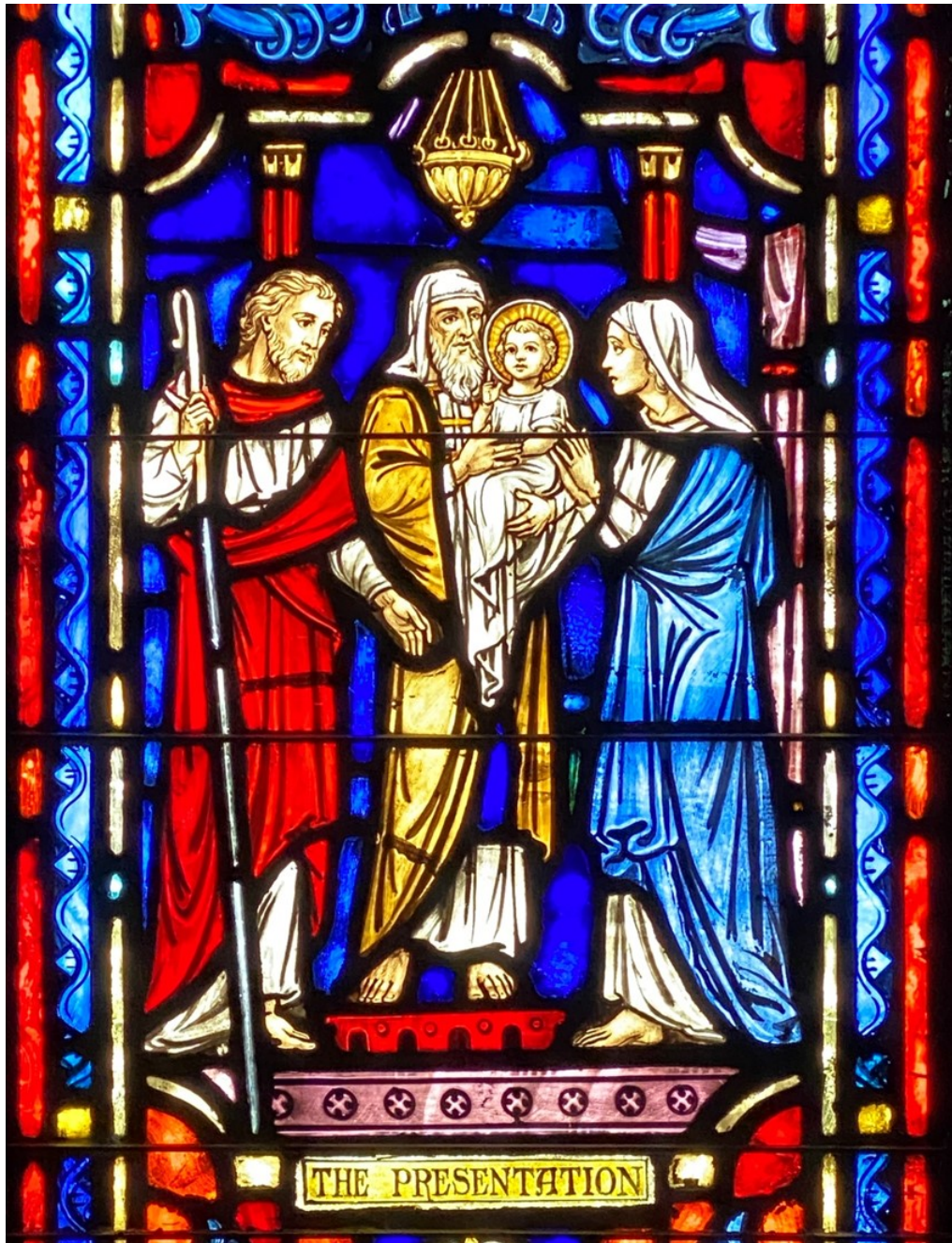


Observing The Presentation of Our Lord (Feb. 2)

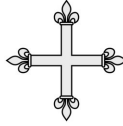
January 31 2021, 9:00 am



Saint Luke Lutheran Church and School
9100 Colesville Road, Silver Spring, MD

www.saintluke.us | 301-588-4363

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.



Gathering

Prelude

Fantasy on "Divinum Mysterium"

Gerrre Hancock (1934-2012)

Welcome

Confession and Forgiveness

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God,
the eternal voice from heaven,
the anointed and beloved one,
the Spirit moving over the waters.

Amen.

As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession,
trusting the love of Christ crucified and risen.

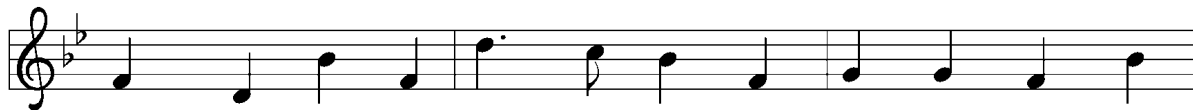
Silence is kept for reflection.

God who searches us and knows us,
you have shown us what is good, but we have looked to other lights to find our way. We have not been just in our dealings with others. We have chosen revenge over mercy. We have promoted ourselves instead of walking humbly with you. With what shall we come before you? Forgive us our sin, and show us your salvation in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

Beloved of God, you have not received the spirit of the world, but the Spirit that is from God,
poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ. Receive the promise of baptism:
You are God's child; ✠ your sins are forgiven. Rejoice and be glad, for yours is the reign of heaven.
Amen.

Opening Hymn

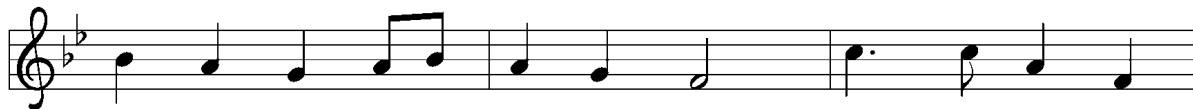
ELW 417



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.

Hymn of Praise

Refrain



Lis - ten! you na - tions of the world: lis - ten to the Word of the Lord. An -



nounce it from coast to coast; de - clare it to dis - tant is - lands.



1 The Lord who scat - tered Is - ra - el will gath - er his peo - ple a - gain; and



he will keep watch o - ver them as a shep - herd watch - es his flock. *Refrain*



2 With shouts of joy they will come, their fac - es ra - diant - ly hap - py, for the



Lord is so gen - 'rous to them; he show - ers his peo - ple with gifts. *Refrain*



3 Young wom - en will dance for joy, and men young and old will make



mer - ry. Like a gar - den re - freshed by the rain, they will nev - er be in want a -



gain. Break in - to shouts of great joy; Ja - cob is free a - gain! Teach



na - tions to sing the song: "The Lord has saved his peo - ple!"

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.



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.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm

Psalm 24:7-10

*The choir introduces the refrain. The congregation sings the second time. Verses are sung by the choir.
Please sing refrain indicated by an **R***

Lift up your heads, O gates,
that the King of glo - ry may come in.

⁷Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O everlasting doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

⁸Who is this | King of glory?

The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle! **R**

⁹Lift up your heads, O gates; and be lifted up, O everlasting doors,
that the King of glory may come in.

¹⁰Who is this King of glory?

Truly, the LORD of hosts is the King of glory. **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.

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, 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.

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Choir Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

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

All **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the second chapter.

Glory to you, O Lord.

This story is a study in contrasts: the infant Jesus with the aged prophets; the joy of birth with the ominous words of Simeon to Mary; the faithful fulfilling of the law with the presentation of the one who will release its hold over us. Through it all, we see the light of God's salvation revealed to the world.

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 (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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Sermon

Pastor Miller



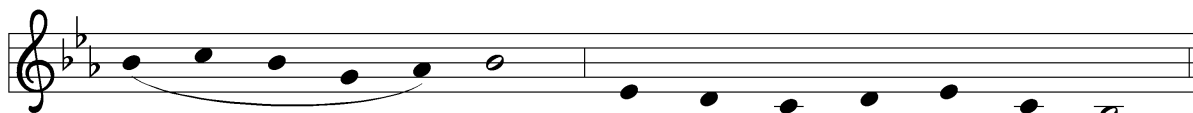
1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



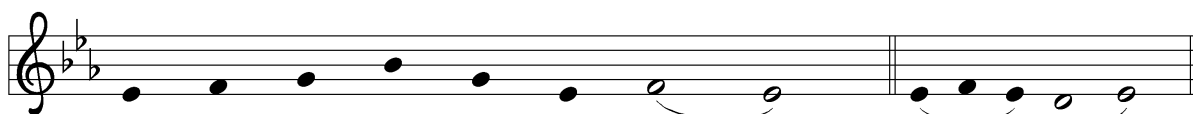
gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more! A - men.

Nicene Creed

With the whole church, let us confess our faith.

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; was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the virgin Mary, and became truly 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, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified, who 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 Intercession

Called together through water and the Word, we boldly pray for the church, the world, and all who long to hear God's voice.

After each portion of the prayers:

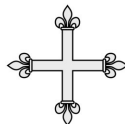
Lord, in your mercy,
hear our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

We place our prayers before you, God, united in your Spirit; through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.
And also with you.



Thanksgiving

Offering

We invite you to give your offering online at saintlukegive.us or on the Give Plus app.
You may also mail your checks to:

Saint Luke Lutheran Church
9100 Colesville Road
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Music at the offering

Holy is the True Light, and passing wonderful,
lending radiance to them that endured in the heat of the conflict,
from Christ they inherit a home of unfading splendour,
wherein they rejoice with gladness evermore.
Alleluia!

Holy is the true light
Music: William H. Harris (1883-1973)
Text: Translated from the Salisbury Diurnal by G. H. Palmer

Offering Prayer

Let us pray.

God of hope and generosity, you open your hand and satisfy the desire of every living thing. We open our hands and return to you what you have first given us. Empower us to share our time, talent and possessions. Use them to bring peace, justice and comfort to the world; through Jesus Christ we pray. Amen.

The Lord's Prayer

Please pray in your own preferred language.

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.**

**Padre Nuestro Que estas en los cielos
Santificado sea tu Nombre
Venga a nosotros tu Reino
Hagase tu voluntad asi en la tierra como en el cielo
Danos hoy nuestro pan de cada dia
Perdona nuestras ofensas
Como nosotros perdonamos a los que nos ofenden
Y no nos dejes caer en la tentacion mas libranos del mal
Porque tuyo es el reino, el poder y la Gloria
Por los siglos de los siglos. Amen**

Sending

Blessing

May Christ, the wisdom and power of God,
and the source of our life together,
keep you united in mind and purpose.
And the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, the ✠ Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be with you always.
Amen.

Sending Hymn

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

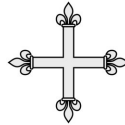
Dismissal

Arise, shine, for your light has come.
Go in peace.
Share the gift of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

Postlude

Contemplation on “Divinum Mysterium”

Kenneth Lowenberg (b. 1939)



WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTER

The Rev. Connie A. Miller, *Senior Pastor*

ASSISTING MINISTERS

The Rev. Franklin Morales, *Associate Pastor*

Deacon Kyle Warfield, *Director of Discipleship and Senior High Ministries*

MUSICIANS

Dr. Alain Truche, *Director of Music and Organist*

Members from Schola Cantorum

Sarah Pfanz, *soprano*

Tacy Downing, *alto*

Ellen Miller, *tenor*

Jeff Jox, *baritone*

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