



St. John's Episcopal Church

Fourth Sunday after the Epiphany

The Presentation of our Lord

February 2nd, 2025 ~ 10am

The Word of God

Entrance Hymn #259 ~ *Hail to the Lord who comes*

Hail to the Lord who comes, comes to his temple gate;
not with his angel host, not in his kingly state;
no shouts proclaim him nigh, no crowds his coming wait;

but, borne upon the throne of Mary's gentle breast,
watched by her duteous love, in her fond arms at rest,
thus to his Father's house he comes, the heavenly guest.

There Joseph at her side in reverent wonder stands;
and, filled with holy joy, old Simeon in his hands
takes up the promised child, the glory of all lands.

O Light of all the earth, thy children wait for thee!
Come to thy temples here, that we, from sin set free,
before thy Father's face may all presented be!

Words of Welcome

This is a light to reveal God to the nations and the glory of his people Israel (Luke 2:32)

Officiant 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.

Gloria

S280

Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his 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.

The Collect

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.*

Old Testament

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.

Reader The Word of God.
People **Thanks be to God.**

The Psalm

Psalm 84

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!**

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

A light of revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel

Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

The Gospel

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.

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

The Sermon

The Rev. John Beach

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.

Prayer of the Faithful

Presentation of the Lord

Reader: For the whole Church that, inspired by the Holy Spirit with wisdom and knowledge, we may follow the example of Simeon and Anna in making Jesus and his mission known to the world. (*silence*)

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Reader: For our President, Donald, and for government officials throughout the world, that they may come to the temple of the Lord frequently, to seek wisdom from his Word and grace from his presence. (*silence*)

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Reader: For all the children of our world, that they may be loved and cherished by their families and by the societies in which they live. (*silence*)

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Reader: For all who live under the constant threat of violence and the shadow of war, that all people will turn from violence to peace. (*silence*)

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Reader: For all who are sick, alone, or suffering in any way, including Elin Babin, Nicholas Bettencourt, Paul Brophy, Norma Cahill, Francine Carroll, Marie Conners, Barbara Cox, Kelly Dodge, Jim and Tim Eldridge, Joanne and Paul Felci, Ruth Garrett, Peggy Gibbs, Allison Gray, Patti Greene-Botticeli, Jerica Hamre, Will Hare, Carolyn and Tom Hashem, Bruce Higgins, Louis Hoelzl, Larry Kamp & Family, Doris Kelly, Jeanne Kelly-Smith, Janet Lancaster, Lawrence LeBlanc, Elizabeth, Melissa McSheffery, Matt, Mary & Dante, Bobby Miller, Harriet Miraglia, Jonelle Moloney, Erica Moore, Gisela Moore, Jeanine Morris, Fran Muise, Sara Murray, Carol Patroia, Kathy and Keelan Pothier, Shirley Raithel, Debbie Rossetti, Gina Sorrentino, Sandy and David St. Clair, Nancy Scarry, Terrie Sevier, Gail Smith, Dom and Joanie Tello, Steve and Kathy, Tony Venezia, Kathy Webber, Nancy White, Lizzi, Rachel, Abigail, and Claire; console and strengthen them with your compassionate love.

Are there others... (*silence*)

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Reader: For departed loved ones and friends, we pray especially for James & Doris Smith, Jess & Ann Woodbury, and Sarah Jane Brierly; comfort us, as you embrace them in your heavenly kingdom. (*silence*)

Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Almighty Father you have given us Jesus, your Son, the light of the world. May we always walk in his light and live by his truth. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Let us confess our sin as an offering of our trust in God's love and forgiveness for us.

Minister 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.**

Officiant 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

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

Announcements

Invitation to the Offering

Let us give generously from that which has been given to us, that through our offerings the good news of Jesus Christ may be fulfilled.

The Holy Communion

Prayer over the Gifts

Almighty God, accept the joyful offering of your Church, and grant that your Son may shine in us as the light that lightens every nation. We ask thi in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

The Great Thanksgiving

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Officiant Lift up your hearts.

People **We lift them up unto the Lord.**
Officiant Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.
People **It is meet and right to do so.**

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

Through Jesus Christ our Lord; who on the first day of the week overcame death and the grave, and by his glorious resurrection opened to us the way of everlasting life.

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:

Minister and People

Sanctus S129

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Officiant 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:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

Officiant 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,

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, and 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

The Officiant breaks the consecrated Bread.

A period of silence is kept.

Officiant Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to the banquet of the Lamb.

Fraction Anthem 1982 Hymnal #S155 ~ Christ, our Passover

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;
Therefore let us keep the feast.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The Invitation to Holy Communion

A spiritual communion is a personal devotional that anyone can pray at any time to express their desire to receive Holy Communion at that moment, but in which circumstances impede them from actually receiving Holy Communion.

The Officiant invites the following prayer to be said by all.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the Blessed Sacrament of the Altar. I love you above all things, and long for you in my soul. Since I cannot receive you in the Sacrament of your Body and Blood, come spiritually into my heart. Cleanse and strengthen me with your grace, Lord Jesus, and let me never be separated from you. May I live in you and you in me, in this life and in the life to come. Amen.

Anthem during Communion Contemplation

Prayer after Communion

God for whom we wait, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon, who did not die till he had welcomed the Messiah. Complete in us your perfect will, that we in Christ may share in your eternal kingdom; for he is Lord for ever and ever.

Officiant Glory to God,

People **whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine. Glory to God from generation to generation, in the Church and in Christ Jesus, for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

As we go from this place on this day holy God we rejoice in the strength of God, we fix our eyes on the grace of Christ, and we drink deeply of the Spirit, who makes us one. The blessing of God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with you this day and always.

Closing Hymn *#432 ~ O Praise Ye the Lord*

O praise ye the Lord! Praise him in the height;
rejoice in his word, ye angels of light;
ye heavens, adore him by whom ye were made,
and worship before him, in brightness arrayed.

O praise ye the Lord! Praise him upon earth,
in tuneful accord, all ye of new birth;
praise him who hath brought you his grace from above,
praise him who hath taught you to sing of his love.

O praise ye the Lord! All things that give sound;
each jubilant chord re-echo around;
loud organs, his glory forth tell in deep tone,
and sweet harp, the story of what he hath done.

O praise ye the Lord! Thanksgiving and song
to him be outpoured all ages along!
For love in creation, for heaven restored,
for grace of salvation, O praise ye the Lord!

Dismissal

Go into the world and proclaim the good news! Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.**

Participants in this Service:

The Rev. John Beach, Priest-in-Charge
Stephen Sikorski, Music Director
Sandy Mears, Worship Leader ~ Joanne Lancaster, L.E.M.

St. John's Episcopal Church
8 Prospect Street, Saugus, MA 01906
Office: 781-233-1242 **Email:** StJohnsSaugus@gmail.com