

Welcome to Lord of Life Lutheran Church February 2, 2025 Presentation of Our Lord



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: Lord of Life Lutheran Church's long-standing credo is "We share God's Love".

LoL provides a welcoming and safe place for worship, comfort, solace, and reflection. We are called by Jesus to love God and one another: to practice radical hospitality, and to serve all without reservation, stipulations or regard to your race, ethnic background, age, gender expression or identity, sexual orientation, physical and mental abilities, socioeconomic position, family status, or where you are in your faith journey. You are a unique and beloved child of God. We welcome you to join us in worship and communion and be part of our commitment to anti-racism, social and economic justice and environmental care.

Worship: *Communion:* All are welcome to share in Holy Communion. Individual packets available near the entrance to the worship center.

Passing of the Peace: It is ok to greet those sitting near you. Please remember people have different levels of personal space which may vary from day to day and situation to situation. You can be respectful by asking, "May I hug you?" or "Would you like a handshake."

Physical Distancing: It is still important to be aware of distancing. Pews along the sides of the church near the stained-glass windows are for people who want space; please space yourselves accordingly.

Children Welcome: Kids of all ages are welcome in service, and we celebrate their joyful wiggles and giggles! There are kid's bags in the back of the sanctuary.

*Information, service & liturgy instructions are shown in italic or **bold italic** type on the following pages.*

Portions of the liturgy spoken by the leaders are shown in plain type.

*Portions of the liturgy spoken by the assembly are shown in **bold type**.*

PRELUDE

Gathering

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

Please stand as you are comfortable.

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 these words of assurance:
“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 HYMN

Rise, Shine, You People!

ELW 665

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

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.

All are seated.

Word

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 fullers' 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm: Psalm 84

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.**

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.**

⁹ Behold our defender, 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!**

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 be 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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

The assembly stands as they are comfortable.

Praise God, From Whom All Blessings Flow

ELW 885

Alleluia. My eyes have seen your salvation, **which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.** *Alleluia.* (Luke 2:30-31)

THE GOSPEL READING: Luke 2:22-40

The Holy Gospel according to Luke the second chapter.

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.

All are seated.

SERMON

Pastor Adam Dowd

HYMN OF THE DAY

Put Your Hand In The Hand

Ocean

Response to the Word

The assembly stands as they are comfortable.

THE APOSTLE’S CREED

With the whole Church, let us confess our faith using the words of the Apostle’s 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 power of 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**

All are seated.

THE PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

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 generations, you instilled in Anna and Simeon faith, dreams, and the welcome of a child. Bless elders who embody faith and hope; bless the newly baptized. Energize us to share faith from generation to generation. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God of creation, in you the sparrow finds a home and we find lush valleys and living water. Bless the birds of the air, the animals of the valley, and renew our stewardship of this bountiful creation. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God of the nations, strengthen our resolve to care for all children and strive for peace among nations. Refine our nation where we have failed to root out racism and guide us in truth-telling and reconciliation. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God of hope, many long to see your presence revealed amid challenging circumstances. We hold in prayer all longing for sustainable housing, secure employment, access to medical care, and health and wellness especially Art, Ken, Vernetta, Roberta, Judy, Linda, Paul, Toni, Kerry, Jim, Caryl, Gale, and Cor. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God of the people, you are made known in caring ministries. Bless those who serve as communion servers, homebound visitors, baptismal sponsors, confirmation mentors, and as prayer support. Reveal yourself in the neighborly care we give and receive. God of grace,
receive our prayer.

God of life, we thank you for Jesus' life and for his death that has destroyed death. We remember the dearly departed, as they dwell with you in your holy courts now and forever. God of grace,
receive 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.

THE PASSING OF THE PEACE

The peace of the Lord be with you always.
And also with you.

The assembly greets one another in the name of the Lord with phrases like “Peace be with you.” If you have your phone available, text a word of peace to someone who is worshiping alone.

OFFERING AND PRAYER

We continue now with our time of offering as we sing Let Vineyard Be Fruitful as praises to our God for all the blessings we have received! May we follow Christ through the words of our mouths and actions of our hands.

The offering plate is brought forward as a sign of the good gifts, ourselves included, God has given us.

Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of
 bless-ing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that
 we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of
 all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble
 with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens,
 and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

Bless what we offer to your service:

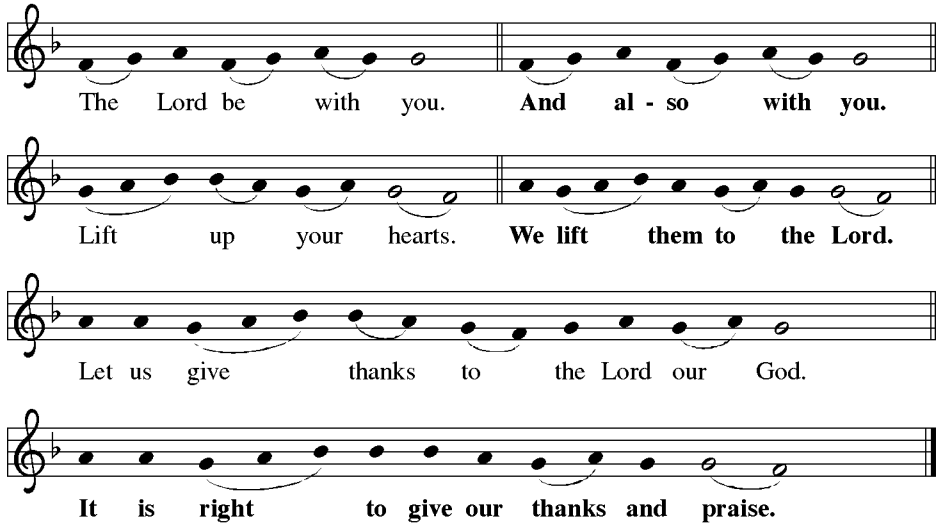
our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts.

Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity,
 now and always.

Amen.

Meal

The assembly stands as they are comfortable.



The Lord be with you. And al - so 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.

The image shows four staves of musical notation in a single system. Each staff begins with a treble clef and a key signature of one flat (B-flat). The notes are mostly quarter notes with slurs, and the system concludes with a double bar line. The lyrics are printed below the notes, aligned with the corresponding syllables.

PREFACE AND EUCHARISTIC PRAYER...

join their unending hymn

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.

The minister continues the eucharistic prayer.

....We proclaim the Lord's death until he comes:

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

LORD'S PRAYER

Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us sing the prayer Jesus has 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 debts,
 as we forgive our debtors,
 and lead us not into temptation,
 but deliver us from evil.
 For thine is the kingdom,**

**and the power, and the glory,
forever. Amen.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

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

COMMUNION

All are seated. Please take time to prepare yourselves and your communion elements.

We prioritize people with mobility issues. We invite you to come forward in your own time and take a position at the altar that is most accessible for you.

SONG DURING COMMUNION

Rosita Yao

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourishing God,
at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody your good news
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray,
Amen.

Sending

BLESSING

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

May the Lord bless you and keep you,

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy,
The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace.
Amen

SENDING HYMN

Love Divine, All Loves Excelling

ELW 631

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in hope.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

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Eucharistic Prayer- Nathan Nettleton, used with permission
Litanies of Welcome and Farewell-Interim Ministry Network, Baltimore, Maryland

We thank you for your ministry here today:

Presiding Minister

Assisting Minister

Lector

Organist

Guitarist

Greeters

Ushers

Acolyte

Video

Pastor Adam Dowd

Ray Silhan III

Judy Padera

Rosita Yao

Christopher Vincent and Pastor Adam Dowd

Connie Allekian

Marilynn Sells and Debbie McNichols

Alice Tangorra

Roberta Sejnost and Sherry Sejnost

Announcements 2-2-2025

Thank You

I cannot thank you enough for the overwhelming anniversary gift and refreshment table. I am so grateful for your support and care and I am blessed to be here with you.

Thanks,
Rosita

Valentine Making Party On February 5th at 6:00 pm we will be making valentines for a nursing home. So bring your creative side and let's get decorating.

Lunch Bunch We will meet at Chuck's 8025 Cass Avenue, Darien on **Tuesday, February 11th at 11:30 AM**. If you are interested in attending, please RSVP to Judy Padera at 630-960-4839. Please plan to pay with cash, as cash is preferred by the restaurant.

Wolves Game The date for the Wolves game will be February 16 at 3:00 PM. If you would like to attend the game, please call, (630)323-3161 or email (lordlifesecc@gmail.com) the church office. Last day to sign up is January 31, 2024.

Please-pray for members:

Art Sejnost	Ken Gulliford	Vern Sima
Kerry Spitznagle	Roberta Sejnost	Judy Padera
Linda Matta	Paul Ristau	Toni Blesy
Jim Eckwall	Cor Peterson	Caryl Schaer
Gale Dyskie		

A full list of relatives, friends, and military personnel for whom we pray is emailed weekly on Friday.

Last Week's Giving – \$
Electronic Donation for the month of January - \$

THIS WEEK AT LORD OF LIFE

Sunday	2/2	10:00 AM	Worship (Live Streaming)
		12:00 PM	Loving Word
Tuesday	2/4	5:00 PM	Overeaters Anonymous
Wednesday	2/5	10:00 AM	Bible Study
		6:00 PM	Valentine Making Party
		7:00 PM	One Day at a Time (AA)
Thursday	2/6	5:00 PM	Dance Academy

Friday	2/7	9:30 AM	Cards
Saturday	2/8	9:00 AM	SDA
		12:30 PM	SDA Luncheon
Sunday	2/9	10:00 AM	Worship (Live Streaming)
		12:00 PM	Loving Word



Lord of Life welcomes you! We are a congregation of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America serving the community for over 50 years. We offer a variety of ministries for all ages including worship, fellowship, and Bible study. We are happy to provide more details if you share your contact information below.

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Phone Number: _____

_____ New to the Area _____ First Time Visitor _____ A Call from Pastor

Please complete this form and place it in the offering plate or hand it to an usher or pastor.

Lord of Life Lutheran Church

Pastor Adam Dowd **lolpastoradam@gmail.com**

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Please call the church office first if you need something.