we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace," as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel.

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,
our creator,
our protector,
our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,

you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

**Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.**

We ignore the needs of our neighbors;

we resist your call to oppose injustice;

we give in to scarcity and fear;

we assume the worst about one another.

Cleanse us from our faults

and release us from their grasp.

Show us your lovingkindness.

Restore our hearts and repair your world,

that we may live in Christ's ways.

Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance:

“Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine.”

In ✝ Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,

live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN ELW 631

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

- 1 Love divine, all loves excelling,
Joy of heav'n, to earth come down!
Fix in us thy humble dwelling,
all thy faithful mercies crown.
Jesus, thou art all compassion,
pure, unbounded love thou art;
visit us with thy salvation,
enter ev'ry trembling heart.
- 2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy loving Spirit
into ev'ry troubled breast;
let us all in thee inherit;
let us find thy promised rest.
Take away the love of sinning;
Alpha and Omega be;
end of faith, as its beginning,
set our hearts at liberty.

- 3 Come, Almighty, to deliver;
let us all thy life receive;
suddenly return, and never,
nevermore thy temples leave.
Thee we would be always blessing,
serve thee as thy hosts above,
pray, and praise thee without ceasing,
glory in thy perfect love.
- 4 Finish then thy new creation,
pure and spotless let us be;
let us see thy great salvation
perfectly restored in thee!
Changed from glory into glory,
till in heav'n we take our place,
till we cast our crowns before thee,
lost in wonder, love, and praise!

Text: Charles Wesley, 1707-1788

Greeting page 98

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.**

KYRIE Pg. 98

HYMN OF PRAISE page 101

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty and ever-living God,

your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Amen.

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 descendants of Levi who minister in the temple at Jerusalem.

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.

The Word of The Lord.

Thanks Be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 84

How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord. (Ps. 84:1)

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

² **My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

³ Even the sparrow has found a home, 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.

⁴ **Happy are they who dwell in your house!
They will always be praising you.**

⁵ Happy are the people whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

⁶ **Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a place of springs,
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.**

⁷ They will climb from height to height,
and the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

⁸ **LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;**

give ear, O God of Jacob. R

⁹ Behold our defender, O God;
and look upon the face of your anointed.

¹⁰ **For one day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.
I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than dwell in
the tents of the wicked.**

¹¹ For the LORD God is both sun and shield, bestowing grace and glory;
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: Hebrews 2:14-18

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.

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 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.

Thanks Be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION page 102

Holy Gospel, according to Luke, the 2nd Chapter.

Glory to You, O Lord.

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.

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.

CHILDREN'S SERMON Pastor Kris Dietzen

SERMON Pastor Kris Dietzen

The Scout Law

Leader:

The Scout Law is a guiding light to millions of boys and young adults throughout the world today, but the principles of the law have been brought to us from ancient days.

You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. (Exodus 20:16)

Scouts:

A Scout is trustworthy.

Leader:

He who is faithful in a very little is faithful also in much; and he who is dishonest in a very little is dishonest also in much. (Luke 16:10)

Scouts:

A Scout is loyal.

Leader:

You shall not take vengeance or bear any grudge against the sons of your own people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself. ... (Leviticus 19:18)

For the poor will never cease out of the land; therefore I command you, You shall open wide your hand to your brother, to thy needy and to the poor, in the land. (Deuteronomy 15:11)

Scouts:

A Scout is helpful.

Leader:

Love one another with brotherly affection; outdo one another in showing honor. (Romans 12:10)

Behold, how good and pleasant it is when brothers dwell in unity! (Psalm 133)

Scouts:

A Scout is friendly.

Leader:

Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for edifying, as fits the occasion, that it may impart grace to those who hear. (Ephesians 4:29)

Scouts:

A Scout is courteous.

Leader:

A righteous man has regard for the life of his beast, but the mercy of the wicked is cruel. (Proverbs 12:10)

Scouts:

A Scout is kind.

Leader:

Children obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. Honor thy first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee and thou mayest live long on the earth. (Ephesians 6:1-3)

Scouts:

A Scout is obedient.

Leader:

A glad heart makes a cheerful countenance, but by sorrow of heart the spirit is broken. The mind of him who has understanding seeks knowledge, but the mouths of fools feed on folly. All the days of the afflicted are evil, but a cheerful heart has a continual feast. (Proverbs 15:13-15)

Scouts:

A Scout is cheerful.

Leader:

Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. Without having any chief, officer or ruler, she prepares her food in summer, and gathers her sustenance in harvest. (Proverbs 6:6-8)

Scouts:

A Scout is thrifty.

Leader:

Be strong and of good courage, do not fear or be in dread of them: for it is the Lord your God who goes with you; he will not fail you or forsake you. (Deuteronomy 31:6)

Scouts:

A Scout is brave.

Leader:

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord? And who shall stand in his holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure heart, who does not lift up his soul to what is

false, and does not swear deceitfully. He will receive blessing from the Lord, and vindication from the God of his salvation. (Psalm 24:3-5)

Scouts:

A Scout is clean.

Leader:

And you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength. This is the first commandment. (Mark 12:30)

Scouts:

A Scout is reverent, he is reverent toward God. He is faithful in his religious duties and respects the convictions of others in matters of custom and religion.

On My Honor

Leader:

All the paths of the Lord are steadfast love and faithfulness, for those who keep his covenant and his testimonies. (Psalm 25:10)

Scouts:

On my honor I will do my best to do my duty to God and my country.

Leader:

Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord the people whom he has chosen as his heritage. (Psalm 33:12)

My son, do not forget my teaching, but let your heart keep my commandments; for length of days and years of life and abundant welfare will they give you. (Proverbs 3:1-2)

Scouts:

On my honor I will do my best to obey the Scout Law—and the Law is this: A Scout is trustworthy, loyal, helpful, friendly, courteous, kind, obedient, cheerful, thrifty, brave, clean, and reverent.

Leader:

And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.” This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. (Matthew 22:37-39)

Let your light shine before men, that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven. (Matthew 5:16)

Scouts:

On my honor I will do my best to help other people at other times.

Leader:

Remember also the Golden Text: And as you wish that men would do to you, do so to them. (Luke 6:31)

Do you know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? If any one destroys God's temple, God will destroy him. For God's temple is holy, and that temple you are. (I Corinthians 3:16-17)

Scouts:

On my honor, I will do my best to keep myself mentally awake.

Leader:

Wisdom is the principal thing: Do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. Get wisdom; get insight. (Proverbs 4:5)

How can a young man keep his way pure? By guarding it according to thy word. (Psalm 119:9)

Scouts:

On my honor, I will do my best to keep myself morally straight.

Leader:

Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; let him return to the Lord, that he may have mercy on him, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. (Isaiah 55:7)

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW 815**I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light**

- 1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

- 2 I want to see the brightness of God.

I want to look at Jesus.

Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*

- 3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.

I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
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APOSTLES CREED

**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 to the dead.***

**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.**

Hear Our Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray for Scouts, for Scouters, and for all people. Lord, in your mercy,

Scouts:

Hear our prayer.

Leader:

Because we have failed in the trust others placed in us, we pray for forgiveness and for renewal to be trustworthy. Lord, in your mercy,

Scouts:

Hear our prayer.

Leader:

For strength to be loyal to our calling in baptism as his disciples in the world. Lord, in your mercy,

Scouts:

Hear our prayer.

Leader:

For forgiveness when we saw the need to help and passed that need by, when we failed to ask if we could be helpful to a friend or a stranger. Lord, in your mercy,

Scouts:

Hear our prayer.

Leader:

For the spirit to be friendly to all people and even to those who are unfriendly to us. Lord, in your mercy,

Scouts:

Hear our prayer.

Leader:

For the gift of courtesy to all people but especially to the elderly, the disabled, and little children. Lord in your mercy,

Scouts:

Hear our prayer.

Leader:

For a heart that rejoices in being kind to people, to animals, and to earth on which we live. Lord, in your mercy,

Scouts:

Hear our prayer.

Leader:

For the will to discipline ourselves to be obedient to the will of our God, and not to our selfish desires. Lord, in your mercy,

Scouts:

Hear our prayer.

Leader:

For a cheerful spirit to see us through disappointing events in our lives, for a faith that believes God will bring some good even from events that cause us pain and sadness. Lord, in your mercy,

Scouts:

Hear our prayer.

Leader:

For an appreciation that all that we have is the gift of our gracious God, for a mind and a heart that will be thrifty in managing the resources God has entrusted to our care. Lord, in your mercy,

Scouts:

Hear our prayer.

Leader:

For the courage not to be afraid of doing what is right and to be brave in working for justice. Lord, in your mercy,

Scouts:

Hear our prayer.

Leader:

For the will to work to keep clean our minds, our hearts, and our land. Lord, in your mercy,

Scouts:

Hear our prayer.

Leader:

For the gift of reverence for God who values all that he has created; for reverence for people, for animal life, for the earth and all its resources—all precious in God's sight. Lord, in your mercy,

Scouts:

Hear our prayer.

Leader:

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all the people and all the needs we bring before you in our prayers, trusting in your mercy, through our Lord, Jesus Christ.

Scouts:

Amen.

PEACE

In Jesus Christ, God has made his peace with us.

The peace of the Lord be with you always,

And also with you

Let us share God's peace with one another.

OFFERING/ NOISY OFFERING

OFFERTORY pg. 182

GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,

And so, with all the choirs of angels,
with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn.

Holy, Holy pg. 108

WORDS OF INSTITUTION LORD'S PRAYER

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength.
Come, eat this meal of gladness.

COMMUNION

COMMUNION SONG pg. 112



COMMUNION HYMNS ELW 779

Amazing Grace, How Sweet the Sound

- 1 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
that saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found;
was blind, but now I see.
- 2 'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
and grace my fears relieved;
how precious did that grace appear
the hour I first believed!
- 3 Through many dangers, toils, and snares
I have already come;
'tis grace has brought me safe thus far,

and grace will lead me home.

- 4 The Lord has promised good to me;
his word my hope secures;
he will my shield and portion be
as long as life endures.
- 5 When we've been there ten thousand
years,
bright shining as the sun,
we've no less days to sing God's praise
than when we'd first begun.

Text: John Newton, 1725-1807, alt., sts. 1-4; anonymous, st. 5

The Day You Gave Us, Lord, Has Ended

1 The day you gave us, Lord, has ended;
the darkness falls at your behest.
To you our morning hymns ascended;
your praise shall hallow now our rest.

2 We thank you that your church, unsleeping
while earth rolls onward into light,
through all the world its watch is keeping,
and never rests by day or night.

3 As to each continent and island
the dawn leads on another day,

the voice of prayer is never silent,
nor dies the strain of praise away.

4 The sun, here having set, is waking
your children under western skies,
and hour by hour, as day is breaking,
fresh hymns of thankful praise arise.

5 So be it, Lord; your realm shall never,
like earth's proud empires, pass away;
but stand and grow and rule forever,
till all your creatures own your sway.

Text: John Ellerton, 1826-1893, alt.

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen and keep you in his grace.
Amen.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God,
at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody your good news
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray,
Amen.

SENDING

Draw your church together, O God, into one great company of disciples, together
following our teacher Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving in
Christ's mission to the world, and together witnessing to your love wherever you
will send us; for the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord.

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God

✠ bless you with joy,
anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love.

Amen.

RECESSIONAL HYMN ELW 537

On Our Way Rejoicing

1 On our way rejoicing
gladly let us go.
Christ our Lord has conquered;
vanquished is the foe.
Christ without, our safety;
Christ within, our joy;
who, if we be faithful,
can our hope destroy?

Refrain

On our way rejoicing;
as we forward move,

hearken to our praises,
O blest God of love!

2 Unto God the Father
joyful songs we sing;
unto God the Savior
thankful hearts we bring;
unto God the Spirit
bow we and adore,
on our way rejoicing
now and evermore. *Refrain*

Text: John S. B. Monsell, 1811-1875, alt.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.



PRAYER REQUESTS & CONDOLENCES

Contact Janet Anderson at 913.638-9331 to add names to the prayer chain or to join the prayer chain.

Please contact the church office to make changes to this list.

St. Mark's members:

Donna & Ron Frenzl,
Donna Nichols,
Pete Cagle,
Linda Cagle,
Janet Nichols,
Chuck Vandenberg,
Susan & Bill Roberts,
George McElroy,
Janet Schmidt,

Family & friends:

Liz Sutlick , friend of Amy Hackler,
Karis , granddaughter of Jim & Mary Weeg,
Family of Craig Aldag, uncle of Ali & Chuck Luin,
Great uncle of Ethan Luin & Zoey Biggins (Luke & Cody)
Eric Ohman, family friend of Joni & Steve Benz,
Family of Scott Toth, associate of Chris McMullin,
Marilou Osborne, cousin of Joni Benz,
Jim Severson, friend of Joe VanKempen,
Carol, stepmom of Tom Bryer,
Brad, son of Jim & Mary Weeg,
Liz Zybko, friend of Pam Wilson,
Jules Rudigier, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,
Tony Berg, son of Arlyn & Jan Berg,
El Haddad, Semaan, and Nassar families & friends in
Lebanon, extended family & friends of Fetsch family,
Marlin Weidler, friend of St. Mark's,
Donna Trester, Mother of Linda Cagle,
Peggy, cousin of Jane Scherrer,
Kerry O'Rourke, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,
Fran Besser, friend of Joni & Steve Benz,
Mindy Gustus, friend of Mark Schmideskamp,
Everett, friend of sister-in-law of Janet Anderson,
Jessica Parker, great-niece of Jane Stresewki,
Tammy Strampe, Daughter-in-law of Barbara
Strampe,
Bob Bergene, friend of Clarence Linsey,
Doug & Kathy Thee, cousins of Barbara Strampe,
Sheryl Thompson, friend of Pete Cagle,
Scott Miller, son-in-law of Jane & Mike Scherrer,
Harry Cagle, brother of Pete Cagle,

Janice, sister of Jenny Wheeler,
Dr. Owens, friend of Kathy Hinkle,
Mike and Susan Becker, friends of St. Mark's,
Elizabeth Applebaum, friend of Kathy Hinkle
Stan, friend of Pete Cagle,
Chris, brother of Pete Cagle,
Joetta Eagle & family, friends of Linda Bayer,
Kara Campbell, niece of Pete Cagle,
Candy, sister of Tom Bryer,
Donna McCarthy, friend of Ginny Schwartzbeck,
Gary Stepenson, Uncle of Jason Howe,
Rowan Espey, family of Barbara Strampe,
Rebeka Gillette, friend of Janet Nichols,
Jackie Warriner, Sister-in-law of Linda Good-
heart,
Don Thun, Father of Matt Thun,
Matt Warriner, Great Nephew of Linda Good-
heart,
Joanne, Amy Fisher's sister,
Neil Warriner, Linda Goodheart's brother,
Bruce Dawson, friend of the Goodhearts,
Kirk Wheeler, cousin of Verna McMullin,
All People affected by natural disasters

Those in the Military:

A.J. Simons, nephew of Stan and Karen Thomp-
son,