

FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EPIPHANY
The Presentation of the Lord
February 2nd, 2025 – 10 AM

WELCOME



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.

✝ Preacher – The Rev. Diane Burkland

✝ Officiant – Pr. Rudy Schneider

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

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.

God of life, You promise good news of great joy for all people and call us to be messengers of your peace, We confess that too often we hoard our joy, our resources, and our security. . We many times neglect the needs of our neighbors and push aside the groaning of creation. Have mercy on us. Where we are self-centered, open our hearts. Where we are reluctant, give us courage. Where we are cynical, restore our trust. Renew us with your grace and give us again the hope of eternal life in you. Amen.

In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for you, and for his sake, God forgives you all your sins. Live now as the forgiven child of God and allow the Holy Spirit to lead you into all righteousness. **Amen.**

OPENING HYMN: ELW#417 – In the Temple Now Behold Him

Prayer of the Day - Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. **Amen.**

GOD'S HOLY WORD

FIRST READING: Malachi 3: 1 - 4

¹See, 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. ²But 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; ³he 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. ⁴Then 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 84

¹How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

²**My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

³Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

⁴**Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.**

⁵Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

⁶**As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain also covers it with pools.**

⁷They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

⁸**O Lord GOD of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob!**

⁹Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed.

¹⁰**For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.**

¹¹For the Lord GOD is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor. No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly.

¹²**O LORD of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.**



HOLY GOSPEL

A Reading from the Holy Gospel of Luke 2: 22 - 40; **Glory to You, O Lord!**

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

²⁵Now 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. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided 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, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, ²⁹"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

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

³⁶There 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, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty- four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At 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.

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

The Gospel of the Lord...**Praise to You, Lord Jesus Christ!**

SERMON – They were Amazed

Rev. Diane Burkland

HYMN: ELW#715 – Christ Be our Light

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. *A brief silence.*

God of eternal wisdom, we pray for your church, which is being transformed by your word. Bless the church with your wisdom and guidance. Let us notice and take part in the new thing you are doing. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Your creation sustains us and all living creatures. Grant us humility to acknowledge the ways we bring harm to the earth. Grant us courage to make effective change so that all lands and living things prosper. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Embolden leaders of nations, corporations, and all in authority, that they lovingly tend those in their charge. Help them to respond to all who cry out in need. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

Provide for those whose hunger runs deep due to isolation, loneliness, or illness. Grace those from our families and community that we now name silently in our hearts, or out loud; with our prayers and your blessings. *(Please name silently or out loud).* Send your Spirit so that all are filled with your presence and experience welcome from their communities. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for the children and young people in our congregations. May their voices be celebrated. Give them a place of honor and value among us. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We remember those who have gone before us. Let their faithful example continue to bear witness to us all. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people. **Amen.**

OFFERING & OFFERING PRAYER

Heavenly Father, you have given us riches beyond measure. We can only return a small portion of what we owe you but we ask, Lord, that you will bless our offerings and use them wisely in your service and for your glory. **Amen.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

Holy, mighty, and merciful Lord, heaven and earth are full of your glory.

In great love, you sent to us Jesus, your Son, who reached out to heal the sick and suffering, who preached good news to the poor, and who, on the cross opened his arms to all.

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.

Remembering, therefore, his death, resurrection, and ascension, we await his coming in glory. And unto that time, we come before you praying;

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

OUR TIME OF COMMUNION WITH THE LORD!

COMMUNION HYMN 1: On Bended Knee

On bended knee I come, with a humble heart I come,
Bowing down before Your holy throne.
Lifting holy hands to You, as I pledge my love anew,
I worship You in spirit, I worship you in truth,
Make my life a holy praise unto You.

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COMMUNION HYMN 2: O Lord, You're Beautiful

O Lord, You're beautiful, Your face is all I seek;
And when Your eyes are on this child, your grace abounds to me.

O Lord, You're wonderful, Your touch is all I need;
And when Your hand is on this child, Your healing I receive.

O Lord, please light the fire, That once burned bright and clear,
Replace the lamp of my first love that burns with holy fear.

O Lord, You're beautiful, Your face is all I seek;
And when Your eyes are on this child, Your grace abounds to me.

By Keith Green; c.1980 Ears to Hear Music, Adm. Capitol CMG Publishing; CCLI# 14514



