

MY EYES HAVE
SEEN YOUR

salvation

Luke 2: 22-40



american
LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2025

american

LUTHERAN CHURCH

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volunteer

Select a Sunday.
Select a Role.

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OUR MISSION

We are people who worship Jesus Christ, reaching out to teach and share his love for people. We believe through the Holy Spirit, God has empowered us to worship Jesus Christ through music, Word and Sacrament; To Teach the gospel through Sunday School, confirmation, Bible Study and Youth Ministry. To share the gospel and reach out through Fellowship, Evangelism and Ministry to all in need.

JOIN US for Worship, Fellowship & Sunday School each week!

Worship begins @ 9 am * Fellowship/Sunday School @ 10 am

Welcome to Worship

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.

PRELUDE

WELCOME & ANNOUNCEMENTS

(Congregation, please stand)

CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS

***All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.*

Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life. **Amen.**

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

***Silence is kept for reflection.*

Merciful God,

you speak blessing and compassion into the world.

Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we

resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God. **Amen.**

GATHERING HYMN

ELW #287 Let All Together Praise Our God

GREETING

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

KYRIE

ELW pg. 138 *in the red hymnal*

THIS IS THE FEAST, ELW pg. 140 *in the red hymnal*

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.**

(Congregation, please be seated)

FIRST READING

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.

Malachi 3:1-4

¹See, 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. ²But 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; ³he 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. ⁴Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM Psalm 84

*How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord.
Psalm 84:1*

¹How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!

²**My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.**

³Even 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.

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

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

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.**

⁷They will climb from height to height, and the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

⁸**Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob.**

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

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.**

¹¹For 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.

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.

¹⁴Since, 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. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore 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. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested..

The word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

(Congregation, please stand)

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the



words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

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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.

The gospel according to Luke, the second chapter. **Glory to you, O Lord.**

²²When 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”), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵Now 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. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ²⁷Guided 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, ²⁸Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then 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 ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

(Gospel continued on page 6)

³⁶There 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. ³⁸At 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.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

(Congregation, please be seated)

CHILDREN'S SERMON

SERMON

HYMN OF THE DAY

ELW #417 In This Temple Now Behold Him

THE APOSTLES' CREED

(Congregation, please stand)

A printed version of the Apostles' Creed is available on the inside back cover of the red hymnal.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Petitions end "God of grace," Congregation responds, "hear our prayer."

SHARING THE PEACE

(Congregation, please be seated)

OFFERING

(Congregation, please stand)

OFFERTORY ELW #301 Bright and Glorious Is the Sky *verse 6*

**And this star, as bright as day, that will never lead astray
with its message so appealing, is the word of God, revealing
Christ, the way, the truth, the life, Christ, the way, the truth, the life.**

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**OFFERING
PRAYER**

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. **Amen.**

(Congregation, please stand)

**THE LORD'S
PRAYER**

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

**THE
WORDS OF
INSTITUTION**

**INVITATION
TO
COMMUNION**

(Please be seated)

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

**DISTRIBUTION
HYMNS**

ELW #496 One Bread, One Body

ELW #488 Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness

ELW #792 When Memory Fades

**PRAYER
AFTER
COMMUNION**

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, **Amen.**

BLESSING

The Spirit of the triune God, † bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love. **Amen.**

SENDING HYMN

ELW #545 Lord, Dismiss Us With Your Blessing

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Live in Hope. **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

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This week's Bible story: SIMEON AND ANNA Luke 2: 22-40



FAMILY PAGE

Family Prayer

We praise you, O God, for Jesus. You promised a savior for the world and gave us your Son! Thank you, God! In the name of our Savior we pray...

AMEN!

READ IT

Jesus came to save the whole world!

Ask each other what you remember about:

- **SIMEON**
- **ANNA**
- **MARY**
- **JOSEPH**
- **PROMISE**
- **TEMPLE**

The Old Testament is full of stories and prophecies that looked toward a time when God would send a Savior for the world. Simeon and Anna recognized Jesus from those prophecies.

TALK ABOUT IT

FAMILY CONVERSATIONS

- 1.)** What kinds of things have you had to wait for?
- 2.)** How do you praise God?
- 3.)** Do you think it is important to learn how to wait for wonderful things? Why or why not?

EYE SPARK

How many S's and A's can you find on signs this week? Remember Simeon and Anna when you see them!

EAR SPARK

Listen for words that praise God in prayers. Say your own prayer using praise words like Simeon and Anna did.

LIVE IT

FOR FAMILIES TO DO TOGETHER

Make placemats for your table that have drawings or lists of your hopes and expectations for the world in the next 10 or 100 or 1000 years. What will life be like? What might be possible years down the road? What wonderful things might God be doing then?

FOR YOUNGER KIDS

Sing a song praising God! You can make one up using a tune you already know.

FOR OLDER KIDS

Make a collage of words and pictures that praise and thank God for all the wonders in our world.