

ANTE COMMUNION HEALING SERVICE

Season of Epiphany

Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple



OPENING SALUTATION Blessed be God: father, Son, and Holy Spirit. *And blessed be his Kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.*

PENITENTIAL ORDER If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. But if we confess our sins, God, who is faithful and just, will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 1 John 1:8,9

The Deacon or Celebrant then says: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.
Silence may be kept.

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.*

The Bishop when present, or the Priest, 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.*

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy
Lord, have mercy

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.*

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.*

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from the book of Malachi

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.

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

PSALM 84 *Quam dilecta!*

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!*

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit: as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be for ever. Amen.

FIRST READING: Hebrews 2:14-18

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

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.

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

THE GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

The Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ According to Luke ✠ *Glory to you, Lord Christ.*

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

HOMILY

A LITANY OF HEALING Deacon: Let us name before God those for whom we offer our prayers.

The People audibly name those for whom they are interceding.

Lector: God the Father, your will for all people is health and salvation; ***we praise you and thank you, O Lord.***

God the Son, you came that we might have life, and might have it more abundantly; ***we praise you and thank you, O Lord***

God the Holy Spirit, you make our bodies the temple of your presence; ***we praise you and thank you, O Lord.***

Holy Trinity, one God, in you we live and move and have our being; ***we praise you and thank you, O Lord.***

Lord, grant your healing grace to all who are sick, injured, or disabled, that they may be made whole; ***Hear us, O Lord of life.***

Grant to all who seek your guidance, and to all who are lonely, anxious, or despondent, a knowledge of your will and an awareness of your presence: ***Hear us, O Lord of life.***

Mend broken relationships, and restore those in emotional distress to soundness of mind and serenity of spirit; ***Hear us, O Lord of life.***

Bless physicians, nurses, and all others who minister to the suffering, granting them wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience; ***Hear us, O Lord of life.***

Grant to the dying peace and a holy death, and uphold by the grace and consolation of your Holy Spirit those who are bereaved; ***Hear us, O Lord of life.***

Restore to wholeness whatever is broken by human sin, in our lives, in our nation, and in the

world; *Hear us, O Lord of life.*

You are the Lord who does wonders: *You have declared your power among the peoples*

With you, O Lord, is the well of life: *And in your light we see light.*

Hear us, O Lord of life: *Heal us, and make us whole.*

Let us pray. A period of silence follows. Heavenly Father, you have promised to hear what we ask in the Name of your Son: Accept and fulfill our petitions, we pray, not as we ask in our ignorance, nor as we deserve in our sinfulness, but as you know and love us in your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

LAYING ON OF HANDS AND ANOINTING Savior of the world, by your cross and precious blood you have redeemed us. *Save us, and help us, we humbly beseech you, O Lord.*

O God, the source of all health: So fill our hearts with faith in your love, that with calm expectancy we may make room for your power to possess us, and gracefully accept your healing. Comfort and relieve all those for whom we pray, give your power of healing to those who minister to their needs, that they may be strengthened in their weakness and have confidence in your loving care; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

If you desire to receive the Laying on hands for yourself or on behalf of someone else, let us know.

N., I lay my hands upon you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, beseeching our Lord Jesus Christ to sustain you with his presence, to drive away all sickness of body and spirit, and to give you that victory of life and peace which will enable you to serve him both now and evermore

THE PEACE The peace of the Lord be always with you. *And also with you.*

THE LORD'S PRAYER And now, filled by the Spirit we may pray, *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.*

A COLLECT FOR PEACE Almighty God, kindle, we pray, in every heart the true love of peace, and guide with your wisdom those who take counsel for the nations of the earth, that in tranquility your dominion may increase until the earth is filled with the knowledge of your love; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. *Amen.*

PRAYER FOR SPIRITUAL COMMUNION Let us pray, *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 now receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though you have already come, I embrace you and unite myself entirely to you; never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.* (St. Alphonsus de Liguori, 1696-1787)

THE BLESSING May the Sun of Righteousness shine upon you and scatter the darkness from before your path; and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. *Amen.*

THE DISMISSAL Go in peace to love and serve the Lord! *Thanks be to God!*