

**St. Gregory's Episcopal Church**  
**The Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord:**  
**Candlemas**  
*February 2, 2025*

**PRELUDE**.....Sr. Helena Marie, CHS, Musician

**THE ANGELUS**

*The Angelus is a traditional Christian devotion offered before Holy Eucharist and Morning and Evening Prayer in honor of the Incarnation. It is usually accompanied by the ringing of the church bell (in three sets of three for each versicle, response, and Hail Mary, followed by one set of nine for the concluding prayer). You may pray it as the bell rings, or use the silence to prepare for worship in your own way.*

*The first three bells*



V. The angel of the Lord announced unto Mary,  
R. *And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.*

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.  
Blessed are you among women,  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.  
Holy Mary, Mother of God  
pray for us sinners,  
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

*The second three bells*

V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.  
R. *Be it unto me according to your word.*

Hail Mary, full of grace...

*The third three bells*

V. And the Word was made flesh.  
R. *And dwelled among us.*

Hail Mary, full of grace...

*The nine bells*



V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,  
R. *That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

Pour your grace into our hearts, O Lord, that we who have known the incarnation of your Son Jesus Christ, announced by an angel to the Virgin Mary, may by his cross and passion be brought to the glory of his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

*The Celebrant addresses the congregation*

Dear people of God, forty days ago we celebrated the joyful feast of the incarnation of Jesus. Today we recall the day on which he was presented in the temple, fulfilling the law of Moses. Led by the Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the temple, recognized the child as the Christ, and proclaimed him with joy. United by the same Spirit, we now enter the house of God, where we shall recognize Christ in the breaking of bread.

Let us pray.

O eternal God, who has created all things; on this day you fulfilled the petitions of the just Simeon: we humbly ask you to bless and sanctify these candles for our use. Graciously hear our prayers and be merciful to us, whom you have redeemed by your Son, who is the light of the world, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. *Amen.*

*The candles are then lighted.*

**PROCESSIONAL CHANT**

The light of Christ has come in - to the  
The light of Christ has come in -  
world. The light of Christ has  
to the world. The light of Christ has  
come in - to the world. world.  
has come.

Words and Music: Donald Fishel (b. 1950) © 1974 Word of God Music (admin. T.C.C. - The Copyright Company, 1026 16th Ave. South, Nashville, TN 37212 [www.thecopyrightco.com].) All rights reserved. International copyright secured. Used by permission.

*All are welcome to join in procession around the altar. At the conclusion of the procession, the Celebrant says*

Let us pray.

O God, you have made this day holy by the presentation of your Son in the Temple, and by the purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Mercifully grant that we, who delight in her humble readiness to be the birth-giver of the Only-begotten, may rejoice for ever in our adoption as his sisters and brothers; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

### SONG OF PRAISE



1 When can - dles are light - ed on Can - dle - mas Day  
2 The kings have de - part - ed, the shep - herds have gone,  
3 They go to the tem - ple, o - bey - ing the law,



the dark is be - hind us, and spring's on the way.  
the child and his par - ents are left on their own.  
and of - fer two pi - geons, the gift of the poor.



A glo - ry dawns in ev - ery dark place,



the light of Christ, the full - ness of grace.

Words: Elizabeth Cosnett © 1992 Stainer and Bell Ltd. (admin. Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188).

All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Music: *Lourdes*, French traditional melody.

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Celebrant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And also with you.**

*Celebrant* Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

## THE FIRST READING

*Malachi 3:1-4*

Thus says the Lord, 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. 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; 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. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

*Reader*            Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
*People*             **Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 84:1-8** (*chanted in unison*)

- 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 Sovereign 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 be revealed in | **Zion.**
- 7 Lord God of hosts, hear my | **prayer;** \*  
hearken, O God of | **Jacob.**
- 8 Behold our defender, O | **God;** \*  
and look upon the face of your A|**nointed.**

## THE EPISTLE

*Hebrews 2:14-18*

Since God's 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, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. 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. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Reader Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.  
People **Thanks be to God.**

## GOSPEL ALLELUIA



Music: *Mass of Light*, David Haas, © 1988, GIA Publications, Inc.

## THE GOSPEL

*Luke 2:22-40*

*Celebrant* The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
*People* **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

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

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;  
for my eyes have seen your salvation,  
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,  
a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel."

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 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 so that the inner thoughts of many will be

revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

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, 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. 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.

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

*Celebrant*     The Gospel of the Lord.  
*People*        **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

**THE SERMON**.....The Rev. Matthew Wright

**THE NICENE CREED**

We believe in one God,  
the Father, the Almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth,  
of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ,  
the only Son of God,  
eternally begotten of the Father,  
God from God, Light from Light,  
true God from true God,  
begotten, not made,  
of one Being with the Father.  
Through him all things were made.  
For us and for our salvation  
he came down from heaven:  
by the power of the Holy Spirit  
he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary,  
and was made human.  
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;  
he suffered death and was buried.  
On the third day he rose again  
in accordance with the Scriptures;  
he ascended into heaven  
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.  
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,  
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,  
who proceeds from the Father and the Son.  
With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified.  
He has spoken through the Prophets.  
We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.  
We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.  
We look for the resurrection of the dead,  
and the life of the world to come. Amen.

## **THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE**

*Following each petition, the People respond, “Hear our prayer.”*

*The Celebrant adds a concluding Collect.*

## **CONFESSION OF SIN**

*The Celebrant says*

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

*Silence*

*Minister and People*

**Most merciful God,  
we confess that 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.  
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.  
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,  
have mercy on us and forgive us;  
that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways,  
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

*The Priest says*

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.  
**Amen.**

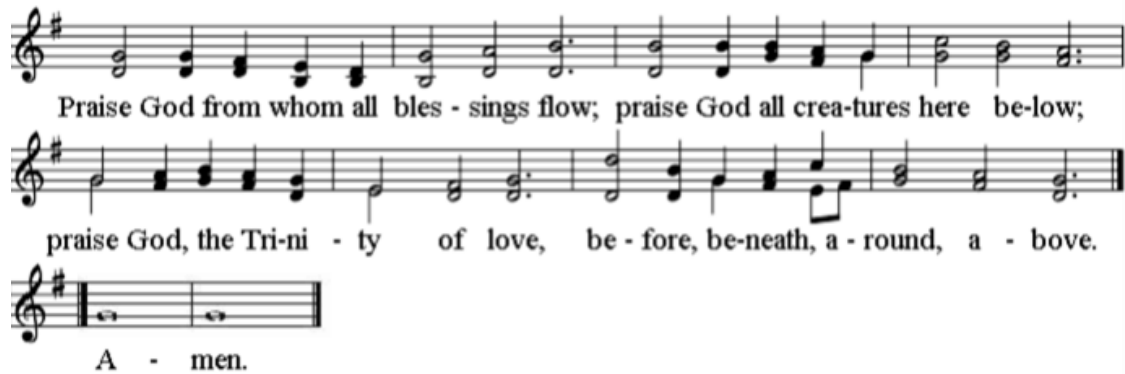
## **THE PEACE**

*Celebrant*     The peace of Christ be always with you.  
*People*        **And also with you.**

*The people greet one another with a sign of Christ’s peace. Parish announcements may be made.*

## OFFERTORY ANTHEM *(sung by choir)*

### DOXOLOGY

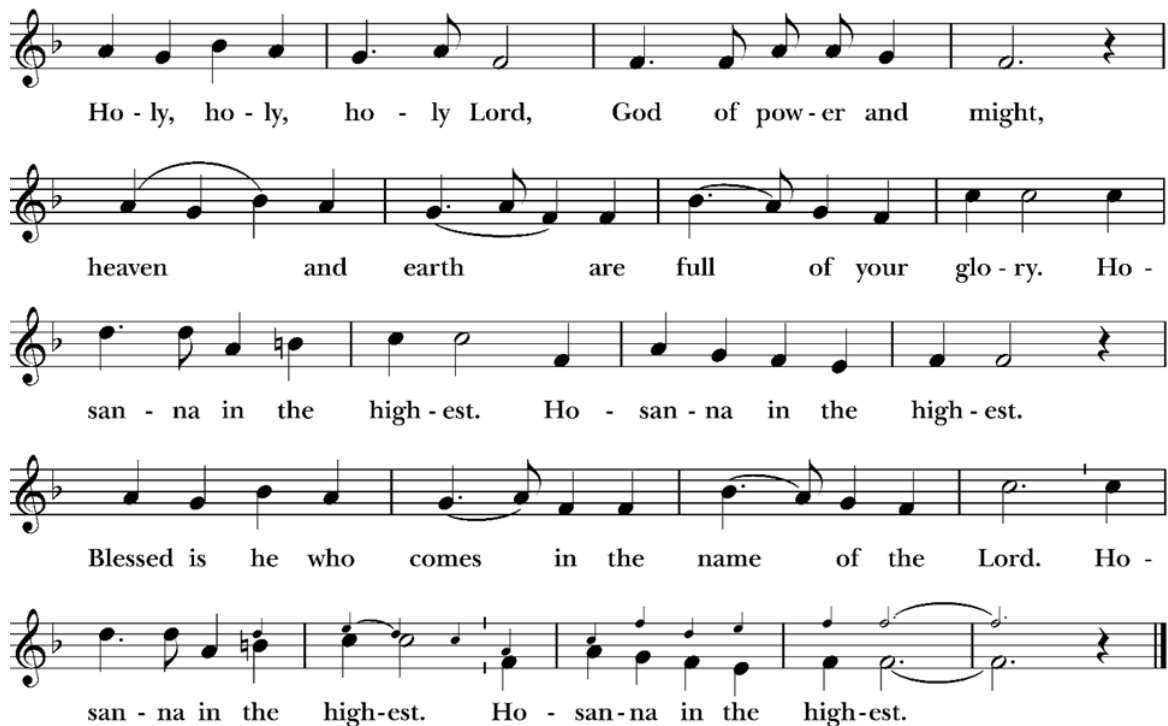


Praise God from whom all bles - sings flow; praise God all crea-tures here be-low;  
praise God, the Tri-ni - ty of love, be - fore, be-neath, a - round, a - bove.  
A - men.

### THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

- Celebrant* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Celebrant* Lift up your hearts.  
*People* **We lift them to the Lord.**  
*Celebrant* Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
*People* **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Almighty God, Creator of heaven and earth, because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and all company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow - er and might,  
heaven and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.  
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Ho -  
san - na in the high - est. Ho - san - na in the high - est.



*The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer.*

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

*Celebrant and People*

**Christ has died.  
Christ is risen.  
Christ will come again.**

*The Celebrant continues the Eucharistic Prayer.*

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and forever. **AMEN.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your Name,  
your kingdom come, your will be done,  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins  
as we forgive those  
who sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial,  
and deliver us from evil.  
For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours,  
now and forever. Amen.**

## **THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD**

*The Celebrant breaks the consecrated Bread. A brief silence follows. All then joining in singing*

The musical score is written on four staves of music. The first staff is labeled 'Cantor or Choir' and contains the lyrics 'My flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in -'. The second staff has two parts: the first part is labeled '1 All' and contains 'deed, says the Lord. My Lord. Those who eat my'; the second part is labeled '2 Cantor or Choir' and contains 'flesh and drink my blood dwell in me and I in them. My'. The third staff is labeled 'All' and contains 'flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in - deed, says the Lord.'. The fourth staff contains the final part of the lyrics: 'flesh is food in - deed, and my blood is drink in - deed, says the Lord.'.

Music: Ray W. Urwin (b. 1950). Copyright © 1984 by Ray W. Urwin. Used by permission.

### **A Prayer of Spiritual Communion**

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is now being celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Eternal God, heavenly Father,  
you have graciously accepted us as living members  
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,  
and you have fed us with spiritual food  
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.  
Send us now into the world in peace,  
and grant us strength and courage  
to love and serve you  
with gladness and singleness of heart;  
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **THE BLESSING**

**RECESSIONAL HYMN** (*see following page*)

1 O Zi - on, o - pen wide thy gates, let  
 2 A - ware of hid - den de - i - ty, the  
 3 The a - ged Si - meon sees at last his  
 4 But si - lent knelt the mo - ther blest of  
 5 All glo - ry to the Fa - ther be, all

1 sym - bols dis - ap - pear; a priest and vic - tim,  
 2 low - ly Vir - gin brings her new - born babe, with  
 3 Lord, so long de - sired, and An - na wel - comes  
 4 the yet si - lent Word, and pon - dering all things  
 5 glo - ry to the Son, all glo - ry, Ho - ly

1 both in one, the Truth him - self, is here.  
 2 two young doves, her hum - ble of - fer - ings.  
 3 Is - rael's hope, with ho - ly rap - ture fired.  
 4 in her heart, with speech - less praise a - dored.  
 5 Ghost, to thee, while end - less a - ges run.

Words: Jean Baptiste de Santeuil (1630-1697); tr. Edward Caswall (1814-1878), alt. Music: *Edmonton*, from *Harmonia Sacra*, ca. 1760; harm. *Hymnal 1982*; alt. melody and bass from *Harmonia Sacra*, ca. 1760.

*Celebrant* Alleluia, alleluia! Let us go forth in the Name of Christ.  
*People* **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia!**