## Presentation of Our Lord

## ~ February 2, 2025 ~ Faith

**Prelude**

**Welcome & Announcements**

## Confession and Forgiveness Page 56

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

***C: Amen.***

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from no secrets are hid; cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you and worthily magnify your holy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

***C: Amen.***

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God and of one another.

P: Most merciful God,

***C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways to the glory of your holy name. Amen.***

P: God, who is rich in mercy, loved us even when we were dead in sin, and made us alive together with Christ. By grace you have been saved. In the name of + Jesus Christ, your sins are forgiven. Almighty God strengthen you with power through the Holy Spirit, that Christ may live in your hearts through faith.

***C: Amen.***

**Gathering Hymn *“Angels, from the Realms of Glory”*** Hymn #50

Vs. 1 Angels, from the realms of glory, wing your flight o'er all the earth;
 once you sang creation's story, now proclaim Messiah's birth:

***Refrain:
Come and worship, come and worship,***

***worship Christ, the new-born king.***

Vs. 2 Shepherds, in the fields abiding, watching o'er your flocks by night,
 God with us is now residing, yonder shines the infant light. ***[Refrain]***

Vs. 3 Sages, leave your contemplations, brighter visions beam afar;
 seek the great Desire of nations, you have seen his natal star.

 ***[Refrain]***

Vs. 4 All creation, join in praising God, the Father, Spirit, Son,
 evermore your voices raising to the eternal Three in One. ***[Refrain]***

**Greeting** Page 57

P: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

***C: And also with you.***

**Kyrie** Page 57

 P: In peace, let us pray to the Lord.

 ***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

 ***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God, and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.

 ***C: Lord, have mercy.***

P: For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise, let us pray to the Lord.

 ***C: Lord, have mercy.***

 P: Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gracious Lord.

 ***C: Amen.***

**Hymn of Praise** Page 58

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to God’s people on earth.

Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father,

We worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,

You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us;

You are seated at the right hand of the Father; receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord,

You alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit,

In the glory of God the Father. Amen.

 **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.

**First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4**

*This reading concludes a larger section 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 of 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. **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 washers’ 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.

**Psalm 84**

How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!

**2My 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.

**4Happy are they who dwell in your house! They will always be praising you. How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord.**

**5**Happy are the people whose strength is in you, whose hearts are sent on the pilgrims’ way.

**6Those 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.

**8Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob. How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord.**

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

**10For 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.

**12O Lord of hosts, happy are they who put their trust in you! How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord.**

**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.*

14Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he 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 become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. 18Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

**Gospel Acclamation**  Page 62

Alleluia. Lord to whom shall we go? You have the

words of eternal life. Alleluia. Alleluia.

**Gospel**: **Luke 2:22-40**

*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.*

**22**When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him 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.

**Sermon**

**Hymn of the Day *“O Lord, Now Let Your Servant”***  Hymn #339

Vs. 1 O Lord, now let your servant depart in heav'nly peace,
 for I have seen the glory of your redeeming grace:
 a light to lead the nations unto your holy hill,
 the glory of your people, your chosen Israel.

Vs. 2 Then grant that I may follow your gleam, O glorious Light,
 till earthly shadows scatter, and faith is changed to sight;
 till raptured saints shall gather upon that shining shore,
 where Christ, the blessed day-star, shall light them evermore.

**Apostles’ Creed** Page 65

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 the People**

 **“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” WOV #775

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world and all of creation.

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

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 your self 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 (especially), as they dwell with you in the 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**.

**“*Lord, Listen to Your Children Praying***” WOV #775

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to your children praying,
send us love, send us pow'r, send us grace.

**Peace**

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

***C: And also with you.***

**Offering *“We Give Thee but Thine Own” vs. 1*** Hymn #410

We give thee but thine own, what e’er the gift may be;

All that we have is thine alone a trust, O Lord from thee.

**Offering Prayer**

Let us pray, Blessed are you, O God maker of all things. Through your goodness you have blessed us with these gifts; our selves, our time, and our possessions. Use us, and what we have gathered, in feeding the world with your love; through the one who gave himself for us, Jesus Christ, or Savior and Lord. Amen.

**Great Thanksgiving** LBW pg. 68

P: The Lord be with you.

***C: And also with you.***

P: Lift up your hearts.

***C: We lift them to the Lord.***

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

***C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.***

**Words of Institution**

P: 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.

For as often as we eat of this bread and drink from this cup, we proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.

***C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.***

**Lord’s Prayer** LBW pg. 71

P: Let us pray as 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 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.***

**Communion**

**Post Communion Blessing**

**Prayer after Communion**

P: God of abundance, with this bread of life and cup of salvation you have united us with Christ, making us one with all your people. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue forever in the risen life of Jesus Christ, our Lord. ***Amen.***

**Blessing** Page 74

L: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.

***C: Amen.***

**Sending Hymn *“Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing***” Hymn #259

Vs. 1 Lord, dismiss us with your blessing, fill our hearts with

 joy and peace; let us each, your love possessing,

 triumph in redeeming grace. Oh, refresh us;

 oh, refresh us, trav'ling through this wilderness.

Vs. 2 Thanks we give and adoration for your gospel's

 joyful sound. May the fruits of your salvation

 in our hearts and lives abound. Ever faithful,

 ever faithful to your truth may we be found.

Vs. 3 Savior, when your love shall call us from our struggling

 pilgrim way, let no fear of death appall us,

 glad your summons to obey. May we ever,

 may we ever reign with you in endless day.

**Dismissal**

L: Go in peace. Follow the way of Jesus.

***C: We will! Thanks be to God!***

**Postlude**

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