



Gloria Dei (Old Swedes') Church

www.old-swedes.org

215-389-1513

February 2, 2025

Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas) & Fourth Week After the Epiphany

Ministry Assistants Today

Lector: *Christine Pickup*

Intercessor: *Candace Roberts*

Usher: *Mark Roberts*

Altar Guild: *Cathy Ufheil*

Celebrant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*

Ministry Assistants February 9

Lector: *Susan Steele*

Intercessor: *Corin Micklewright*

Usher: *Bob Jenkins*

Altar Guild: *Rachel Armstrong*

Celebrant: *Rev. Chris Micklewright*

Welcome to Gloria Dei!

Today we celebrate the Feast of the Presentation – which is not a particularly familiar occasion for many people. As we will read in today's Gospel, this feast marks the baby Jesus being presented in the Jewish temple in Jerusalem 40 days after his birth, in accordance with Jewish law. As it turns out, this act of obedience by Mary and Joseph led to an incredible encounter with two wise old prophets.

As we remember this encounter, we are also invited to celebrate Jesus as the savior and the light of the world. In a world filled with too much fear and hate, Jesus offers us a different way – a way of hope and peace and joy and love (to remember the gifts of Advent). Please join us as we seek to walk in his light.

Celebrant Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Celebrant 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 seek the light of Christ in this house of God and in the breaking of the 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.

All Amen.

Candles will be lit while we recite the following lines from the Song of Simeon.

Celebrant A Light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.

People A Light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.

Celebrant Lord, you now have set your servant free, to go in peace as you have promised.

People A Light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.

Celebrant For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, whom you have prepared for all the world to see.

People A Light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.

Celebrant Let us pray. O God, source of all light, today you revealed to the aged Simeon your light which enlightens the nations. Fill our hearts with the light of faith, that we who bear these candles may walk in the path of goodness, through Jesus Christ the Light of the World.

All Amen.

Hymn # 385

Many and Great, O God Are Thy Works

Hymnal 1982

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Celebrant Let us pray.

All 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. *(Congregation is invited to extinguish candles and sit for the readings.)*

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4*Christine Pickup*

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.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm 84

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.

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 King and my God.

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

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

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.

They will climb from height to height, *
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; *
hearken, O God of Jacob.

Behold our defender, O God; *
and look upon the face of your Anointed.

For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, *
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

For the LORD God is both sun and shield; *
he will give grace and glory;

No good thing will the LORD withhold *
from those who walk with integrity.

O LORD of hosts, *
happy are they who put their trust in you!

Second Reading 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.

All Thanks be to God.

Hymn # 489

The Great Creator of the Worlds

Hymnal 1982

Gospel Reading

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Luke (2:22-40)**

All 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."
(continued...)

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.
All Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Sermon Rev. Chris Micklewright

After the sermon, there will be a few moments for quiet reflection. Then the congregation will stand to reaffirm our faith using the Nicene Creed. Some elements may be strange or confusing – and you are invited to engage in conversation and reflection around the Creed. In the life of faith, we sometimes confess more than we fully understand, and God's grace is faithful to meet us wherever we are on the journey.

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 man.
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.**

Prayers of the People *(the leader and the people pray responsively)*

Candace Roberts

Celebrant Let us pray for the Church and for the world, beginning with a few moments of silence.

Intercessor Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world. We pray for our Bishops, Sean and Daniel, for our priest, Chris, for our postulant, Rachel, for our Vestry, and for all the members of our congregation. *(Silence)* Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good. This week we pray for mercy for those who are afraid, and we pray also for peace in Ukraine, Gaza, and Israel. *(Silence)* Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory. We pray especially for all those affected by the fires in Los Angeles. *(Silence)* Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us. *(Silence)* Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation. Today, we pray especially **Monica, Cheryl, Eddie, Judi, Terry, Jean, Denise, Bob, Harry, Ronan, Thomas, William, Paul, Coalton, Joanna, Mark, Dawn, Eileen, Marcine, Margie, Bonnie, Kathryn, Mara, Keith, Connie, and Jack.** *(Long silence for additional names)* Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Intercessor We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them may be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom. *(Long silence for additional names)* Lord, in your mercy,

People Hear our prayer.

Celebrant Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Celebrant Let us confess our sins to God. *(Silence may be kept; please kneel or sit as you are able.)*
All God of all mercy, we confess that we have sinned against you, opposing your will in our lives. We have denied your goodness in each other, in ourselves, and in the world you have created. We repent of the evil that enslaves us, the evil we have done, and the evil done on our behalf. Forgive, restore, and strengthen us through our Savior Jesus Christ, that we may abide in your love and serve only your will. Amen.

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

The Peace, Announcements, & Offertory

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you. *(Please share the peace by greeting your siblings in Christ.)*

Offertory Sentence

For 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. O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you. -Psalm 84:11-12

Collecting an offering is a way for us to remember that all we have is a gift from God, and that we are to be responsible stewards of the gifts entrusted to us. Guests should feel no obligation to give. Electronic giving is possible using the QR code found on the back of the bulletin. After the collection, the offering is brought forward as we stand to sing the following song of thanksgiving.

Flowingly, in 1

Unknown

Praise God from whom all Blessings flow, praise Him all creatures here below. Praise Him above all heavenly hosts, praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

The Holy Communion – Enriching Our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer 1

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 our thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is truly right, and good and joyful, to give you thanks, all-holy God, source of life and fountain of mercy. 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, joining with Angels and Archangels and with the faithful of every generation, we lift our voices with all creation as we sing:

Flowingly

Paul Fejko

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of Po - wer and might, Heav'n and Earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - sa - nna in the high - est. Ble - ssed is he who comes, comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - sa - nna in the high - est, ho - sa - nna in the high - est.

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Celebrant Blessed are you, gracious God, creator of the universe and giver of life. You formed us in your own image and called us to dwell in your infinite love. You gave the world into our care that we might be your faithful stewards and show forth your bountiful grace. But we failed to honor your image in one another and in ourselves; we would not see your goodness in the world around us; and so we violated your creation, abused one another, and rejected your love. Yet you never ceased to care for us, and prepared the way of salvation for all people.

Celebrant Through Abraham and Sarah and Hagar, you called us into covenant with you. You delivered us from slavery, sustained us in the wilderness, and raised up prophets to renew your promise of salvation. Then, in the fullness of time, you sent your eternal Word, made mortal flesh in Jesus. Born into the human family, and dwelling among us, he revealed your glory. Giving himself freely to death on the cross, he triumphed over evil, opening the way of freedom and life.

On the night before he died for us, Our Savior Jesus Christ took bread, and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his friends, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Celebrant Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

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

Celebrant Remembering his death and resurrection, we now present to you from your creation this bread and this wine. By your Holy Spirit may they be for us the Body and Blood of our Savior Jesus Christ. Grant that we who share these gifts may be filled with the Holy Spirit and live as Christ's Body in the world. Bring us into the everlasting heritage of your daughters and sons, that with all your saints, past, present, and yet to come, we may praise your Name for ever. Through Christ and with Christ and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, to you be honor, glory, and praise, for ever and ever.

People *(in a loud voice!)* **AMEN!**

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

All	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, For ever and ever. Amen.
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Fraction & Invitation

Celebrant Alleluia! Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

All Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia!

Celebrant This is the table not of the church but of our Lord Jesus. It is made ready for those who love him and those who want to love him more. So come, you who have much faith and you who have little, you who have been here often and you who have not been here long, you who have tried to follow and you who have failed. Come, because it is Jesus who invites you. It is his will that those who want him should meet him here.

All those interested in receiving communion should make their way forward to the rail, while the elements are prepared for distribution to the congregation. Directions for receiving are printed below.

Episcopal theology recognizes baptism as the formal entry into the Christian community, and baptism is normally a prerequisite to receiving communion. However, we also recognize that God meets us wherever we are on our journey of faith. Moreover, Jesus regularly welcomed and ate with people from outside of his normal community.

Therefore, all are welcome at this table - including children!

Kneel or stand at the rail, as you are comfortable. Gluten free wafers and grape juice are available – just hold up one finger to receive either of these alternative elements. The priest will distribute wafers, which you receive in your outstretched hands. If you wish to receive the cup, you may drink or dip your wafer; it is also okay to receive the wafer only – we believe that Jesus is fully present in each of the elements of communion. If, for any reason, you prefer not to receive, you are still warmly invited to come forward and cross your arms to receive a blessing instead.

Post Communion Prayer & Blessing

All Almighty and everliving God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the Body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal kingdom. And now, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Blessing Rev. Chris Micklewright

Closing Hymn # 657

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

Hymnal 1982

Dismissal

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People Thanks be to God.

***All are invited to listen to the postlude,
and then to join us for a time of fellowship in Riverside Hall.***

Gloria Dei Clergy and Staff

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Jim and Paula Minacci, Sextons

Gloria Dei Vestry

Ann Brilliant, Jill Duink, Re Henning, Carol Jenkins (*Rector's Warden*), Charles Moore, Christine Pickup, Candace Roberts (*Accounting Warden*), Cathy Ufheil (*Secretary*), Jeanette Woehr

Online Giving Available

It is possible to give to Gloria Dei on our website,
www.old-swedes.org/give, or using the QR code:

