

Concordia Lutheran Church & St. Mary's Episcopal Church
Morning Prayer for the Sunday Celebrating
The Presentation of Our Lord/*Candlemas* (February 2)
January 31, 2021

Topic: The Sunday Celebrating the Presentation of Our Lord/*Candlemas*

Time: Sunday, January 31, 2021 10:00 AM Eastern Time

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82324470555?pwd=Z3dCRVpwSlpjaTRZXQvRHpmaUhXdz09>

Meeting ID: 823 2447 0555

Password: 0000

Use your telephone to call this number and enter the ID and Password.

You will be able to speak and to hear the service.

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Introduction to the Day: As we continue through the time after Epiphany, stories of the call to discipleship show us the implications of our baptismal calling to show Christ to the world. Jesus begins proclaiming the good news and calling people to repentance right after John the Baptist is arrested for preaching in a similar way. Knowing that John was later executed, we see at the very outset the cost of discipleship. Still, the two sets of brothers leave everything they have known and worked for all their lives to follow Jesus and fish for people.

PRELUDE: Grace

Composed and arranged by William Joseph; *Kelly Sharp*

THE OFFICE OF MATINS, MORNING PRAYER, WITH CANDLEMAS

CANDLEMAS 2021: *On Candlemas we bless and light candles and ask God to send us out as Christ's light in the world today.*

Reverend Johnson

The Lord is my strength and my life.

The Lord is my light and my salvation.

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

A light which no darkness can quench.

Dear Friends: forty days ago, we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. As a sign of Christ's coming among us, his mother was purified, as we now come to him for renewal. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognized Christ as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. We celebrate both the joy of Christ's coming and his searching judgment, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion.

The Candles are lighted.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, king of the universe.

To you be glory and praise forever!

For you, O Christ, are our light and our salvation.

We welcome Christ with joy.

May the light of Christ shine through us.

Blessed be God forever.

The candles are blessed.

Reverend Johnson

Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light, pour into the hearts of your faithful people the brilliance of your eternal splendor, that we, kindling these new flames, may have the darkness of our soul dispelled and so live with you, Father, Son **†** and Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

A Hymn

Arise and Shine

VF #156, tune: Wareham

1. Arise and shine, the prophets sang; your light has come, the message rang.
The shroud of darkness stripped away, God's glory brings a bright new day.
2. God's rising sun will light the way, as people stream to dawning's ray.
Your open gates will never close, in bus'ling day or night's repose.
3. You will not need the sun by day nor moon by night to light your way;
God's glory and eternal might will be your everlasting light.

A Responsive Prayer

Pastor Marschhausen

O God, source of all light, who enlightens the nations;

May we know and share the light of Christ.

O God, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna, who welcomed the Messiah;

May we know and share the light of Christ.

Jesus Christ, the Light that shines forever, fill our hearts with the light of faith;

May we know and share the light of Christ.

Jesus Christ, make your home among us and enable us to be a blessing to others;

May we know and share the light of Christ.

Jesus Christ, presented to the world to reflect the glory of God;

May we know and share the light of Christ.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Reverend Johnson

from *BCP*

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

Let us pray. 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.**

A HYMN*I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light*

ELW #815

- 1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

- 2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear Sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father. *Refrain*
- 3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus. *Refrain*

READINGS FROM SCRIPTURE**The First Reading – Malachi 3:1-4***Reader from St. Mary's*

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.

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.

Word of God, word of life.

Thanks be to God.**The Holy Gospel – Luke 2:22-40***Deacon Winzler proclaims the Gospel...*

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 Holy Gospel according to St. Luke ...

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.”

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, ³⁷then 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.

HYMN OF THE DAY

In His Temple Now Behold Him

ELW #417

- 1 In his temple now behold him, see the long-expected Lord;
ancient prophets had foretold him, God has sent the promised Word.
Now to praise him, his redeemed shall break forth with one accord.
- 2 In the arms of her who bore him, virgin pure, behold him lie,
while his aged saints adore him, mere in perfect faith they die.
Alleluia! Alleluia! Lo, the incarnate God Most High!
- 3 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.
- 4 Prince and author of salvation, be your boundless love our theme!

Jesus, praise to you be given by the world you did redeem,
with the Father and the Spirit God of majesty supreme!

HOMILY

Pastor Marschhausen

A Moment for Reflection

Pastor Marschhausen

Long ago God spoke to our ancestors in many and various ways by the prophets,
but in these last days God has spoken to us by the Son.

THE PRAYER OF THE PEOPLE *Leader from Concordia*

BCP Form III

Father, we pray for your holy catholic Church;

That we all may be one.

Grant that every member of the Church may truly and humbly serve you;

That your name may be glorified by all people.

We pray for all bishops, priest, pastors and deacons;

That they may be faithful ministers of your Word and Sacraments.

We pray for all who govern and hold authority in the nations of the world;

That there may be justice and peace on the earth.

Give us grace to do your will in all that we undertake;

That our works may find favor in your sight.

Have compassion on those who suffer from any grief, illness or trouble;

That they may be delivered from their distress.

Give to the departed eternal rest, especially we remember Will Douglas;

Let light perpetual shine upon them.

We praise you for your saints who have entered into joy;

May we also come to share in your heavenly kingdom.

A PRAYER WHILE WE ARE UNABLE TO RECEIVE HOLY COMMUNION

Pastor Marschhausen

Lord Jesus Christ, you are the bread of life and the cup of salvation.

I believe that you are truly present in the sacrament of Holy Communion.

I am baptized into your death and resurrection.

I seek you daily. I worship and adore you.

Since I cannot receive you in the eucharistic bread and wine,

I pray that you continue to come into my heart and soul,
as you always have,

through Confession and Forgiveness,
through the proclamation of your holy Word,
and through the prayers of your people;

that I may remain united to you

by your all-powerful and ever-present Holy Spirit.

Let me receive you and be nourished by your abundant grace.

Be for me the manna in my wilderness,

the bread of angels for my very human journey through time,

a foretaste of the heavenly banquet,
and solace in the hour of my death.

And return us all, Lord Jesus, to your Holy Table when this is over.

I pray all this, trusting that you are our life,
our peace, and our everlasting joy. **Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS *Intercessions and Thanksgivings follow...* *Reverend Johnson*

Now I invite your prayers for all the needs of the world God so loved, silently or aloud.

After each petition we pray, Lord, in your mercy. Hear our Prayer.

Draw near to us, O God, and receive our prayers for the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

BIRTHDAY & ANNIVERSARY BLESSINGS

Pastor Marschhausen

O God, our times are in your hand: Look with favor, we pray, on your servant *N.* as *he* begins another year. Grant that *he* may grow in wisdom and grace, and strengthen *his* trust in your goodness all the days of *his* life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit, bless, preserve and keep you; *N. and N.*.. God mercifully grant you the riches of grace, that you may please God both in body and soul. God make you a sign of the loving-kindness and steadfast fidelity manifest in the life, death, and resurrection of our Savior, and, living together in faith and love, may receive the blessings of eternal life. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Reverend Johnson

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

**Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.**

Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us.

Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil.

For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

THE BLESSING

Pastor Marschhausen

Let us pray. O God, you have called your servants to ventures of which we cannot see the ending, by paths as yet untrodden, through perils unknown. Give us faith to go out with good courage, not knowing where we go, but only that your hand is leading us and your love supporting us; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Almighty God, the Father, † the Son, and the Holy Spirit, bless and preserve you. **Amen.**

CLOSING HYMN*O Lord, Now You Let Your Servant*

ELW #313

- 1 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 nations unto your holy hill,
the glory of your people, your chosen Israel.
- 2 Then grant that I may follow your gleam, O glorious Light,
till earthly shadows scatter, and faith is changed to sight;
till raptured saints shall gather upon that shining shore,
where Christ, the blessed daystar, shall light them evermore.

Deacon Fedorchak dismisses the assembly...

Go in peace. Be the Light of Christ.

Thanks be to God.**POSTLUDE: Toccata in F Major**Dietrich Buxtehude; *John Anderson*

NOTES:

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DAILY READINGS FOR FEBRUARY 1-6**Monday, February 1**

Psalm 35:1-10
Numbers 22:1-21
Acts 21:17-26

Thursday, February 4

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Proverbs 12:10-21
Galatians 5:2-15

Tuesday, February 2

Candlemas
Psalm 35:1-10
Numbers 22:22-28
1 Corinthians 7:32-40

Friday, February 5

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Job 36:1-23
1 Corinthians 9:1-16

Wednesday, February 3

Psalm 35:1-10
Jeremiah 29:1-14
Mark 5:1-20

Saturday, February 6

Psalm 147:1-11, 20c
Isaiah 46:1-13
Matthew 12:9-14