

CHRIST LUTHERAN CHURCH

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Acolyte

Missionaries: The Rev. Dr. Jonathan and Deaconess Cheryl Naumann

Sunday bulletins, news, puzzles, and sermons are available on our website listed above. Video recordings of our weekly services can be viewed on our YouTube Channel, Christ Lutheran Forest Hills Pa. Services are live-streamed on our Facebook page.

The Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany The Purification of Mary and The Presentation of our Lord

February 2, 2025

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ORDER OF SERVICE

PRELUDE

There Is a Balm in Gilead

John David Peterson

RINGING OF THE BELLS/ WELCOME

OPENING HYMN *(please rise and sing)*

God Himself Is Present

Hymnal p. 907

God Himself is present: Let us now adore Him
And with awe appear before Him. God is in His temple;
All within keep silence; Humbly kneel in deepest rev'ence.
He alone On His throne
Is our God and Savior; Praise His name forever!
God Himself is present: Hear the harps resounding;
See the hosts the throne surrounding.
"Holy, holy, holy!" Hear the hymn ascending,
Songs of saints and Angels blending. Bow Your ear To us here:
Hear, O Christ, the praises That Your Church now raises.
Fount of ev'ry blessing, Purify my spirit,
Trusting only in Your merit.
Like the holy Angels, Worshiping before You,
May I ceaselessly adore You. Let Your will Ever still
Rule Your Church terrestrial As the hosts celestial.

CONGREGATIONAL GREETINGS

INVOCATION

The sign of the cross (+) may be made by all in remembrance of their Baptism

P: In the name of the Father and of the (+) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: **Amen.**

CONFESSION¹

P: Beloved in the Lord! Let us draw near with a true heart and confess our sins unto God our Father, beseeching Him in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ to grant us forgiveness.

P: Our help is in the name of the Lord,

C: **who made Heaven and Earth.**

P: I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the Lord,

C: **and You forgave the iniquity of my sin.**

(We take a moment of silence before the Lord as we call to mind how we have not properly loved Him, ourselves, or other people.)

P: O almighty God, merciful Father,

C: I, a poor miserable sinner, confess to You all my sins and iniquities with which I have ever offended You and justly deserved Your temporal and eternal punishment. But I am heartily sorry for them and sincerely repent of them, and I pray You of Your boundless mercy and for the sake of the holy, innocent, bitter sufferings and death of Your beloved Son, Jesus Christ, to be gracious and merciful to me, a poor, sinful being.

P: Upon this your confession, I, by virtue of my office as a called and ordained servant of the Word, announce the grace of God unto all of you, and in the stead and by the command of my Lord Jesus Christ I forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the (†) Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C: Amen.

KYRIE

Hymnal p. 186

P: Merciful God, we humbly implore You to cast the bright beams of Your light upon Your church that we, being instructed by the doctrine of the blessed apostles, may walk in the light of Your truth and finally attain to the light of everlasting life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

**A: (sung) Lord, have mercy upon us;
Christ, have mercy upon us;
Lord, have mercy upon us.**

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS

Hymnal p. 187

P: Glory be to God on high,

C: and on earth peace, goodwill toward men.

**We praise Thee, we bless Thee,
we worship Thee, we glorify Thee,
we give thanks to Thee, for Thy great glory.
O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty
O Lord, the only begotten Son, Jesus Christ;**

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Thou that takest away the sin of the world,
receive our prayer.
Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father,
have mercy upon us.
For Thou only art holy; Thou only art the Lord.
Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,
art most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

COLLECT

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* **And with thy spirit.**

P: Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, as Your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in the substance of our flesh, grant that we may be presented to You with pure and clean hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C: *(sung)* **Amen.**

FIRST READING

1 Samuel 1:21-28

L: The first reading for this Sunday is from the First book of Samuel, first chapter.

Samuel is dedicated to the Lord's Service.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALMODY

Psalm 84

L: Blessed are those who dwell in your house,
ever singing your praise!

**C: Blessed are those who dwell in your house,
ever singing your praise!**

L: How lovely is your dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts!
My soul longs, yes, faints
for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and flesh sing for joy
to the living God.

Even the sparrow finds a home,
and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young,
at your altars, O Lord of hosts,
my King and my God.

**C: Blessed are those who dwell in your house,
ever singing your praise!**

L: Blessed are those who dwell in your house,
ever singing your praise!
Blessed are those whose strength is in you,
in whose heart are the highways to Zion.
As they go through the Valley of Baca
they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.

**C: Blessed are those who dwell in your house,
ever singing your praise!**

L: They go from strength to strength;
each one appears before God in Zion.
O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob!
Behold our shield, O God;
look on the face of your anointed!

**C: Blessed are those who dwell in your house,
ever singing your praise!**

L: For a day in your courts is better
than a thousand elsewhere.

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God

than dwell in the tents of wickedness.
For the Lord God is a sun and shield;
the Lord bestows favor and honor.
No good thing does he withhold
from those who walk uprightly.
O Lord of hosts,
blessed is the one who trusts in you!
**C: Blessed are those who dwell in your house,
ever singing your praise!**
**A: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit; as it
was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 2:14-18

L: The second reading is from second chapter of Book of Hebrews.

Because Jesus was tempted like us, He is able to help us in temptation.

Following the reading...

L: This is the Word of our Lord.

C: Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION *(please rise)*

Hymnal p. 190

P: Alleluia, alleluia.

Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel.

C: *(sung)* Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

HOLY GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

P: The Holy Gospel is according to St. Luke, chapter two.

C: *(sung)* Glory be to Thee, O Lord.

Jesus is presented in the temple.

Following the reading...

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

C: *(sung)* Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

THE NICENE CREED²

I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth and of all things visible and invisible.

And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of His Father before all worlds, God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made; who for us men and for our salvation came down from Heaven and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried. And the third day He rose again according to the Scriptures and ascended into Heaven and sits at the right hand of the Father. And He will come again with glory to judge both the living and the dead, whose kingdom will have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified, who spoke by the prophets. And I believe in one holy Christian and apostolic Church, I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins, and I look for the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

HYMN OF THE DAY

O Savior of Our Fallen Race

Hymnal p. 403

O Savior of our fallen race,
O Brightness of the Father's face,
O Son who shared the Father's might
Before the world knew day or night,
O Jesus, very Light of Light,
Our constant star in sin's deep night:
Now hear the prayers Your people pray
Throughout the world this holy day.
Remember, Lord of life and grace,
How once, to save our fallen race,

You put our human vesture on
 And came to us as Mary's son.
 Today, as year by year its light
 Bathes all the world in radiance bright,
 One precious truth outshines the sun:
 Salvation comes from You alone.
 For from the Father's throne You came,
 His banished children to reclaim;
 And earth and sea and sky revere
 The love of Him who sent You here.
 And we are jubilant today,
 For You have washed our guilt away.
 O hear the glad new song we sing
 On this, the birthday of our King!

(Please rise) O Christ, Redeemer virgin-born,
 Let songs of praise Your name adorn,
 Whom with the Father we adore
 And Holy Spirit evermore.

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SERMON³

OFFERING OF OUR TITHES AND GIFTS

VOLUNTARY

Lord, Take My Hand and Lead Me

Gerhard Krapf

OFFERING SONG

Hymnal p. 192

Create in me a clean heart, O God,
 and renew a right spirit within me.
 Cast me not away from Thy presence,
 and take not Thy Holy Spirit from me.
 Restore unto me the joy of Thy salvation,
 and uphold me with Thy free Spirit. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

P: Let us pray for ourselves, the church, and the world.

Following each petition:

P: Lord, in Your mercy,

C: hear our prayer.

THE SERVICE OF HOLY COMMUNION

The Lord's Supper (Holy Communion) is being celebrated in today's service. In preparation for that, please be reminded that the bread and wine of the Lord's Supper are not merely representations or symbols of Jesus' body and blood but Jesus' body and blood sacrificed on the cross are present in, with, and under the bread and wine (The Real Presence). How is this possible? This is beyond human understanding, but we remember that with God all things are possible. This truth is a divine mystery instituted by Jesus, taught by his Apostles, fervently held by the Christian church, and one in which we participate through faith. To be properly prepared to receive this sacrament, you must

- 1) Recognize that you have indeed sinned against God and other people and are accountable to God for those sins;
- 2) Be sorry (repentant) for those sins;
- 3) Believe that in this sacrament Jesus bestows forgiveness, life, and salvation; and
- 4) Sincerely desire to live a godly life from this point forward.

If you are not a member of Christ Lutheran Church, please speak with the pastor before receiving communion here for the first time. If you choose to come forward to receive a blessing rather than the Lord's Supper, indicate this by crossing your arms over your chest.

PREFACE

Hymnal p. 194

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* And with thy spirit.

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: *(sung)* We lift them up unto the Lord.

P: Let us give thanks unto the Lord, our God.

C: *(sung)* It is meet and right so to do.

PROPER PREFACE

P: It is truly meet, right, and salutary...evermore praising You and saying:

SANCTUS

Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth;

Heav'n and earth are full of Thy glory.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He, blessed is He,
Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna, hosanna, hosanna in the highest.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

THE WORDS OF OUR LORD

PAX DOMINI

P: The peace of the Lord be with you in all ways.

C: *(sung)* Amen.

AGNUS DEI

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.

O Christ, Thou Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world,
grant us Thy peace. Amen.

DISTRIBUTION

Form a line at the communion rail starting at the left side. When the line is half full, begin filling it in from the right side. When invited, approach the rail and kneel/stand. If you want to receive a gluten-free wafer at communion, let the worship assistant know as he comes by with the wafers. After communion, exit through the right doorway, place individual communion cups in the tray, and proceed down

the stairs back to your seat.

DISTRIBUTION HYMN

Lord Jesus Christ, Life-Giving Bread

Hymnal p. 625

**Lord Jesus Christ, lifegiving bread,
May I in grace possess You. Let me with holy food be fed,
In hunger I address You. Prepare me well for You, O Lord,
And, humbly by my prayer implored,
Give me Your grace and mercy.**

**To pastures green, Lord, safely guide, To restful waters lead me;
Your table well for me provide, Your wounded hand now feed me
Though weary, sinful, sick, and weak, Refuge in You alone I seek,
To share Your cup of healing.**

**O bread of heav'n, my soul's delight, For full and free remission
I come with prayer before Your sight In sorrow and contrition.
Your righteousness, Lord, cover me That I receive You worthily,
Assured of Your full pardon.**

**I do not merit favor, Lord, My weight of sin would break me;
In all my guilty heart's discord, O Lord, do not forsake me.
In my distress this comforts me That You receive me graciously,
O Christ, my Lord of mercy!**

VOLUNTARY

I Lie, O Lord Within Your Care

Matthew Machemer

NUNC DIMITTIS

**Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace
according to Thy word,
for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation,
which Thou hast prepared
before the face of all people,
a light to lighten the Gentiles
and the glory of Thy people Israel.**

**Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.**

THANKSGIVING

P: O give thanks unto the Lord, for He is good,

C: *(sung)* **and His mercy endureth forever.**

COLLECT

P: Let us pray.

Send Your Holy Spirit upon Your people, O Lord, that we who have heard Your Word may keep it in holy hearts and that we who have participated in the communion of Your Son's body and blood may be sanctified and preserved with all Your saints and come to eternal blessedness; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C: *(sung)* **Amen.**

BENEDICTION

P: The Lord be with you.

C: *(sung)* **And with thy spirit.**

P: Bless we the Lord.

C: *(sung)* **Thanks be to God.**

P: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine upon you and be gracious unto you. The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace.

C: *(sung)* **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN

O Jesus, King of Glory

**O Jesus, King of Glory, Both David's Lord and Son!
Thy realm endures forever, In heav'n is fixed Thy throne.
Help that in earth's dominions, Thro'out from pole to pole,
Thy reign may spread salvation To each benighted soul.**

The Eastern sages, bringing Their tribute gifts to Thee,
 Bear witness to Thy kingdom And humbly bow the knee.
 To Thee the star is pointing, And the prophetic Word;
 Hence joyously we hail Thee: Our Savior and our Lord!
 Thou art a mighty Monarch, As by Thy Word is told,
 Yet carest Thou but little For earthly goods or gold;
 On no proud steed Thou ridest, Thou wear'st no jeweled crown
 Nor dwell'st in lordly castle, But bearest scoff and frown.
 Yet art Thou decked with beauty, With rays of glorious light;
 Thy works proclaim Thy goodness, And all Thy ways are right,
 Vouchsafe to shield Thy people With Thine almighty arm
 That they may dwell in safety From those who mean them harm.
 Ah, look on me with pity Though I am weak and poor;
 Admit me to Thy kingdom To dwell there, blest and sure.
 I pray Thee, guide and keep me Safe from my bitter foes,
 From sin and death and Satan; Free me from all my woes.
 And bid Thy Word within me Shine as the fairest star;
 Keep sin and all false doctrine Forever from me far,
 Help me confess Thee truly And with Thy Christendom
 Here own Thee King and Savior And in the world to come.

POSTLUDE

Intrada

Martin Ellis

¹*The Lord Jesus breathed on His disciples and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive anyone his sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."* John 20:22-23. We take heart that the absolution proclaimed by the pastor is as from the Lord Himself.

²*It is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved.* Romans 10:10. Our response to the Word of God that has just been read is our confession of faith in the one, true, triune God.

³Martin Luther teaches us about hearing the Word: "Know, therefore, that you must be concerned not only about hearing, but also about learning and retaining it in memory, and do not think that it is optional with you or of no great importance, but that it is God's commandment, who will require of you how you have heard, learned, and honored His Word." (Large Catechism) *Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it! Luke 11:28*

