



SAINT FRANCIS  
EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF WILLOW GLEN

## *Morning Prayer*

*The Season after the Epiphany*

*Week of Epiphany 4A*

February 2, 2023

Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple  
(Candlemas)

10:15 a.m.

1205 Pine Avenue – San Jose, CA 95125  
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## ~Morning Prayer, Rite II~

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When 2 people are reading: READER 1: Plain Text *Reader 2: Italics* **Both: Bold**

You are invited to begin the service by lighting a candle.

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*Officiant:* I will give you as a light to the nations, that my salvation may reach to the end of the earth. *Isaiah 49:6b*

### Invitatory and Psalter

#### *Opening Acclamation*

*Officiant* Lord, open our lips.

*People* **And our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

**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. Alleluia.**

#### *Invitatory Psalm (100)*

*Officiant and People*

**Be joyful in the Lord, all you lands; \***

**serve the Lord with gladness**

**and come before his presence with a song.**

**Know this: The Lord himself is God; \***

**he himself has made us, and we are his;**

**we are his people and the sheep of his pasture.**

**Enter his gates with thanksgiving;**

**go into his courts with praise; \***

**give thanks to him and call upon his Name.**

**For the Lord is good;**

**his mercy is everlasting; \***

**and his faithfulness endures from age to age.**

#### *The Psalm or Psalms Appointed*

Psalm 71

1 In you, O LORD, have I taken refuge; \* let me never be ashamed.

2 In your righteousness, deliver me and set me free; \* incline your ear to me and save me.

3 Be my strong rock, a castle to keep me safe; \* you are my crag and my stronghold.

4 Deliver me, my God, from the hand of the wicked, \*

from the clutches of the evildoer and the oppressor.

5 For you are my hope, O Lord GOD, \* my confidence since I was young.

6 I have been sustained by you ever since I was born;

*from my mother's womb you have been my strength; \*  
my praise shall be always of you.*

7 I have become a portent to many; \* but you are my refuge and my strength.

8 *Let my mouth be full of your praise \* and your glory all the day long.*

9 Do not cast me off in my old age; \* forsake me not when my strength fails.

10 *For my enemies are talking against me, \**

*and those who lie in wait for my life take counsel together.*

11 They say that God has forsaken me, that they will come after me and seize me; \*  
because there is none who will save.

12 *O God, be not far from me; \* come quickly to help me, O my God.*

13 Let those who set themselves against me be put to shame and be disgraced; \*  
let those who seek to do me evil be covered with scorn and reproach.

14 *But I shall always wait in patience, \* and shall praise you more and more.*

15 My mouth shall recount your mighty acts and saving deeds all day long; \*  
though I cannot know the number of them.

16 *I will begin with the mighty works of the Lord GOD; \* I will recall your righteousness, yours alone.*

17 O God, you have taught me since I was young, \* and to this day I tell of your wonderful works.

18 *And now that I am old and gray-headed, O God, do not forsake me, \**

*till I make known your strength to this generation and your power to all who are to come.*

19 Your righteousness, O God, reaches to the heavens; \*  
you have done great things; who is like you, O God?

20 *You have showed me great troubles and adversities, \**

*but you will restore my life and bring me up again from the deep places of the earth.*

21 You strengthen me more and more; \* you enfold and comfort me.

22 *Therefore I will praise you upon the lyre for your faithfulness, O my God; \*  
I will sing to you with the harp, O Holy One of Israel.*

23 My lips will sing with joy when I play to you, \* and so will my soul, which you have redeemed.

24 **My tongue will proclaim your righteousness all day long, \***

**for they are ashamed and disgraced who sought to do me harm.**

**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.**

## **The Lessons**

**First Reading:** *Isaiah 55:1-13*

A reading from the Prophet Isaiah.

Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat!  
Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live. I will make with you an everlasting covenant, my steadfast, sure love for David. See, I made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander for the peoples. See, you shall call

nations that you do not know, and nations that do not know you shall run to you, because of the LORD your God, the Holy One of Israel, for he has glorified you.

Seek the LORD while he may be found, call upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake their way, and the unrighteous their thoughts; let them return to the LORD, that he may have mercy on them, and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. For my thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts.

For as the rain and the snow come down from heaven, and do not return there until they have watered the earth, making it bring forth and sprout, giving seed to the sower and bread to the eater, so shall my word be that goes out from my mouth; it shall not return to me empty, but it shall accomplish that which I purpose, and succeed in the thing for which I sent it. For you shall go out in joy, and be led back in peace; the mountains and the hills before you shall burst into song, and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the cypress; instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle; and it shall be to the LORD for a memorial, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off.

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

### ***Canticle 16: Luke 1:68-79***

#### ***The Song of Zechariah***

**Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel; \* he has come to his people and set them free.**

**He has raised up for us a mighty savior, \* born of the house of his servant David.**

**Through his holy prophets he promised of old, that he would save us from our enemies, \***  
**from the hands of all who hate us.**

**He promised to show mercy to our fathers \* and to remember his holy covenant.**

**This was the oath he swore to our father Abraham, \***

**to set us free from the hands of our enemies,**

**Free to worship him without fear, \* holy and righteous in his sight all the days of our life.**

**You, my child, shall be called the prophet of the Most High, \***

**for you will go before the Lord to prepare his way,**

**To give his people knowledge of salvation \* by the forgiveness of their sins.**

**In the tender compassion of our God \* the dawn from on high shall break upon us,**

**To shine on those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death, \***

**and to guide our feet into the way of peace.**

**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.**

### ***Second Reading: Mark 8:27—9:1***

*A reading from the Gospel according to Mark.*

*Jesus went on with his disciples to the villages of Caesarea Philippi; and on the way he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that I am?" And they answered him, "John the Baptist; and others,*

*Elijah; and still others, one of the prophets.” He asked them, “But who do you say that I am?” Peter answered him, “You are the Messiah.” And he sternly ordered them not to tell anyone about him. Then he began to teach them that the Son of Man must undergo great suffering, and be rejected by the elders, the chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and after three days rise again. He said all this quite openly. And Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. But turning and looking at his disciples, he rebuked Peter and said, “Get behind me, Satan! For you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.”*

*He called the crowd with his disciples, and said to them, “If any want to become my followers, let them deny themselves and take up their cross and follow me. For those who want to save their life will lose it, and those who lose their life for my sake, and for the sake of the gospel, will save it. For what will it profit them to gain the whole world and forfeit their life? Indeed, what can they give in return for their life? Those who are ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation, of them the Son of Man will also be ashamed when he comes in the glory of his Father with the holy angels.” And he said to them, “Truly I tell you, there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see that the kingdom of God has come with power.”*

*Reader* The Word of the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God**

### **Canticle 17:** [Luke 2:29-32](#)

[The Song of Simeon \(Nunc dimittus\)](#)

Lord, you now have set your servant free \* to go in peace as you have promised;

*For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \**

*whom you have prepared for all the world to see:*

**A Light to enlighten the nations, \* and the glory of your people Israel.**

**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.**

## **The Apostles' Creed**

*Officiant and People*

**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 power of 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 again 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.

## The Prayers

*Officiant*      The Lord be with you.  
*People*        **And also with you.**  
*Officiant*      Let us pray.

### *The Lord's Prayer*

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 for ever. Amen.

### *The Suffrages*

*The officiant recites the versicle (V), the people respond (R)*

V. Show us your mercy, O Lord;  
R. **And grant us your salvation.**  
V. Clothe your ministers with righteousness;  
R. **Let your people sing with joy.**  
V. Give peace, O Lord, in all the world;  
R. **For only in you can we live in safety.**  
V. Lord, keep this nation under your care;  
R. **And guide us in the way of justice and truth.**  
V. Let your way be known upon earth;  
R. **Your saving health among all nations.**

V. Let not the needy, O Lord, be forgotten;  
R. **Nor the hope of the poor be taken away.**  
V. Create in us clean hearts, O God;  
R. **And sustain us with your Holy Spirit.**

*Collect for the Day: Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple*

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.**

*Collect for Peace*

*O God, the author of peace and lover of concord, to know you is eternal life and to serve you is perfect freedom: Defend us, your humble servants, in all assaults of our enemies; that we, surely trusting in your defense, may not fear the power of any adversaries; through the might of Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.***

*Prayers of Intercession and Thanksgiving*

*Please add your own intercessions, supplications and thanksgivings here. This may include prayers from the previous Sunday bulletin.*

*Collect for the Mission of the Church*

Lord Jesus Christ, you stretched out your arms of love on the hard wood of the cross that everyone might come within the reach of your saving embrace: So clothe us in your Spirit that we, reaching forth our hands in love, may bring those who do not know you to the knowledge and love of you; for the honor of your Name. **Amen.**

*The General Thanksgiving*

*Officiant and People*

**Almighty God, Father of all mercies, we your unworthy servants give you humble thanks for all your goodness and loving-kindness to us and to all whom you have made. We bless you for our creation, preservation, and all the blessings of this life; but above all for your immeasurable love in the redemption of the world by our Lord Jesus Christ; for the means of grace, and for the hope of glory. And, we pray, give us such an awareness of your mercies, that with truly thankful hearts we may show forth your praise, not only with our lips, but in our lives, by giving up our selves to your service, and by walking before you in holiness and righteousness all our days; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom, with you and the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory throughout all ages. **Amen.****

### *A Prayer of St. Chrysostom*

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

### **The Dismissal**

*Reader* Let us bless the Lord.

*People* **Thanks be to God.**

*Officiant:* The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.** *2 Corinthians 13:14*

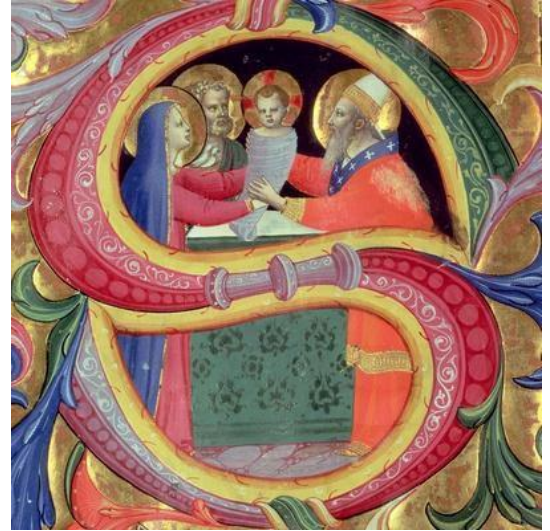


## Biographical information

### THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE FEAST OF THE PURIFICATION OF THE VIRGIN or CANDLEMAS DAY (FEB 2)

The events commemorated today are recorded in Luke 2:22-39.

Counting forward from December 25 as Day One, we find that Day Forty is February 2. A Jewish woman is in semi-seclusion for 40 days after giving birth to a son, and accordingly it is on February 2 that we celebrate the coming of Mary and Joseph with the infant Jesus to the Temple at Jerusalem (1) to offer sacrifice on behalf of Mary to mark the end of her seclusion (see Le 12:1-8), and (2) to ransom or redeem (buy back) Jesus as a first-born male (see Ex 13:11-13; 22:29; Nu 18:15-16; Dt 15:19).



As they did so, they were greeted by the aged Simeon. In a Sunday-School pageant, I once saw, the narrator said, "And now Simeon bursts into a spontaneous song of praise, assisted by the Temple Choir." His song, called the Nunc Dimittis, has always had a prominent role in Christian worship. It has often been rendered in verse.

Lord God, thou now hast set thy servant free,  
to part in peace according to thy word.  
Mine eyes have seen the Saviour, Christ the Lord -  
prepared by thee for all the worlds to see;  
to shine on nations lost in darkest night,  
the glory of thy people, and their light.

Because an old reading for this festival contains the line (Zephaniah 1:12), "I will search Jerusalem with candles," the day is also known as Candlemas, and sometimes observed with a candle-lit procession. On the other hand, Groundhog Day ("If the groundhog (or woodchuck, a kind of marmot, which burrows and hibernates) sees his shadow on 2 February, there will be six more weeks of winter.") is strictly a secular holiday, brought to the United States and Canada by German immigrants.

[Candlemas] was observed as the official end of Christmas in medieval England. The date itself was a great feast day and is so-called because candles intended to be used in churches in the coming year would be blessed on that day.

Evidence that decorations were kept up until the evening before Candlemas is well documented. To this day, Christmas cribs remain in place in many churches until Candlemas, and their removal is described in an early 17th-century poem:

**Ceremony Upon Candlemas Eve, Robert Herrick (1591-1674)**

*Down with the rosemary, and so  
Down with the bays and misletoe;  
Down with the holly, ivy, all  
Wherewith ye dress'd the Christmas hall;  
That so the superstitious find  
No one least branch there left behind;  
For look, how many leaves there be  
Neglected there, maids, trust to me,  
So many goblins you shall see.*

Source: Adapted from *Satucket Lectionary*, [satucket.com](http://satucket.com) and from

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/about-us/search-news/leave-your-decorations-up/>

Image: Fra Angelico, *Presentation in the Temple, Madonna and Child*, from a missal c. 1430