



**Arlington Hills Lutheran Church
Sunday, February 2, 2025
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany**

Sunday, February 2, 2025

Presentation of Our Lord

Introduction

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.

Welcome and Announcements

Prelude

"Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue"

arr. Edwin T. Childs

GATHERING

Greeting

Luke 2:30-31

P: My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.

All: Alleluia.

Confession and Forgiveness

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, ✠ one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

All: Amen.

P: Almighty God, to whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom 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.

All: Amen

P: Gracious God,

All: have mercy on us. We confess that we have turned from you and given ourselves into the power of sin. We are truly sorry and humbly repent. In your compassion forgive us our sins, known and unknown, things we have done and things we have failed to do. Turn us again to you, and uphold us by your Spirit, so that we may live and serve you in newness of life through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

P: In the mercy of almighty God, Jesus Christ was given to die for us, and for his sake God forgives us all our sins. As a called and ordained minister of the church of Christ, and by his authority, I therefore declare to you the entire forgiveness of all your sins, in the name of the Father, and of the ✝ Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

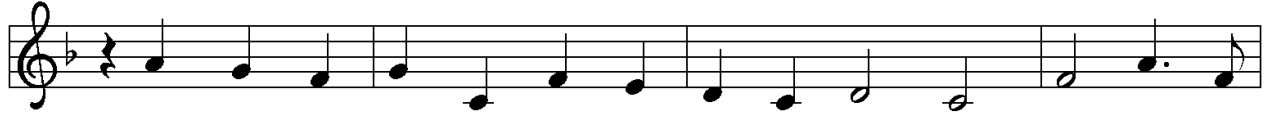
All: Amen.

Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Gathering Hymn

Gathering Hymn “Rise, Shine, You People!” ELW# 665
Verses 1, 2, 3 and 4 – Large print words found on page 22



1 Rise, shine, you peo - ple! Christ the Lord has en - tered
2 See how he sends the pow'rs of e - vil reel - ing;
3 Come, cel - e - brate; your ban - ners high un - furl - ing,
4 Tell how the Fa - ther sent the Son to save us.



our hu - man sto - ry; God in him is cen - tered. He comes to
he brings us free - dom, light and life and heal - ing. All men and
your songs and prayers a - gainst the dark - ness hurl - ing. To all the
Tell of the Son, who life and free - dom gave us. Tell how the



us, by death and sin sur - round - ed, with grace un - bound - ed.
wom - en, who by guilt are driv - en, now are for - giv - en.
world go out and tell the sto - ry of Je - sus' glo - ry.
Spir - it calls from ev - 'ry na - tion God's new cre - a - tion.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.

Music: WOJTKIEWIECZ, Dale Wood, 1934–2003

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

All: **And also, with you.**

Please be seated

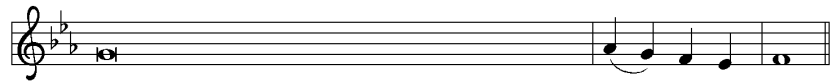
KYRIE



In peace, let us pray to the Lord.



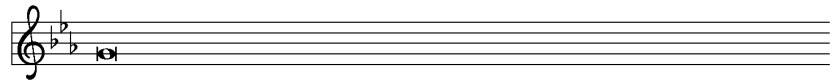
Lord, have mer - cy.



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



Lord, have mer - cy.



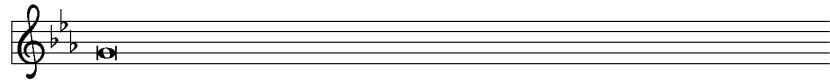
For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.



Lord, have mer - cy.



Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord.



A - men, a - men.

This is the Feast

Refrain



This is the feast of vic - to - ry for our God.



Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.



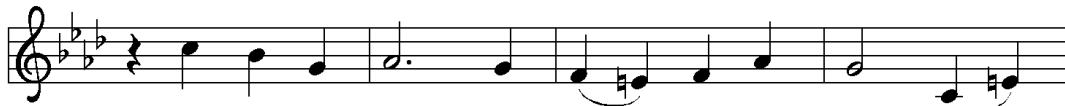
1 Wor - thy is Christ, the Lamb who was slain, whose

2 Sing . . with all the peo - ple of God, and



blood set us free to be peo - ple of God.

join in the hymn of all cre - a - tion:



Pow - er and rich - es, wis - dom and strength, and

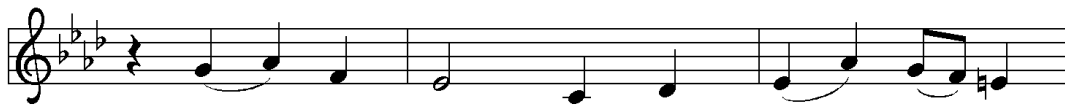
Bless - ing and hon - or, glo - ry and might be to



hon - or and bless - ing and glo - ry are his.

God and the Lamb for - ev - er. A - men.

Refrain



3 For the Lamb who was slain has be -



gun his reign. Al - le - lu - ia.

Refrain

Prayer of the Day

P: 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.

All: Amen.

WORD

First Reading:

Malachi 3:1-4

Assisting Minister

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.

¹ 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 fullers' 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.

AM: Word of God, Word of Life

All: **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm: 84 Read responsively by whole verse

How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD. (Ps. 84:1)

AM: ¹ How dear to me is your dwelling O LORD of hosts!

All: ² **My soul has a desire and longing for the courts¹ of the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

AM: 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.

ALL: ⁴ **Happy are they who dwell in your house! They will always be praising you.**

AM: ⁵ Happy are the people whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

All: ⁶ **Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a place of springs, for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.**

AM: They will climb from height to height, and the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

All: ⁸ **LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob.**

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

All: ¹⁰ **For 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.**

AM: 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.

All: ¹² **O LORD of hosts, happy are they who put their trust in you!**

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.

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

AM: Word of God, Word of Life

All: Thanks be to God.

Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Gospel reading

Gospel Acclamation

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia,

al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

Repeat alleluia

Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of e - ter - nal life.

P: The holy gospel according to Luke the 2nd chapter.

All: **Glory to you, O Lord**

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, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus 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.

P: The gospel of the Lord,

All: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

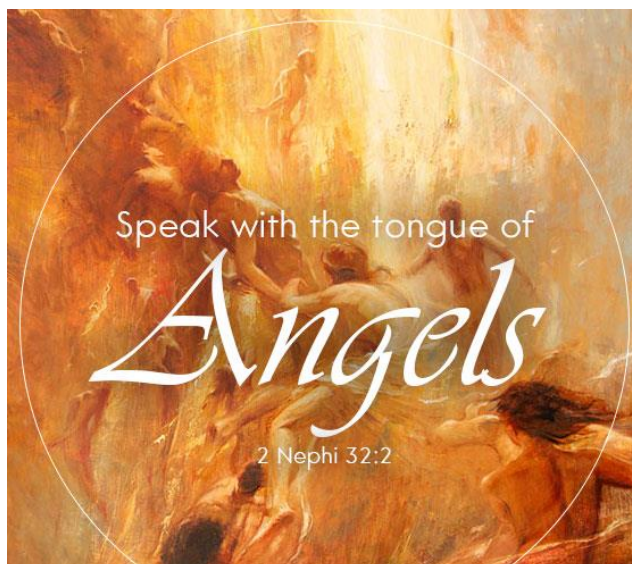
Please be seated.

Sermon

Rooting for the Anti-Hero

Pastor Mitch

Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Hymn of the Day



Hymn of the Day “Although I Speak with Angel’s Tongue ELW #644
 Verses 1, 2, 3, and 4- Large print words found on page 23



1 Al - though I speak with an - gel’s tongue, my faith, my
 2 For love is pa - tient, love is kind, and nev - er
 3 For now we peer at dark - ened glass; our vi - sions
 4 The gifts are man - y, the Bod - y one, and in - to



knowl - edge all sur - pass, but have no love, my gifts are
 vain with boast - ing pride; love bears all things, all things en -
 end; our tongues all cease. In part we know, in part now
 one are all bap - tized. Be - lov - ed, share one heart, one



vain as clang - ing gong or blar - ing brass.
 dures. All things must end; love will a - bide.
 see: then we will see love face to face.
 mind, one hope, one faith, one love in Christ.

Text: Andrew Donaldson, b. 1951
 Music: O WALY WALY, English traditional
 Text © 1995 Andrew Donaldson.

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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.

Please be seated for the Prayers of Intercession

Prayers of Intercession

AM: With the whole people of God in Christ Jesus, let us pray for the church, those in need, and all of God’s creations.

AM: *Each prayer will end with:* God of grace,

All: **Hear our prayer.**

Sharing of the Peace

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

All: **And also with you.**

Please be seated.

MEAL

Offering Music

“Walk in the Light”
Sunday Morning Choir

arr. Andre Thomas

Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Offering Song.

Offering Song

Create in Me a Clean Heart *Offering Song*



Cre - ate in me a clean heart, O God, and re - new a right
spir - it with - in me. Cast me not a - way from your pres - ence, and take
not your Ho - ly Spir - it from me. Re - store to me the joy of
your sal - va - tion, and up - hold me with your free Spir - it.

Music: Richard W. Hillert, b. 1923
Music © 1978 *Lutheran Book of Worship*, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

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Offertory Prayer

P: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas. Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

All: Amen.

Please be seated.

Invitation to Communion

P: The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

Great Thanksgiving

P: The Lord be with you.

All: **And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

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

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

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

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ. By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations; in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son; and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory. And so, with all the choirs of angels, 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, God of
pow-er and might, heav-en and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho -
san - na in the high-est. Blessed is he who comes in the
name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

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

Lord's Prayer

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us.

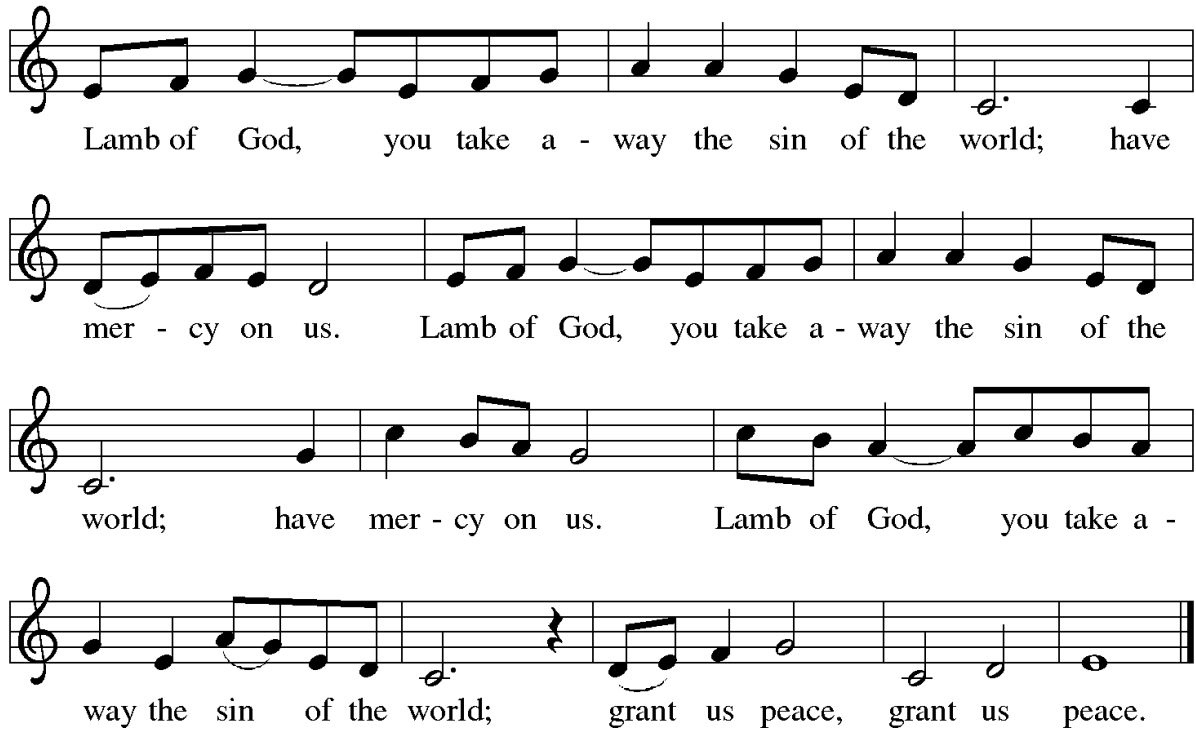
All: Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

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, the power, and the glory, forever and ever.
Amen.**



Lamb of God



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

P: Come to the banquet, for all is now ready.

Communion

As pastor comes down to serve communion you may come forward.

Please form a single line to receive the bread from him by holding out your palms to receive the wafer. Once you receive the bread, you may go to the communion assistant on the side closest to where you were seated to receive the wine.

If you are unable to come forward, please let an usher know, and we will bring communion to you.

Please feel free to say "Amen" after you receive each element if you wish.

Communion Anthem

"You Are My Hiding Place"

arr. Carol Tornquist

Table Blessing

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

All: Amen

Prayer after Communion

P: Nourishing God, at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray,

All: Amen.

Sending of Communion for Lay Ministers

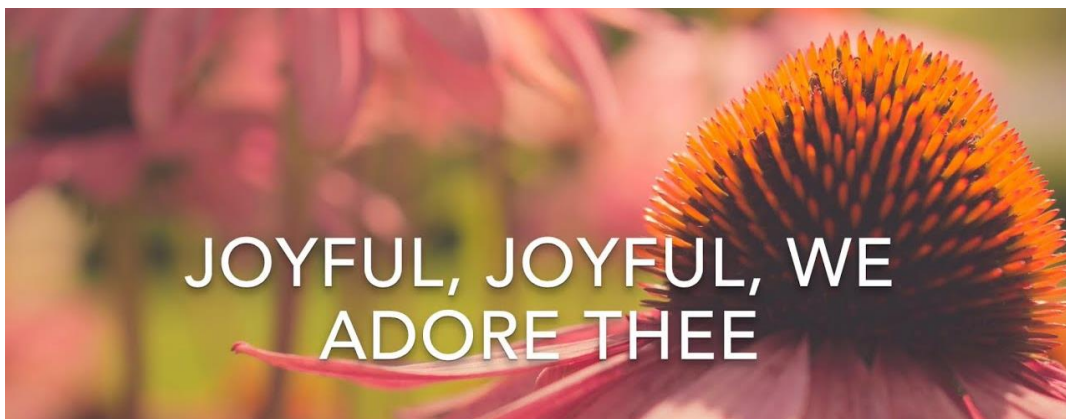
(Instead of coming forward Lay Ministers please stand in your pew for the blessing of the elements. You may pick them up at the end of the service in the back of the church.)

P: Gracious God, you took the form of a servant, offering yourself as food, comfort, and strength to a sick world. Anoint with a servant heart these who take your word and sacrament to our sisters and brothers in their homes and in hospitals. Grant grace, mercy, healing and hope to those who receive on your body and blood and believe your words of new life. May we all recognize that we are at home in the body of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All: Amen.

Sending

Please rise, in body and/or spirit, for the Sending Hymn.



Verses 1, 2, and 3 - Large printed words found on page 24



1 Joy - ful, joy - ful we a - dore thee, God of glo - ry, Lord of love!
 2 All thy works with joy sur - round thee, earth and heav'n re - flect thy rays,
 3 Thou art giv - ing and for - giv - ing, ev - er bless - ing, ev - er blest,



Hearts un - fold like flow'rs be - fore thee, prais - ing thee, their sun a - bove.
 stars and an - gels sing a - round thee, cen - ter of un - bro - ken praise.
 well - spring of the joy of liv - ing, o - cean - depth of hap - py rest!



Melt the clouds of sin and sad - ness, drive the gloom of doubt a - way.
 Field and for - est, vale and moun - tain, flow - 'ry mead - ow, flash - ing sea,
 Thou our Fa - ther, Christ our broth - er, all who live in love are thine;



Giv - er of im - mor - tal glad - ness, fill us with the light of day.
 chant - ing bird, and flow - ing foun - tain call us to re - joice in thee.
 teach us how to love each oth - er, lift us to the joy di - vine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852–1922

Music: HYMN TO JOY, Ludwig van Beethoven, 1770–1827, adapt.

Blessing

P: 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.

All: Amen.

Please be seated for the Postlude.

Postlude

“Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee” arr. Michael D. Costello

Dismissal

P: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

From sundaysandseasons.com.

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Leading Worship Today

Pastor: Dr. Rev. Mitch Kinsinger

Organ/Piano: Barbara Rossow

Assisting Ministers: Dennis Rasmusson and Mary Kowitz

Communion Assistants: Elaine and Charles Rohrbach

Ushers: David Almquist and Tom Brackey

Hospitality: Cheryl Hollman and Mary Kowitz

Livestream Producer: Silvester Vicic or Jim Persoon

Annual Meeting – TODAY - February 2, 2025 following the 9:30 a.m. Worship Service approximately 10:45 a.m.

In-person in the Reception Room on Zoom link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82603344619?pwd=GKYEAzBspXRaETm409mL6i18Fqsv6L.1>

Meeting ID: 826 0334 4619

Passcode: 1115AHLC



New Winter Parking Rules for Payne-Phalen Area from the City of St. Paul

Beginning February 2 through April 12 there will be one side of the street only parking as a pilot program. This **DOES NOT** include the streets around our church, but may affect the area you live in. On February 2nd you must park on the even numbered side of the streets, February 9th the odd number side and so on (every other week). After Feb. 17, cars could be ticketed and/or towed for violations. I have posted maps of the affected area on the bulletin board outside the church office.

PLEASE PRAY THIS WEEK FOR AHLC MEMBERS AND FRIENDS:

Dean Anderson, Marjorie Anderson, Sven Anderson, Sharon Anderson, Dave Balfanz, Pamela Boldt, Carol Brockway, Carolyn Brusseau, Jerry Ekblad, Richard Edge, Jan and Wayne Frankenberg, Esther Hallgren, Adeline Hansen, Wayne Hansen, Betty Hasse, Patricia James, Jim Jaszczak, Velta Krauze, John Lind, Gene Linderkamp, Marilyn Nelson, Priscilla Reeve, Betty Richter, Marnie Rose, Betty Swanson, Ken Wagner, Gary Winter, and MaryAnn Wistrom. Please also pray for the children of former intern Becky Sliva in the loss of their father, Tim. You may send a card of support to Piper & Jax Sliva | %Becky Sliva | 13705 Country Pl | Burnsville MN 55337

February Birthdays:

Barb Watters	February 3
David Almquist	February 4
Elaine Rohrbach	February 8
Carol Krauze	February 9
Carol Brockway	February 17
Debra Gray	February 21

Prayer Prompts for the Week of February 2-8

- 02. Our Annual Meeting
- 03. Victims of the California Fires
- 04. Immigrants
- 05. Courage and Boldness
- 06. Healing
- 07. Forgiveness
- 08. Another Day

Literacy Partners Celebration Join us in celebrating 20 years of transformative literacy initiatives on the Eastside of St. Paul!

Celebration of our partnership with Literacy Minnesota – Open Door St. Paul.

Friday, February 7th from 10:00 – 12:00.

10:00 Reception and Light Refreshments

10:45 Short Program | 11:15 Self-Guided Tour

Hosted by Literacy Minnesota in collaboration with AHLC.

Flowers on the altar today are given in memory of Linda Brockway by her family and friends. They want to express their deep appreciation to Southview Acres

Health Care Center for the loving care she received while there. Linda passed on January 20th.

Gathering Hymn

Rise, Shine, You People!

- 1 Rise, shine, you people! Christ the Lord has entered
our human story; God in him is centered.
He comes to us, by death and sin surrounded,
with grace unbounded.

- 2 See how he sends the pow'rs of evil reeling;
he brings us freedom, light and life and healing.
All men and women, who by guilt are driven,
now are forgiven.

- 3 Come, celebrate; your banners high unfurling,
your songs and prayers against the darkness hurling.
To all the world go out and tell the story
of Jesus' glory.

- 4 Tell how the Father sent the Son to save us.
Tell of the Son, who life and freedom gave us.
Tell how the Spirit calls from ev'ry nation
God's new creation.

Text: Ronald A. Klug, b. 1939, alt.
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Hymn of the Day

Although I Speak with Angel's Tongue

- 1 Although I speak with angel's tongue,
my faith, my knowledge all surpass,
but have no love, my gifts are vain
as clanging gong or blaring brass.

- 2 For love is patient, love is kind,
and never vain with boasting pride;
love bears all things, all things endures.
All things must end; love will abide.

- 3 For now we peer at darkened glass;
our visions end; our tongues all cease.
In part we know, in part now see:
then we will see love face to face.

- 4 The gifts are many, the Body one,
and into one are all baptized.
Beloved, share one heart, one mind,
one hope, one faith, one love in Christ.

Text: Andrew Donaldson, b.1951
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Sending Hymn

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee

1 Joyful, joyful we adore thee,
God of glory, Lord of love!
Hearts unfold like flow'rs before thee,
praising thee, their sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the gloom of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

2 All thy works with joy surround thee,
earth and heav'n reflect thy rays,
stars and angels sing around thee,
center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flow'ry meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird, and flowing fountain
call us to rejoice in thee.

3 Thou art giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother,
all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to the joy divine!

Text: Henry van Dyke, 1852-1922