

# Christ Lutheran Church & The Bridge Campus Ministry

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**February 2, 2025 – Presentation of Our Lord**



**SERVING TODAY:** *Presider/Preacher: Chad Huebner; Organist: George Weckman; Choir Director: Christian Yoder; Choir Accompanist: Donnalee Yoder; Pianist: Patricia Cambridge; Asst/Lector: Wanda Weinberg; Live Stream: Doug Debrick; Time with Children: Elyce Friedman; Ushers: Tammy Thompson, Sue Ellen Miller; Greeter: Mark Sunderman; Acolyte: Elizabeth; Tray Server: Chris Snoddy*

## **Introduction to the day**

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**

*Here in Athens, in SE Ohio, we are occupying the traditional homeland of the Shawnee people. Before the Shawnee, this land was occupied by the Osage people, and by the Adena, Hopewell and Fort Ancient cultures.*

**THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✝ one God,  
the fountain of living water,  
the rock who gave us birth,  
our light and our salvation.

**Amen.**

Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism,  
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.  
Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.  
We give you thanks, O God,  
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters  
and by your Word you created the world,  
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.  
Through the sea you led your people Israel from slavery into freedom.  
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.  
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,  
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,  
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.  
Shower us with your Spirit,  
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace, and love.

To you be given honor and praise  
through Jesus Christ our Lord  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever.

**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG**

*In His Temple Now Behold Him (ELW 417)*



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,  
4 Prince and au - thor of sal - va - tion, be your bound - less



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,  
love our theme! Je - sus, praise to you be giv - en



God has sent the prom - ised 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,  
by the world you did re - deem, with the Fa - ther



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,  
and the Spir - it God of maj - es - ty su - preme!

Text: Henry J. Pye, 1825–1903, alt.

Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

**GREETING**

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.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

Let us pray.

**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.**

## TIME WITH CHILDREN

### FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from Malachi.

<sup>1</sup> 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. <sup>2</sup> 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; <sup>3</sup> 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. <sup>4</sup> Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:14-18

A reading from Hebrews.

<sup>14</sup> 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, <sup>15</sup> and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup> For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. <sup>17</sup> 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. <sup>18</sup> Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Word of God, word of life.

**Thanks be to God.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION (ELW p. 142)

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the

words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

### GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

The holy gospel according to Luke.

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup> 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 <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup> and they offered a

sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

<sup>25</sup> 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. <sup>26</sup> It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. <sup>27</sup> 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, <sup>28</sup> Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

<sup>29</sup> “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

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

<sup>36</sup> 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, <sup>37</sup> 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. <sup>38</sup> 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.

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

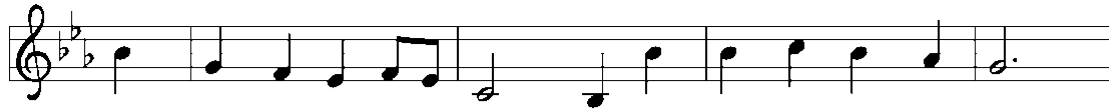
The gospel of the Lord.

**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

***O Lord, Now Let Your Servant (ELW 313)***



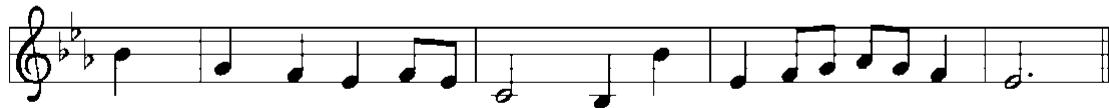
1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n - ly peace,  
2 Then grant that I may fol - low your gleam, O glo - rious Light,



for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:  
till earth - ly shad - ows scat - ter, and faith is changed to sight;



a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,  
till rap - tured saints shall gath - er up - on that shin - ing shore,



the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.  
where Christ, the bless - ed day - star, shall light them ev - er - more.

Text: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886–1981, alt., based on the *Nunc dimittis*  
Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune  
Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Let us pray for the church, the world, and all people according to their needs.

God of grace and forgiveness, your Holy Spirit inspired Simeon and Anna to recognize Jesus as the Messiah. Inspire us to see Jesus in every person we meet. Shine Your light into those places of conflict and tension in our families, our friendships, our workplaces and community relationships. May your light be a healing balm, bringing with it forgiveness and reconciliation. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of connection, shine Your light onto the common human ties that bind all Your people together: neighbor and stranger, friend and enemy. In Your light, remind us that You have created us all of us in Your image, unique and beloved by You. Guide us to welcome you when we care for strangers, refugees, immigrants, asylum seekers, and the most vulnerable in our community. Help us to share our abundance with all in need. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of compassion and peace, shine Your light on all the places around our broken world where there are violence and war. With Your light bring peace to those who languish in fear and despair. Bring safety and strength to refugees, veterans, military personnel, and their families. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of power and mercy, shine Your light upon our nation's leaders that they may govern justly and wisely. Lead them to consider the needs and concerns not just of the most wealthy and powerful, but especially of those who are poor, who struggle with physical and mental illnesses, members of the LGBTQ community who must fight each day simply to be themselves, those who fear for their families due to financial hardship or immigration status, and those who are forgotten and forsaken. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of goodness, thank You for the light that shines in the glory and wonder of Your creation: in icy peaks, snow white meadows, fields of crops, animals, and water. Teach us to be careful stewards of your amazing world, to protect everything in it, and to use its resources wisely. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of blessings, thank You for the light that shines through this community and its members, young and old, who remind us of Your presence in tears and laughter, teaching and learning, order and disruption, work and play. Empower us to recognize and use our many talents to their fullest. Bless all pastors, bishops, and lay church leaders. We rejoice with those who are celebrating anniversaries, birthdays, and other happy occasions. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of healing, shine your light into the recesses of our spirits, those places where we experience anxiety, depression, fear, and despair. We lift up in particular all who are grieving. Pour your healing power on those who are ill in mind, body, or spirit. Grant wholeness to all who deal with addictions, depression, or dementia. Bless all medical personnel, researchers and caregivers. Bring joy and comfort to our elderly loved ones and shut-ins. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of mercy, listen now as we offer other prayers, either aloud or in our hearts..... Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

God of comfort, we pray for all to whom death draws near. Remind us all of the promise of eternal life with you. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray, trusting in your mercy, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

## **PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.

**And also with you.**

**OFFERING – THANK YOU! YOUR GENEROSITY MAKES OUR MINISTRY POSSIBLE.**

Giving is easy online through our website at <https://www.clcathens.org/give>

There you will also find instructions for how you can text to give or by downloading our church app!

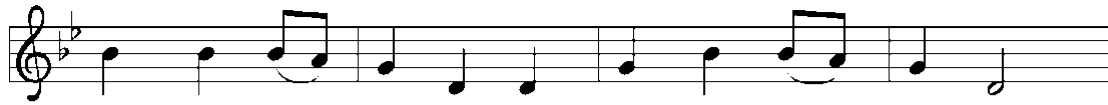
**OFFERTORY**

*Jesu, Priceless Treasure*

**CLC Choir**

**OFFERING**

***Come Now, O Prince of Peace: Ososǒ, ososǒ (ELW 247)***



*O - so - sǒ o - so - sǒ, pyong - hwa - ŭi - im - gŭm*

- 1 Come now, O Prince of peace, make us one bod - y.
- 2 Come now, O God of love, make us one bod - y.
- 3 Come now and set us free, O God, our Sav - ior.
- 4 Come, Hope of u - ni - ty, make us one bod - y.



*u - ri - ga han - mom i - ru - ge ha - so - sǒ.*

- Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
- Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile your peo - ple.
- Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.
- Come, O Lord Je - sus, rec - on - cile all na - tions.

Text: Geonyong Lee, b. 1947; tr. Marion Pope  
Music: OSOSǒ, Geonyong Lee, b. 1947  
Text and music © Geonyong Lee

**OFFERING PRAYER**

Let us pray.

God of abundance, we bring before you the precious fruits of your creation, and with them our very lives. Teach us patience and hope as we care for all those in need until the coming of your Son, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**DIALOGUE**

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.

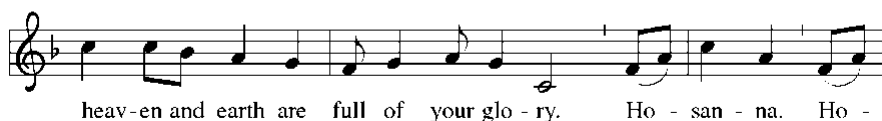
**It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## PREFACE

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy,  
that we should at all times and in all places  
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God,  
through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;  
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;  
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

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:



## THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

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.

Pour out upon us the Spirit of your love, O Lord,  
and unite the wills of all who share this heavenly food,  
the body and blood of Jesus Christ, our Lord;  
to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit,  
be all honor and glory, now and forever.  
**Amen.**

#### **LORD'S PRAYER**

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

**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.**

#### **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

**Thanks be to God.**

*(All are invited to the Lord's table. To receive communion come forward at the direction of the ushers and take a place at the altar rail. You may stand or kneel as you wish. You will first receive the bread and then may choose to receive either red wine or white grape juice by small glass, or by sipping wine from the chalice. If you choose a small glass you will place it in the empty tray carried by the acolyte. After receiving the bread and wine you will return to your seat. Tell the communion server if you need gluten free bread.)*

#### **COMMUNION**

Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have  
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the  
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the  
sin of the world; grant us peace.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Let us pray.

Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

**Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BLESSING**

God of endings and beginnings,  
God in the darkness and the light,  
God, our hope for the journey,  
✠ bless and keep you now and forever.

**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. Bring joy to the world! **Thanks be to God.**