



Presentation of our Lord

January 29, 8:45 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"

Gerre Hancock (1934-2012)

WELCOME

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who makes all things new, whose mercy endures forever.
Amen.

Trusting in God's mercy, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Holy One, source of our renewal,
we confess that we are wrapped up in sin, and cannot free ourselves. We have not practiced your righteousness. Our hearts have turned away from you. For the sake of the world you so love, forgive us, that we may be reconciled to one another for the glory of your holy name.
Amen.

Thus says our God: "The former things have come to pass and new things I now declare." God's mercy makes us new. We are forgiven in the name of ✠ Christ our Savior.
Amen.

GATHERING HYMN • ELW 417

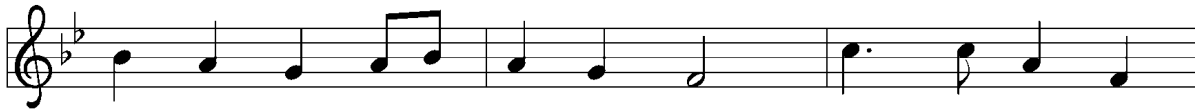
In His Temple Now Behold Him



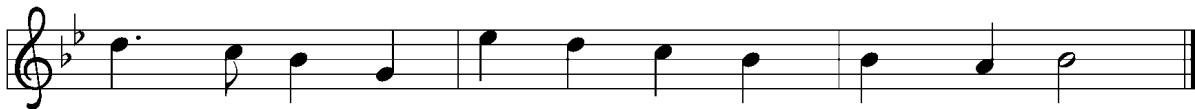
1 In his tem - ple now be - hold him, see the long - ex -
2 In the arms of her who bore him, vir - gin pure, be -
3 Je - sus, by your pre - sen - ta - tion, when they blessed you,
4 Prince and au - thor of sal - va - tion, be your bound - less



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.

CANTICLE 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.

Please be 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.

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.

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



All: Alleluia

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

All: 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 Morales

Please stand as you are able.

HYMN OF THE DAY • ELW 295

Of the Father's Love Begotten



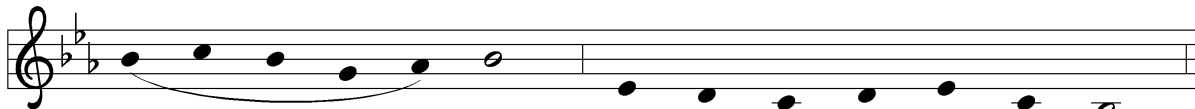
1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



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.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-413; tr. composite
 Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

APOSTLES' 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 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.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Called together to follow Jesus, we pray for the church, the world, and all in need.

After each portion of the prayers:

Merciful God,
receive our prayer.

The prayers conclude:

We bring to you our needs and hopes, O God, trusting your wisdom and power revealed in Christ crucified.
Amen.

PEACE

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

Please be seated.

MEAL

OFFERING

We invite you to give your offering online at saintlukegive.us
You may also mail your checks to:

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

CHORAL ANTHEM

O How Amiable

O how amiable are thy dwellings, thou Lord of hosts! My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

Yea, the sparrow hath found her a house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young: even thy altars, O Lord of hosts, my King, and my God. Blessed are they that dwell in thy house. They will be always praising thee.

The glorious majesty of the Lord our God be upon us; prosper thou the work of our hands upon us. O prosper thou our handiwork.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, our shelter from the stormy blast, and our eternal home.

Text: based on Psalm 84 & 90

Music: Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Please stand as you are able.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray.

Liberating God, you break the bonds of injustice and let the oppressed go free. Receive these offerings in thanksgiving for all your works of merciful power, and shape us as people of your justice and freedom. You we magnify and adore, through Jesus our Savior, Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord,
 Lord God of pow'r and might, heav-en and earth are
 full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high - est.
 Bless - ed, bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the
 Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Blessed are you, O holy God: you are the Life and Light of all. By your powerful word you created all things. Through the prophets you called your people to be a light to the nations. Blessed are you for Jesus, your Son. He is your Light, shining in our darkness and revealing to us your mercy and might.

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 preaching and healing, his dying and rising, and his promise to come again, we await that day when all the universe will rejoice in your holy and life-giving light.

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

By your Spirit bless us and this meal, that, refreshed with this heavenly food, we may be light for the world, revealing the brilliance of your Son.

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**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Come and taste the joy of God!
Thanks be to God.

Please be seated.

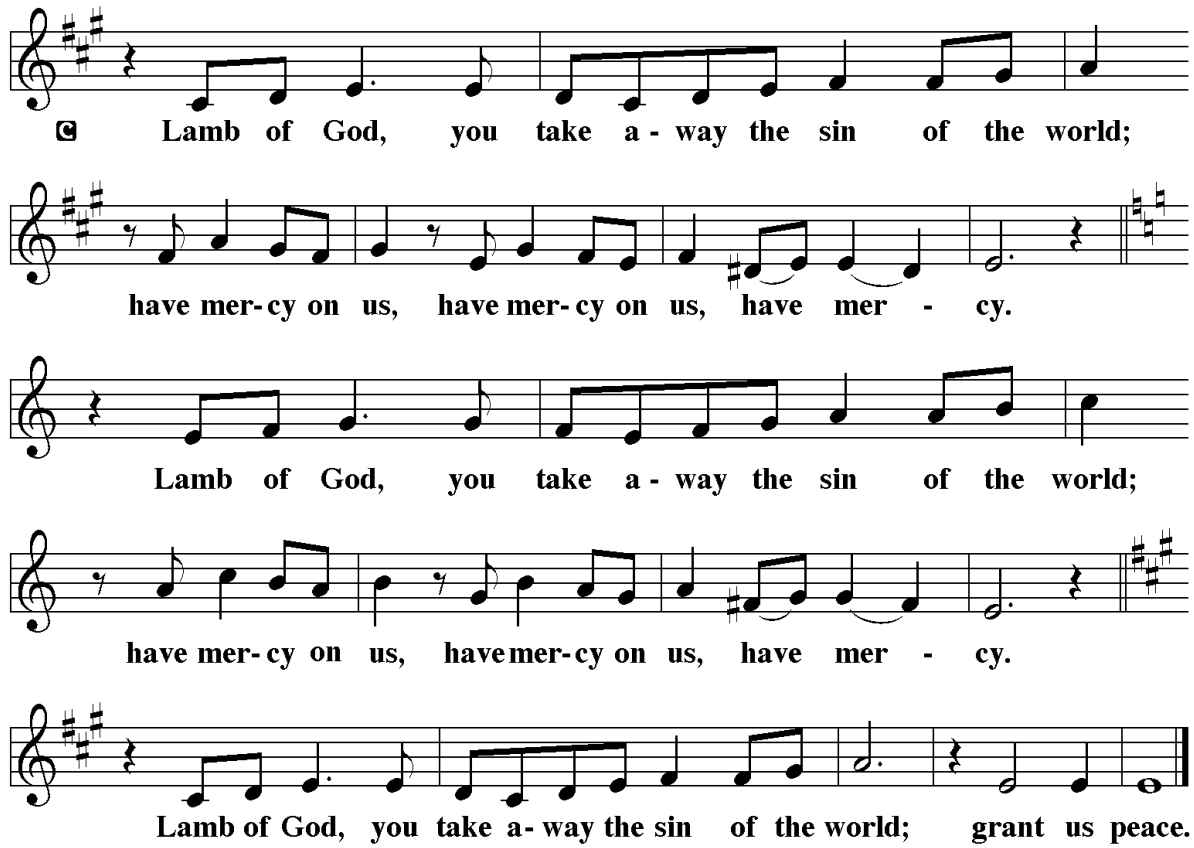
COMMUNION

All are invited to the Lord's table, a table of grace and mercy. There are two stations at the foot of the chancel steps. Please stretch out your hand, palm up, to receive the host, the body of Christ. (Gluten-free wafers are available; please ask your server) Then receive in the individual cup the blood of Christ. You may deposit your cup in the basket near the side wall. Those who wish to receive a blessing instead of the Lord's supper are also encouraged to come forward. Those who wish to receive the sacrament in the pew please inform an usher. All are welcome to the Lord's table.

When giving the bread and cup, the communion ministers say:
The body of Christ, given for you.
The blood of Christ, shed for you.

The communicant may say:
Amen.

LAMB OF GOD



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

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

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

MUSIC DURING COMMUNION

Sung by the choir.

Psalm 84—Anglican chant by Edward John Hopkins

COMMUNION HYMN • ELW 296

What Child Is This



- 1 What child is this, who, laid to rest, on Mar - y's lap is sleep - ing?
- 2 Why lies he in such mean es - tate where ox and ass are feed - ing?
- 3 So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh; come, peas - ant, king, to own him.



Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet while shep - herds watch are keep - ing?
Good Chris - tian, fear; for sin - ners here the si - lent Word is plead - ing.
The King of kings sal - va - tion brings; let lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



This, this is Christ the king, whom shep - herds guard and an - gels sing;
Nails, spear shall pierce him through, the cross be borne for me, for you;
Raise, raise the song on high, the vir - gin sings her lul - la - by;



haste, haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
hail, hail the Word made flesh, the babe, the son of Mar - y!
joy, joy, for Christ is born, the babe, the son of Mar - y!

Text: William C. Dix, 1837–1898

Music: GREENSLEEVES, English ballad, 16th cent.

Please stand as you are able.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE



Thank-ful hearts and voic - es raise; tell ev- 'ry -
one what God has done. Let all who
seek the Lord re - jice, re - jice and
bear Christ's ho - ly name. Send us, O God, with your
prom - is - es, and lead us forth in joy
with shouts of thanks- giv- ing. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray.

Holy One, we thank you for the healing that springs forth abundantly from this table. Renew our strength to do justice, love kindness, and journey humbly with you.

Amen.

SENDING

BLESSING

The God who faithfully brings forth justice
and breaks the oppressor's rod

✠ bless, strengthen, and uphold you,
today and always.

Amen.

SENDING HYMN • ELW 440

In Peace and Joy I Now Depart



1 In peace and joy I now de - part as God is will - ing,
2 Christ Je - sus makes the way for me, my gra - cious Sav - ior;
3 The Lord is health and sav - ing light for ev - 'ry na - tion,



and faith fills all my mind and heart, calm - ing, still - ing.
with eyes of faith and trust I see God's great fa - vor.
dis - pel - ling shad - ows of the night with sal - va - tion:



God the Lord has prom-ised me that death is but a slum - ber.
When this life comes to an end, my hope is God's em - brac - ing.
Is - rael's praise and hope's de-light, my trea - sure, joy, and glo - ry.

Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546, based on the Nunc dimittis; tr. composite
Music: MIT FRIED UND FREUD, Martin Luther
Text © 2000 Augsburg Fortress.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.
Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE

Processional II from *Two Processionals*

Robert J. Powell (b. 1932)

WORSHIP LEADERS

PRESIDING MINISTER

The Re. Connie A Miller, *Senior Pastor*

PREACHING MINISTER

The Rev. Franklin Morales, *Associate Pastor*

ASSISTING MINISTER

The Rev. Richard Zawistoski, *Confirmation Pastor*

MUSICIANS

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

Schola Cantorum



The flowers about the altar are given the glory of God by Mary Ann Shepherd and her family in memory of cousins Larry Charles and Madalene Fisher Smith.

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This week at Saint Luke Lutheran Church

SUNDAY, Jan. 29—Presentation of Our Lord

	Observed
8:45 AM	Holy Communion
10:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Affirmation of Baptism Class
10:00 AM	SLSHY
10:00 AM	Reception
10:15 AM	Up For Discussion (Hybrid)
11:15 AM	Holy Communion

MONDAY, January 30

8:00 AM	Parent-Teacher Conferences
6:00 PM	Yoga
7:00 PM	ESL

TUESDAY, January 31

1:30 PM	Program Staff Meeting
4:30 PM	Piano Lessons
7:00 PM	ESL
7:00 PM	Girl Scouts
7:00 PM	Reformation Bells

WEDNESDAY, February 1

7:00 AM	Zoom Faith Connections
8:00 AM	CDS Classes
10:00 AM	CDS Open House
10:00 AM	Women in Community
10:00 AM	CDS Chapel
3:00 PM	En Camino
5:00 PM	Choristers RSCM program
5:30 PM	Zoom Sara/Lydia Circle
7:00 PM	ESL
7:30 PM	Schola Cantorum Rehearsal
7:30 PM	AA

THURSDAY, February 2— Presentation of Our Lord

8:00 AM	CDS Classes
4:00 PM	CARing Project
7:30 PM	Zoom Centering Prayer

FRIDAY, February 3

8:00 AM	CDS Classes
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SATURDAY, February 4

9:30 AM	AA
11:00 AM	Al-Anon

SUNDAY, Feb. 5—Fifth Sunday after Epiphany

8:45 AM	Holy Communion
10:00 AM	Sunday School
10:00 AM	Affirmation of Baptism Class
10:00 AM	SLSHY
10:00 AM	Reception
10:15 AM	Up For Discussion (Hybrid)
11:15 AM	Holy Communion
3:00 PM	Zoom San Lucas Gospel Meditation

NB: Worship Services are in person and livestreamed

Upcoming Commemorations

Presentation of Our Lord

Thursday, February 2, 2023

Forty days after the birth of Jesus we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace," as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel.

Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865

Friday, February 3, 2023

A monk who helped bring Christianity to Scandinavia, Ansgar returned to Germany where he was named bishop of Hamburg. He is remembered for his love for poor people.

The Martyrs of Japan, died 1597

Sunday, February 5, 2023

Christianity was brought to Japan in the sixteenth century by Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries. The religion was suppressed, however, and in 1597 twenty-six missionaries and converts were crucified. Nevertheless, Christianity survived and later prospered.

Saint Luke Update

1/29/2023 Edition

MASKS ARE STRONGLY RECOMMENDED INDOORS AT SAINT LUKE

VALENTINE CRAFTS AND CARDS

Share God's love Valentine craft and card making in rooms 101-102 at 10 a.m. on February 11. There will be crafts for kids to make and take home. Families will also make cards for those in the congregation and community that need an extra dose of love. RSVP to Melissa Groen at mgroen@saintluke.us February 8.

FIRST COMMUNION

Is your child interested in participating in Holy Communion? A **First Holy Communion Workshop will be held on February 26**. Families are asked to attend the 8:45 a.m. worship service, then the kids and parents meet with a pastor briefly after worship, then they will then go with Melissa to the Faith Formation Office and the Great Hall for a lesson, and then to bake communion bread during the 10:00 a.m. Faith Formation hour. The children who attend will participate in their First Holy Communion on March 5 at the 8:45 a.m. worship service. Contact Melissa Groen, Director of Children's Ministries, mgroen@saintluke.us if your child will be participating.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITY

Work side-by-side with others from Saint Luke at A Wider Circle (<https://awidercircle.org/>) from 10:00 a.m.-12:00 noon on March 11 sorting donations of household goods (household furniture, linens, kitchen items, toys, and professional clothing and accessories) and stock the showroom for clients of A Wider Circle. **The size of our group is limited so please RSVP to Melissa Groen at mgroen@saintluke.us no later than March 3.** Proof of vaccination is required at A Wider Circle and masks are encouraged, though not currently required.

ANNOUNCING: THE NEXT CONGREGATION SERVANT PROJECT

On March 19, the congregation will be creating care packages for residents in Washington Highlands, a community in Southeast D.C. that has been hard hit from the economic fallout of the pandemic. The following items are needed for the care packages (all items should be full-sized): laundry detergent (if liquid, containers need to be 64 oz or smaller), dish soap, all-purpose disinfectant cleaner, and toothpaste. Items can be placed in the blue bins in the Fireside Room and/or monetary donations for the project can be given to Congregation Service Projects line on www.saintlukegive.us. Thank you for caring.

ANNIVERSARY OFFERING 2023

The offering this year has been designated for San Marcos Lutheran Church, Bucaramanga, Columbia. San Marcos is located in a rural, mountainous, and dangerous area with gang warfare all around. San Marcos, has created an after-school program for the children, a food program as well, to help keep them focused and safe from gang violence. All gifts will benefit the after-school outreach for the children. To give, go to www.saintlukegive.us and click Anniversary Offering. Checks may also be received. Simply make the check out to Saint Luke Lutheran Church and note *Anniversary Offering 2023*. Thank you for your care for these children of God.

CHRSTIAN DAY SCHOOL: EXCITING NEWS

Starting with the 2023-24 school year, aftercare will be added—what a wonderful new addition and outreach. Check out the enrollment information and all the news at www.saintlukekids.org. Application deadline for enrollment is February 7 and applications will be considered on a first come first served basis. Thanks for all passing this information on to friends and neighborhood listservs.

Today's Music

HYMN NOTES

In His Temple Now Behold Him

Henry J. Pye, c. 1825-1905

Pye wrote this hymn when he was the rector of Clifton-Campville in Staffordshire, England. He intended it for the feast of the Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary, what Lutherans celebrate as the Presentation of Our Lord.—ELW Hymnal Companion

Of the Father's Love Begotten

Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348-c. 413

This hymn was translated from Latin by John Mason Neale. It was later revised and a doxology was added by Henry Williams Baker for *Hymns Ancient and Modern* (1861). Though probably conceived as a devotional apology for the Christian faith, the hymn transcends controversy as one of the church's timeless texts. The whole creation from beginning to end, within a trinitarian orbit, sings to Christ the babe as Alpha and Omega.—ELW Hymnal Companion

What Child Is This

William C. Dix, 1837-1898

The three stanzas are taken from a longer poem, "The Manger Throne," written c. 1865 on Epiphany Day. After the author had read the Gospel for the day, Matthew 2:1-12. The tune GREENSLEEVES was already popular in 1580 when a license was granted to two different men on the same day for songs about Lady Green Sleeves. Twelve days later it appeared with a sacred text and has been a popular carol tune ever since.—Hymn Notes for Church Bulletins

In Peace and Joy I Now Depart

Martin Luther, 1483-1546

This is a metrical version of the Song of Simeon (Nunc Dimittis) from Luke 2:29-32. Luther's version was first published in Walter's *Geistliche Gesangbüchlein* (Wittenberg, 1524) between two Epiphany hymns, intended for the Presentation of Our Lord, and printed under the title "Simeon's Song of Praise." Later Luther included it for funerals in Joseph Klug's book for burial hymns.—ELW Hymnal Companion

MUSIC NOTES

Prelude: Fantasy on "Divinum Mysterium" - Gerre Hancock (1934-2012)

Dr. Gerre Hancock left an indelible mark on church music and the organ profession in America. Lauded for his skills as an organist, improviser, and choir trainer, his contributions as a composer have been somewhat overlooked in comparison. A request or commission usually was required to persuade him to commit ideas to paper. Apart from the early Air, all of the organ works were composed for specific occasions, people or anthologies. This body of music offers a window into the mind of this renowned improviser and teacher; his written work is remarkably consistent with his treatise on improvisation, *Improvising: How to Master the Art*, in its treatment of themes, harmonic language and musical style

Fantasy on Divinum Mysterium (1973) is Hancock's earliest extended work. It is a composition of great variety, progressing from the initial statement in the pedal with bold interjections, through a variation in canon at the third with double pedal accompaniment, a melismatic second variation over a pedal ostinato, a lively fugue, and finally a powerful toccata. The coda takes up the plainsong "Amen" and a final statement of the first phrase played by the right foot rings out over a tonic pedal, often the coup de grâce at the end of his improvisations.—Brian Harlow

Choral Anthem: O How Amiable—Ralph Vaughan Williams (1872-1958)

Simplicity is a keynote in Vaughan Williams's O how amiable, and the reason is the circumstances in which it was composed. In 1934 the novelist E.M. Forster wrote "The Abinger Pageant", a play about the history of England, performed to aid preservation work at a church near where he lived in Surrey. Vaughan Williams's anthem was written to be sung by amateur performers as part of the festivities, and the mainly unison writing reflects this. It also emphasizes the communal nature of the pageant experience, as does the addition of a verse from the famous hymn "O God our help in ages past" at the conclusion.—Terry Blain

Postlude: Processional II from Two Processionals—Robert J. Powell (b. 1932)

Powell is an American composer, organist, and choir director. He has composed in nearly all genres common to church music, including anthems, service music, hymn concertatos, organ music, music for handbell choir, and large-scale oratorios.

This second processional is a very straightforward march in D Major following the form ABA. When the first section comes back, it is with thicker chords. The B section is registered a bit softer than the A sections.