

**THE PURIFICATION OF MARY
AND THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD**

My Eyes Have Seen Your Salvation

February 1 & 2, 2025

AS WE GATHER

Although this day is about the purification of Mary according to the law and the presentation of Jesus as the firstborn of her womb, these are saving acts done on behalf of all of us. This is what Simeon acknowledges when he sings the Nunc Dimittis. Here is the promise of God kept in Christ for his salvation and for the redemption of the Gentiles. Here we see the face of God, the display of His mercy, and the glory long promised. We sing with Simeon in praise of our Savior, while acknowledging that in the Holy Sacrament we see our salvation every bit as much as Simeon saw it in the baby in his arms.

Reception of Holy Communion: If you are planning to receive Christ's supper today, please read through the words of exhortation in the fellowship folder. For members, it is a good review of important spiritual matters for gathering at the table. For guests, it explains our stance on confession of faith, doctrinal unity, and proper spiritual preparation to receive the Supper for your benefit.

WELCOME

[Christ] was foreknown before the foundation of the world
but was made manifest in the last times for the sake of you
who through him are believers in God, who raised him from the dead
and gave him glory, so that your faith and hope are in God.

1 Peter 1: 20-21

HANDSHAKES & HUGS

PREPARATION

OPENING HYMN #901 "Open Now Thy Gates of Beauty"

Open now thy gates of beauty; Zion let me enter there,
Where my soul in joyful duty Waits for Him who answers prayer.
Oh, how blessed is this place, Filled with solace, light, and grace!

Gracious God, I come before Thee; Come Thou also unto me.
Where we find Thee and adore Thee, There a heav'n on earth must be.
To my heart, O enter Thou; Let it be Thy temple now!

Here Thy praise is gladly chanted; Here Thy seed is duly sown.
Let my soul, where it is planted, Bring forth precious sheaves alone,
So that all I hear may be Fruitful unto life in me.

Thou my faith increase and quicken; Let me keep Thy gift divine,
Howso'er temptations thicken; May Thy Word still o'er me shine
As my guiding star through life, As my comfort in all strife.

Speak, O God, and I will hear Thee; Let Thy will be done indeed.
May I undisturbed draw near Thee While Thou dost Thy people feed.
Here of life the fountain flows; Here is balm for all our woes.

(Rise)

INVOCATION

Pastor: In the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

CONFESSION & ABSOLUTION

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

People: O LORD of hosts, blessed is the one who trusts in you!

Silence is kept for meditation and reflection.

Pastor: Let us confess our sins to God our merciful Father:

People: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, maker of all things, and judge of all people, we confess that we are sinful and unclean. We have turned away from you and from one another in our thinking, speaking, and doing. We have done the evil you forbid and have not done the good you desire. We do repent of our sins and humbly beg your mercy through Jesus Christ to forgive us all that is past and to move us by your Spirit to serve you faithfully in the days to come. Amen.

Pastor: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, has had mercy upon you and has sent His only Son, who suffered for us to forgive us all our sins. As a called and ordained servant of Christ and by His authority, I therefore forgive you all your sins in the name of the Father and of the ☩ Son and of the Holy Spirit.

People: Amen.

HYMN OF PRAISE

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Refrain: This is the feast of victory for our God. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

Worthy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain,
whose blood set us free to be people of God. *Refrain*

Power, riches, wisdom, and strength,
and honor, blessing, and glory are His. *Refrain*

Sing with all the people of God, and join in the hymn of all creation:
Blessing, honor, glory, and might be to God and the Lamb forever. Amen. *Refrain*

For the Lamb who was slain has begun His reign. Alleluia. *Refrain*

SALUTATION & PRAYER OF THE DAY

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

(Be seated)

WORD

OLD TESTAMENT READING *1 Samuel 1:21–28* (As long as he lives, he belongs to the Lord.)²¹ The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow.²² But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, “As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may

appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there forever.”²³ Elkanah her husband said to her, “Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him; only, may the LORD establish his word.” So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him.²⁴ And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young.²⁵ Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli.²⁶ And she said, “Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD.”²⁷ For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him.²⁸ Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD.”

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

EPISTLE *Hebrews 2:14–18* (Because He was tempted like us, He is able to help us in temptation.)⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.¹⁶ For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham.¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

Lector: This is the Word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

5:00 ANTHEM

“In Peace and Joy I Now Depart”

(Rise)

HOLY GOSPEL *Luke 2:22–40* (Jesus is presented in the temple.)

Pastor: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

²² And 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 male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said 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, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹ that 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 his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.” ³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. ³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

Pastor: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, O Christ.

(Be seated)

CHILDREN'S SONG & CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

“There is a Name I Love to Hear” AGPS#236

There is a name I love to hear; I love to sing it's worth.
It sounds like music in my ear, the sweetest name on earth.

Refrain: Oh, how I love Jesus, Oh, how I love Jesus!
Oh, how I love Jesus, because He first loved me.

It tells me of a Savior's love, who died to set me free.

It tells me of His precious blood, the sinner's perfect plea. Refrain

SERMON HYMN #519 “In His Temple Now Behold Him”

In His temple now behold Him, See the long expected Lord;
Ancient prophets had foretold Him, God has now fulfilled His word.
Now to praise Him, His redeemed Shall break forth with one accord.

In the arms of her who bore Him, Virgin pure, behold Him lie
While His aged saints adore Him Ere in perfect faith they die.
Alleluia, alleluia! Lo, the incarnate God Most High!

Jesus, by Your presentation, When they blessed You, weak and poor,
Make us see Your great salvation, Seal us with Your promise sure;
And present us in Your glory To Your Father, cleansed and pure.

SERMON

(Rise)

OFFERTORY

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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.

APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth.

And in Jesus Christ, his 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 into hell. The third day he rose again from the dead.

He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty. From thence he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

(Be seated)

10:30 MIDDLE SCHOOL ANTHEM *“Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace”*

OFFERING As your offering is collected, **please sign our fellowship folder** located at the end of the pew. If you are a visitor, please leave your address and phone. After you are finished, please pass the folder along to others in your pew, and return it to the center aisle. You may check the folder to see names of those to greet after the service.

(Rise)

PRAYER OF THE CHURCH

Pastor: Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs. Everlasting God, we remember how Simeon faithfully trusted your promise that he would not die until he had seen the Savior. Grant us the same trust in Christ for the forgiveness of our sins, that having received His body and blood and beholding Him by faith, we would be prepared For the day we meet Him face to face. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Almighty God, in the depth of love for creation, you brought your Son to the temple and placed Him in the hands of blessed St. Simeon. Abide with those placed in the Office of the Holy Ministry, that their hands would be ever ready to deliver your gifts to your people and their lips bold to speak your Gospel. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Gracious Father, you placed your Son into the home of Mary and Joseph. Bless our homes, that they would be places where truth is taught and confessed. Like Joseph took Mary to be his wife, make all husbands courageous and compassionate in their love for their wives. As Mary submitted to Joseph, grant all wives grace for respectful submission to their husbands. Bless the work of parents as they instruct their children in your Word. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Ruler of the nations, bless those placed in authority over us. Grant that they would serve with integrity and honor, having the welfare of all in mind. Look favorably on our country, that division, conflict and strife would give way to unity, peace and quietness. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Heavenly Father, as your Son has become our faithful High Priest, making propitiation for the sins of all people, hear His intercession for His Bride, the Church. Grant that the suffering, sick and sorrowful especially Inez, Sharon, John, Debbie, Bob, Judy, Jerry, Carole, Wendy, June, Audrey, Janice, David, Helga, Dick, Michael, Margie, Anna, Charlene, Marlene, Dorothy, Marga, Ardis, Noah, Guy, Mike, Jill, Janet, Cathy, Shirley, and Sarah would be blessed by your loving visitation. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Father of lasting peace, show mercy to those who receive the Lord’s Supper this day, that they would behold their salvation in the very body and blood of Christ given for them and, with St. Simeon, be well prepared to depart in peace according to your Word. Lord, in your mercy,

People: hear our prayer.

Pastor: Join these, our prayers and praises, with those of your faithful people of all times and places, and unite them in the ceaseless petitions of our great High Priest, Jesus Christ, until He comes again in glory as victorious Lord of all. Through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is yours, almighty Father, forever and ever.

People: Amen.

SACRAMENT

PREFACE

Pastor: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you.

Pastor: Lift up your hearts.

People: We lift them to the Lord.

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

People: It is right to give Him thanks and praise.

PROPER PREFACE

Pastor: It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to you, holy Lord, almighty Father, everlasting God, through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who, sharing your eternal splendor, was presented on this day in your temple in the substance of our human flesh and revealed by the Spirit as the glory of Israel and the light of all peoples. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify your glorious name, evermore praising you and singing:

SANCTUS

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Holy, holy, holy Lord God of pow'r and might:
Heaven and earth are full of Your glory,
Hosanna, Hosanna, Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.
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

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People: Amen.

AGNUS DEI

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Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; have mercy on us.
Lamb of God, You take away the sin of the world; grant us peace.

(Be seated)

DISTRIBUTION HYMNS

HYMN #624

"See Mary Setting Out at Dawn"

See Mary setting out at dawn
For Zion with her six-week Son,
And Joseph, turtledoves in hand,
To carry out the Lord's command.

There faithful Mary, meek, demure,
Has come to be acknowledged pure,
Then dedicates the Holy One
By whom God's perfect will is done.

When Mary brings Messiah there,
God answers Simeon's lifelong prayer
For peace for him and ev'ryone
Who prays in faith, "Your will be done."

Because she brings the Savior there,
Grey Anna has a Gift to share.
Had she not prayed, "Your will be done,"
Who would have met and known God's Son?

All have some special part to play
In God's eternal plan who pray,
"In heav'n, so here Your will be done"
At ev'ry rising of the sun.

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HYMN #622

"Lord Jesus Christ, You Have Prepared"

Lord Jesus Christ, You have prepared This feast for our salvation;
It is Your body and Your blood, And at Your invitation
As weary souls, with sin oppressed, We come to You for needed rest,
For comfort, and for pardon.

Although You did to heav'n ascend, Where angel hosts are dwelling,
And in Your presence they behold Your glory, all excelling,
And though Your people shall not see Your glory and Your majesty
Till dawns the judgment morning,

Yet, Savior, You are not confined To any habitation;
But You are present even now Here with Your congregation.
Firm as a rock this truth shall stand, Unmoved by any daring hand
Or subtle craft and cunning.

We eat this bread and drink this cup, Your precious Word believing
That Your true body and Your blood Our lips are here receiving.
This Word remains forever true, All things are possible with You,
For You are Lord Almighty.

Though reason cannot understand, Yet faith this truth embraces:
Your body, Lord, is even now At once in many places.
I leave to you how this can be; Your Word alone suffices me;
I trust its truth unailing.

Lord, I believe what You have said; Help me when doubts assail me.
Remember that I am but dust, And let my faith not fail me.
Your supper in this vale of tears Refreshes me and stills my fears
And is my priceless treasure.

Grant that we worthily receive Your supper, Lord, our Savior,
And, truly grieving for our sins, May prove by our behavior
That we are thankful for Your grace And day by day may run our race,
In holiness increasing.

For Your consoling supper, Lord, Be praised throughout all ages!
Preserve it, for in ev'ry place The world against it rages.
Grant that this sacrament may be A blessed comfort unto me
When living and when dying.

COMMON DISMISSAL

(Rise)

POST-COMMUNION COLLECT

Pastor: 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.

People: Amen.

BENEDICAMUS

Pastor: Let us bless the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

BENEDICTION

Pastor: The Lord bless you and keep you. The Lord make His face shine on you
and be gracious to you. The Lord look upon you with favor and ✠ give
you peace.

People: Amen.

CLOSING HYMN

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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 Gentiles Unto your holy hill,
The glory of your people, your chosen Israel.

All glory to the Father, All glory to the Son,
All glory to the Spirit, Forever Three in One;
For as in the beginning, Is now, shall ever be,
God's triune name resounding Through all eternity.

Preacher & Liturgist
Lectors
Organist

Pastor Joshua Grotelueschen
Russell Hurst, Katie Librizzi
Deaconess Carole King