

February 2, 2025: Presentation of our Lord / Candlemas

Confession and 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.

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 to you: "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.**

Gathering Song *Love Divine, All Loves Excelling* (ELW 631)



1 Love di-vine, all loves ex-cel-ling, Joy of heav'n, to
2 Breathe, oh, breathe thy lov-ing Spir-it in-to ev-'ry
3 Come, Al-might-y, to de-liv-er; let us all thy
4 Fin-ish then thy new cre-a-tion, pure and spot-less



earth come down! Fix in us thy hum-ble dwell-ing, all thy
trou-bled breast; let us all in thee in-her-it; let us
life re-ceive; sud-den-ly re-turn, and nev-er, nev-er-
let us be; let us see thy great sal-va-tion per-fect-



faith-ful mer-cies crown. Je-sus, thou art all com-pas-sion,
find thy prom-ised rest. Take a-way the love of sin-ning;
more thy tem-ples leave. Thee we would be al-ways bless-ing,
ly re-stored in thee! Changed from glo-ry in-to glo-ry,



pure, un-bound-ed love thou art; vis-it us with
Al-pha and O-me-ga be; end of faith, as
serve thee as thy hosts a-bove, pray, and praise thee
till in heav'n we take our place, till we cast our



thy sal-va-tion, en-ter ev-'ry trem-bling heart.
its be-gin-ning, set our hearts at lib-er-ty.
with-out ceas-ing, glo-ry in thy per-fect love.
crowns be-fore thee, lost in won-der, love, and praise!

Kyrie

Refrain

Assistant: *Congregation:*



In peace, in peace, let us pray to the Lord, have mer-cy,




to Verses
Christ, have mer - cy, Lord, have mer - cy.

Assistant: For the Reign of God, and for peace throughout the world, for the unity of all . . . (to Refrain)


Assistant: For your people here, who have come to give you praise, for the strength to live your Word . . . (to Refrain)

Assistant:



Help, save and de - fend us, O

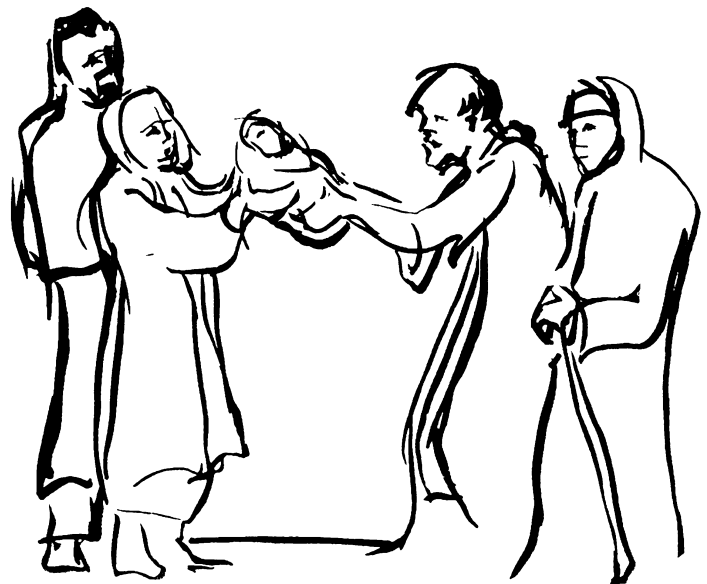
Congregation:



God. A - men.

Text and Music: Marty Haugen, © 1990, GIA Publications, Inc.

Guided by the Spirit, Simeon
came into the temple,
and when the parents brought
in the child Jesus, Simeon
took him in his arms and
praised God



Hymn of Praise

Refrain

Now the feast and cel - e - bra-tion, all of cre - a - tion
sings for joy, to the God of life and love and free-dom;
praise and glo - ry for - ev - er - more!

Verse 1

1. Now is the feast of the Lamb once slain,
whose blood has freed and u - nit-ed us
to be one great peo - ple of God. **D.C.**

Verse 2

2. Pow-er and rich-es, wis-dom and might, all hon - or and
glo - ry to Christ for - ev - er. **D.C.**

Verse 3

3. For God has come to dwell with us, to make us
peo-ple of God; to make all things new. **D.C.**

Prayer of the Day

Presider: The Lord be with you. *Congregation:* And al - so with you.

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.**

Word

God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song.

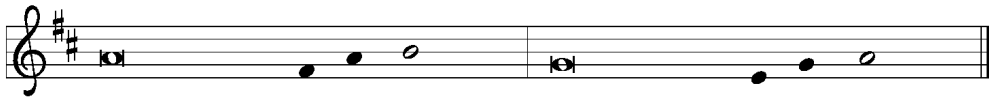
First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

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 washers' 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.

Psalm: Psalm 84



Psalm tone reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.
May be reproduced by permission for local use only.

- 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. R**
- 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 defend- | er, 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! R**

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 become 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.

Gospel Acclamation

Congregation:

Al-le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia!

Optional Repeat

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

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.

The gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Hymn of the Day *In Peace and Joy I Now Depart* (ELW 440)



1 In peace and joy I now de - part as God is will - ing,
2 Christ Je - sus makes the way for me, my gra - cious Sav - ior;
3 The Lord is health and sav - ing light for ev - 'ry na - tion,



and faith fills all my mind and heart, calm - ing, still - ing.
with eyes of faith and trust I see God's great fa - vor.
dis - pel - ling shad - ows of the night with sal - va - tion:



God the Lord has prom - ised me that death is but a slum - ber.
When this life comes to an end, my hope is God's em - brac - ing.
Is - rael's praise and hope's de - light, my trea - sure, joy, and glo - ry.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546, based on the Nunc dimittis; tr. composite
Music: MIT FRIED UND FREUD, Martin Luther
Text © 2000 Augsburg Fortress.

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator.

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.**

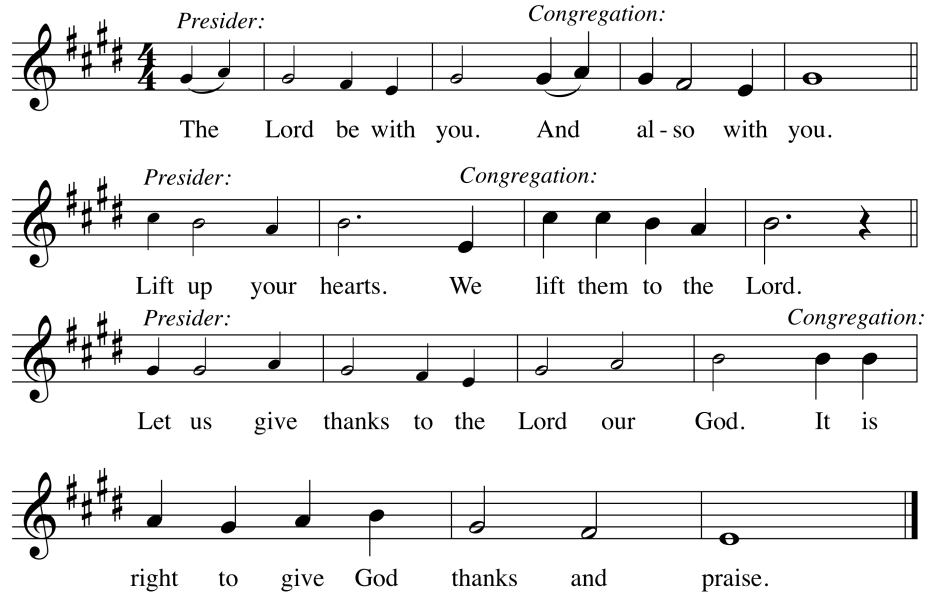
Prayers of Intercession

Each petition will end with the words "God of grace," and the assembly responds with "hear our prayer."

Meal: God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Great Thanksgiving Dialogue

Presider: *Congregation:*



The Lord be with you. And al-so with you.

Presider: *Congregation:*

Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

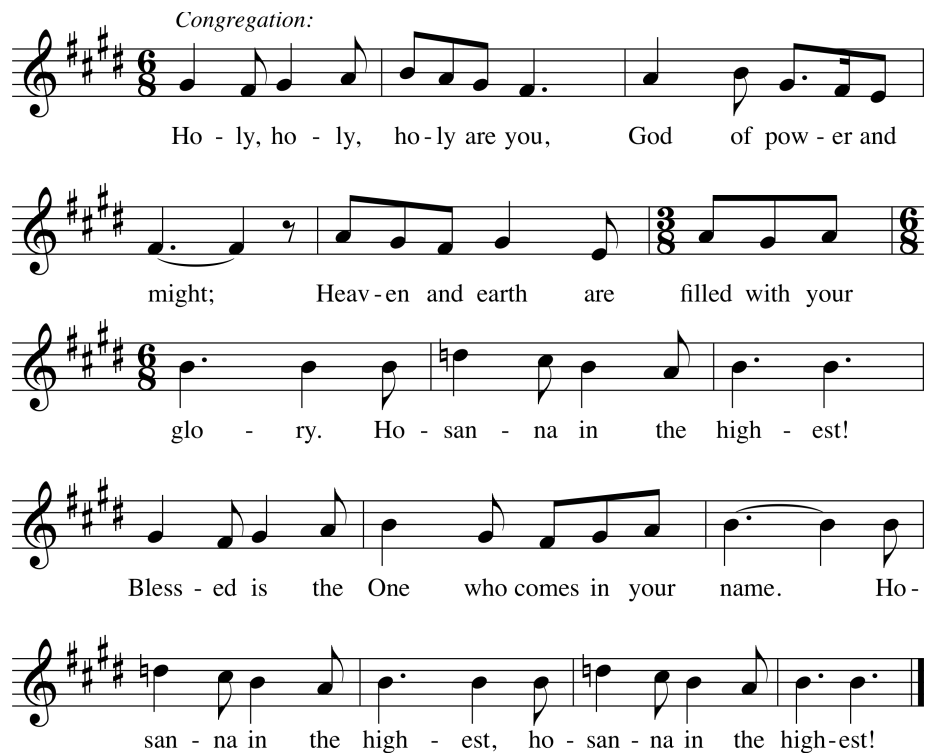
Presider: *Congregation:*

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. It is

right to give God thanks and praise.

Preface and Holy Holy Holy

Congregation:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho-ly are you, God of pow - er and

might; Heav-en and earth are filled with your

glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est!

Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -

san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high-est!

Thanksgiving at the Table

Lord's Prayer

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

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

Communion Song



1. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world;
2. Lamb of God, you break the chains of ha - tred and fear;
3. Lamb of God, you are the way of jus - tice and peace:
4. Lamb of God, you are the way of mer - cy and love:



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



Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world:



grant us peace, grant us peace, grant us peace.

Communion Hymn: *Beloved, God's Chosen* (ELW 648)



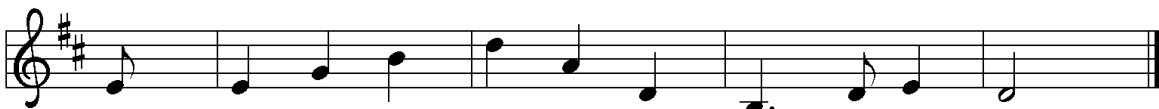
- 1 Be - lov - ed, God's cho - sen, put on as a gar - ment
- 2 With - in, call forth Wis - dom, to dwell in you rich - ly;
- 3 Be - lov - ed, God's cho - sen, put on as a gar - ment



com - pas - sion, for - give - ness, and good - ness of heart.
let peace rule your hearts and that peace be of Christ.
com - pas - sion, for - give - ness, and good - ness of heart.



A - bove all, be - fore all, let love be your rai - ment
And from the heart's cham - ber, be - lov - ed and ho - ly,
A - bove all, be - fore all, let love be your rai - ment



that binds in - to one ev - 'ry dis - so - nant part.
let sing - ing thanks - giv - ing to God ev - er rise.
that binds in - to one ev - 'ry dis - so - nant part.

Prayer after Communion

Blessing

The Spirit of the triune God ☩ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

Sending Song *Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing* (ELW 545)



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der - ness.
Ev - er faith - ful, ev - er faith - ful to your truth may we be found.
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end - less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.
Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

Dismissal

Go in peace. Live in hope.

Thanks be to God.

From sundaysandseasons.com. Copyright © 2025 Augsburg Fortress.

“Now The Feast” liturgy by Marty Haugen, published by GIA

Liturgy and hymns reprinted with permission under ONE LICENSE #A-740219. All rights reserved