

St. Luke's Episcopal Church – Stephenville, TX
The Presentation of our Lord
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany – Year C
February 2nd, 2025
8:00 am & 10:00 am

Coffee hour to follow at 11:00 am.

To All Who Are Joyful And Thankful, To All Who Mourn And Need Comfort
To All Who Are Weary And Need Rest, To All Who Are Friendless And Wish Friendship
To All Who Pray And Who Do Not But Ought, To All Who Sin And Need A Savior.
And To Whoever Will, The Church Opens Wide The Door
And In The Name Of Christ, The Lord Says Welcome.

The Processional Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #25 O gracious light, Lord Jesus Christ

The people standing, the Celebrant says

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.**

The Celebrant may say

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you 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 Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Gloria

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music - #280 Canticle 20, Glory to God: Gloria in excelsis

1. Glo - ry to God in the high - est, and
peace to his peo - ple on earth. 2. Lord God, heaven - ly
King, al - mighty God and Fa - ther, we wor - ship you, we
give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry. 3. Lord Je - sus
Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God, 4. you
take a - way the sin of the world: have mer - cy
on us; 5. you are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther: re -
ceive our prayer. 6. For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One,

you a - lone are the Lord, 7. you a - lone are the Most
 High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spi - rit, in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men.

The Collect of the Day

The Celebrant says to the people

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

The Readings

All are seated.

Malachi 3:1-4

Thus says the Lord, 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.

Celebrant The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 84 *Quam dilecta!* (Read responsively by full verse)

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house 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.

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! they will always be praising you.

4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! Whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

6 They will climb from height to height, and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

7 Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; hearken, O God of Jacob.

8 Behold our defender, O God; and look upon the face of your Anointed.

9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

10 For the Lord God is both sun and shield; he will give grace and glory;

11 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!

Hebrews 2:14-18

Since God's 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.

Celebrant The Word of the Lord.
People **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #497 How bright appears the morning star

Then, all standing, as are able, the Celebrant reads the Gospel, first saying

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

Luke 2:22-40

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him 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.

Celebrant The Gospel of the Lord.
People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Sermon

A brief time of reflection follows

The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche

The Nicene Creed

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: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. 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. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He 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 the People: Form III

The Leader and People pray responsively.

Father, we pray for your holy Catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your Name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priests, and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest.

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

Let us pray for our own needs and those of others. (*Insert St. Luke's Prayer list*)

Silence

For the special needs and concerns of this congregation.

Silence

The Celebrant continues with the Collect after the Prayers.

Almighty and eternal God, ruler of all things in heaven and earth: Mercifully accept the prayers of your people, and strengthen us to do your will; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

The Confession of Sin

The Celebrant says

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Celebrant and People

**Most merciful God,
we confess that 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.
We are truly sorry and we humbly repent.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
have mercy on us and forgive us;
that we may delight in your will,
and walk in your ways,
to the glory of your Name. Amen.**

The Celebrant stands and says

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. Amen.

The Peace

All stand, as are able. The Celebrant says to the people

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

Announcements

Birthdays & Anniversaries

Leslie Miller (8th)

Watch over your children, O Lord, as their days increase; bless and guide them wherever they may be. Strengthen them when they stand; comfort them when discouraged or sorrowful; raise them up if they fall; and in their hearts may the peace which passes understanding abide all the days of their life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering of sacrifice to God.

Ephesians 5:2

The Offertory Hymn

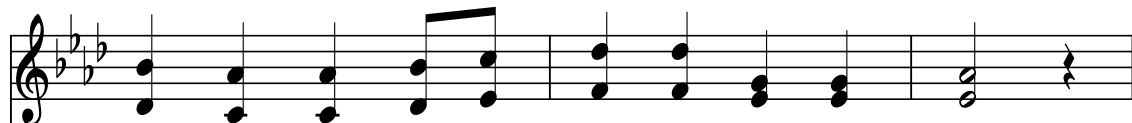
Lift Every Voice & Sing II #129 I am thine, O Lord



1. I am thine, O Lord, I have heard thy voice, And it
2. Con - se - crate me now to thy ser - vice, Lord, By the
3. Oh, the pure de - light of a sin - gle hour That be -
4. There are depths of love that I can - not know Till I



1. told thy love to me; But I long to rise in the
2. pow'r of grace di - vine; Let my soul look up with a
3. fore thy throne I spend, When I kneel in prayer, and with
4. cross the nar - row sea; There are heights of joy that I



1. arms of faith, And be clos - er drawn to thee.
2. stead - fast hope, And my will be lost in thine.
3. thee, my God, I com - mune as friend with friend!
4. may not reach Till I rest in peace with thee.



Draw me near - er, near - er, bless - ed Lord, To the



cross where thou has died, Draw me near - er, near - er,



near - er bless - ed Lord, To thy pre - cious, bleed - ing side.

Words: Fanny J. Crosby (1820-1915). Music: William H. Doane (1832-1915).

The Doxology

(sung to The Hymnal 380)

Praise God, from Whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye Heavenly Host;

Praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

The Great Thanksgiving
Eucharistic Prayer A

The people remain standing. The Celebrant faces them and sings or says

Celebrant The Lord be with you.

People **And also with you.**

Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them to the Lord.**

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People **It is right to give him thanks and praise.**

The Celebrant proceeds

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

The Hymnal 1982, Service Music - #S114 *Sanctus*

***Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts:
Heaven and earth are full of thy glory.
Glory be to thee, O Lord Most High.
Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.***

The people stand or kneel, as are able.

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

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

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him. Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ. By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. **Amen.**

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say:

*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, for ever and ever.
Amen.*

The Breaking of the Bread

Jesus said to them, "Peace I leave with you my peace I give to you."

John 14:27

The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

Concerning Holy Communion

*"This the table, not of the Church, but of the Lord.
It is made ready for those who love him and for those who want to love him more.
So come, you who have much faith, and you who have little,
you who have been here often and you who have not been here long,
you who have tried to follow and you who have failed.
Come, because it is the Lord who invites you.
It is his will that those who want him should meet him here."*



*If you do not wish to receive the sacrament, we invite you to come forward for a blessing.
Simply cross your arms over your chest and the priest will bless you.*



Communion Hymn

The Hymnal 1982 #301 Bread of the world

After Communion, the Celebrant says

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

The Blessing

The Priest gives the blessing

May the God who shakes heaven and earth,
Whom death could not contain,
Who lives to disturb and heal us,
Bless us with power to go forth
And proclaim the Gospel. **Amen.**

~Janet Morley

Processional Hymn

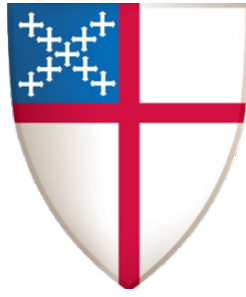
The Hymnal 1982 #436 Lift up your heads (verses 1-3)

The Celebrant dismisses with these words

Celebrant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

People **Thanks be to God.**

Thank you for taking the time to visit with us today. We feel truly blessed that you chose to be with us here at St. Luke's. It is great to have you worship with us and hope you feel truly welcomed. We welcome you back next Sunday and look forward to seeing you again soon.



From the Calendar of the Saints

February 2 The Presentation of Our Lord

In accordance with Jewish custom, Jesus, a firstborn son, was dedicated in the temple in memory of the Israelites' deliverance from Egypt. The Feast is also known as the Purification of Saint Mary the Virgin or Candlemas, and in the Eastern Church, the Meeting with Simeon.

February 3 Anskar *Archbishop of Hamburg, Missionary to Denmark and Sweden, 865*

Anskar "planted seeds that others harvested," his missionary efforts not rewarded until three generations later. Despite his lack of immediate success, he is nevertheless considered by Scandinavians to be their apostle.

February 4 Cornelius the Centurion

The first Gentile convert to the Christian faith, Cornelius was commander of one hundred men in the Roman army. With his household he became the nucleus of the church in Caesarea, and, according to tradition, became the city's second bishop.

February 5 The Martyrs of Japan *1597*

Christianity was introduced into Japan in the sixteenth century but its followers soon met with cruel persecution and suppression. The first of many martyrs were six Franciscan friars and twenty of their converts, all crucified, an atrocity that drove Christianity underground

St. Luke's Episcopal Church

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Clergy

The Rev. Bradley C. Dyche – St. Luke's Episcopal Church

Assisting Clergy

The Rev. Leslie Guinn

Staff

Duncan McMahan – Organist
Gail Johnson & Kelly Barbee – Altar Guild Directresses
Mackenzie Campbell-Furtick – ECM Missioner
Lindsey Hughes – Parish Administrator
Neely Carter- Vestry Secretary
Emma Gomez- Technology Minister

Vestry

Term Ending 2025- Gail Johnson & Karl Aho
Term Ending 2026 – Kelly Barbee, Malcolm Cross, & Ian Wilson
Term Ending 2027 – Doug McLemore & Allison Haynes

