

GRACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

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THE REV. PEGGY NIEDERER – PASTOR

201-403-4341

PATRICIA BRADY-DANZIG – GUEST PIANIST

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY

Presentation of Our Lord

FEBRUARY 2, 2025

10 AM



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.

VISIT US AT:

WWW.GRACELUTHERANTEANECK.ORG
and on Facebook

Welcome to worship!
Masking is optional but recommended while indoors.

PRELUDE: O Christ, the Great Foundation Music by SS Wesley 1864

CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

***Please stand and face the baptismal font
near the entrance of the church.***

P: Blessed be the Holy Trinity, ✙ one God,
 whose steadfast love is everlasting.

C: **Amen.**

P: Let us confess our sin in the presence of God
 and of one another.

Silence is kept for reflection.

P: God-with-us,

C: **we confess that sometimes we turn away
 those who seek shelter,
 claiming there is no room when we have plenty.
 We sometimes make power and wealth our idols,
 while you show us true glory: a baby in a manger.
 We have overlooked the shepherds,
 expecting good news in prettier packaging.
 Too often, we have valued violence
 instead of your peace.
 Turn us from our ways to your ways.
 Grant us the grace to begin again.
 Free us from all that keeps us bound,
 and forgive our sin,
 through Jesus Christ, who gives himself for us.
 Amen.**

P: Hear the good news and rejoice!
 You are God's chosen ones,
 holy and beloved, ✙ forgiven in Christ,
 and freed to respond in joy.

C: **Amen**

ENTRANCE HYMN

We Are Marching in the Light of God

ELW 866



Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos', si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha -
We are march - ing in the light of God, we are march - ing in the



nyen' kwen - khos'. Si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos',
light of God. We are march - ing in the light of God,



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.



Si - ya - ham - ba (ham - ba, si - ya - ham - ba) OO
We are march - ing (march - ing, we are march - ing) OO



si - ya - hamb' e - ku - kha - nyen' kwen - khos'.
we are march - ing in the light of God.

Additional stanzas ad lib.:

We are dancing ...

We are praying ...

We are singing ...

Text: South African traditional; tr. Freedom Is Coming, 1984

Music: SIYAHAMBA, South African traditional

Tr. © 1984 Utryck, admin. Walton Music Corp.


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THE GREETING


P: Arise, shine, for your light has come. Alleluia, alleluia!
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

C: **And also with you.**


KYRIE



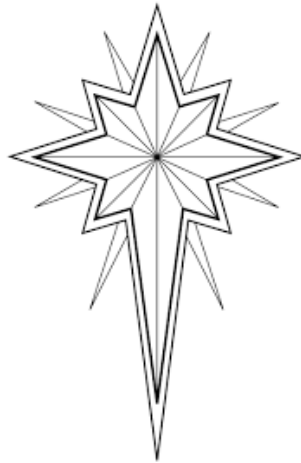
A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



A Chri - ste e - le - i - son: **C** Christ, have mer - cy.
Christ, have mer - cy:



A Ky - ri - e e - le - i - son: **C** Lord, have mer - cy.
Lord, have mer - cy:



HYMN OF PRAISE

Glory to God

WOV, Setting 5



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



☐ Lord God, heav-en - ly king, al-might- y God and Fa- ther, we



wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;



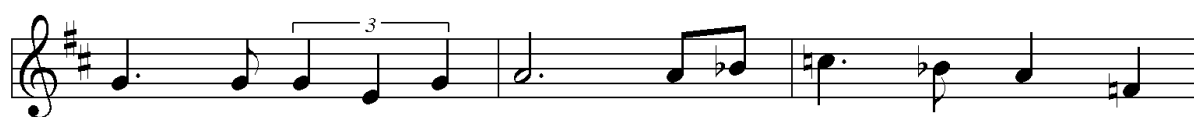
glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo- ple on earth.



☐ Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther,



Lord God, Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the



world: have mer - cy on us; you are seat - ed at the



right hand of the Fa - ther: re- ceive our prayer.

☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

I For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

II you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly

Spir - it, in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther, A - men.

☐ Glo-ry to God, glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God in the high - est;

glo - ry to God, glo - ry to God, and peace to God's peo - ple on earth,

and peace to God's peo - ple on earth.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you,**

P: Let us pray.

P: 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.

C: **Amen.**

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

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.

A: A reading from Malachi, the 3rd chapter.

¹ 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. ² 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; ³ 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. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

A: The word of God. The Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 84 READ RESPONSIVELY

¹ How 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.**

³ Even 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.**

⁵ Happy 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.**

⁷ They 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.**

⁹ Behold 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 tent of the wicked.**

¹¹ For 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.

A: A reading from Hebrews, the 2nd chapter.

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

A: The word of God. The Word of life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**



Please stand.

GOSPEL HYMN

Let All Together Praise Our God

ELW 287

***Stanza 1 before the Gospel;
Stanza 3 after the Gospel.***



1 Let all to - geth - er praise our God be - fore the
2 From God's right hand the Son de - scends, is born an
3 O ten - der Child, you veil in flesh the splen - dor
4 Your moth - er feeds you ten - der - ly, sings you a



high - est throne; to - day God o - pens heav'n a - gain and
in - fant small, and lies in pov - er - ty, his bed a
of your might; a ser - vant's garb now wraps the one who
lul - la - by, while an - gels, hail - ing Da - vid's heir, your



sends the on - ly Son, and sends the on - ly Son.
man - ger in a stall, a man - ger in a stall.
clothed the sky with light, who clothed the sky with light.
glo - ry mag - ni - fy, your glo - ry mag - ni - fy.

5 A wonderful exchange you make:
you take our flesh and blood,
and in return give us to share
the shining realm of God,
the shining realm of God.

6 Unlock the door again today
that leads to paradise;
the angel bars the way no more.
To God let praises rise,
to God let praises rise!

Text: Nikolaus Herman, 1480–1561; tr. hymnal version
Music: LOBT GOTT, IHR CHRISTEN, Nikolaus Herman
Text © 2006 Augsburg Fortress

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THE HOLY 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.

P: The Holy Gospel according to Luke, the 2nd chapter.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

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

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

²⁹ “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

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

³⁶ 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, 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. ³⁸ 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.

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

P The Gospel of the Lord.

C **Praise to you, O Christ.**

Please be seated

SERMON

Pastor Peggy Niederer

Silence for Meditation



NICENE CREED

A: Let us confess our faith with Christians throughout the world by using the Nicene Creed.

**C: 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**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Lynn Buckingham

With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation.

A brief silence.

God of generations, you instilled in Anna and Simeon faith, dreams, and the welcome of a child. Bless elders who embody faith and hope; bless the newly baptized. Energize us to share faith from generation to generation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of community, we pray for our partners in ministry here in Teaneck, in the Meadowlands Cluster, the Northern Mission District, Lutheran Social Ministries of New Jersey, the New Jersey Synod, the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, the wider Christian community, our friends from the Light & Peace Mission in Haiti, and people of faith everywhere. as they live out their callings to serve.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of creation, in you the sparrow finds a home and we find lush valleys and living water. Bless the birds of the air, the animals of the valley, and renew our stewardship of this bountiful creation. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the nations, strengthen our resolve to care for all children and strive for peace among nations. Refine our nation where we have failed to root out racism (*especially as we observe Black History Month*) and guide us in truth-telling and reconciliation.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of hope, many long to see your presence revealed amid challenging circumstances. We hold in prayer all longing for sustainable housing, secure employment, access to medical care, and health and wellness, including those we pray for in silence and aloud (*pause*). God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of the people, you are made known in caring ministries. Bless those who serve as communion servers, homebound visitors, baptismal sponsors, confirmation mentors, and as prayer support. Reveal yourself in the neighborly care we give and receive.

God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

God of life, we thank you for Jesus' life and for his death that has destroyed death. We remember the dearly departed, especially Carol Weber, as she dwells with you in your holy courts now and forever. God of grace, **hear our prayer.**

P: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

C: **Amen.**

PEACE ***Please stay at your seat as you share a sign of peace.***

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

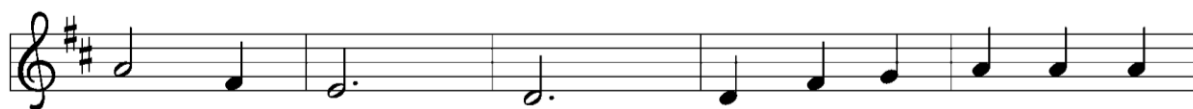
OFFERING

*Please place your offering in the plate located on the table
at the back of the sanctuary before or after Worship.*

Please be seated.

OFFERTORY 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
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain

In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

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Please stand.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

A: Let us pray.

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.

C: Amen.

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also with you,**

P: Lift up your hearts.

C: **We lift them to the Lord.**

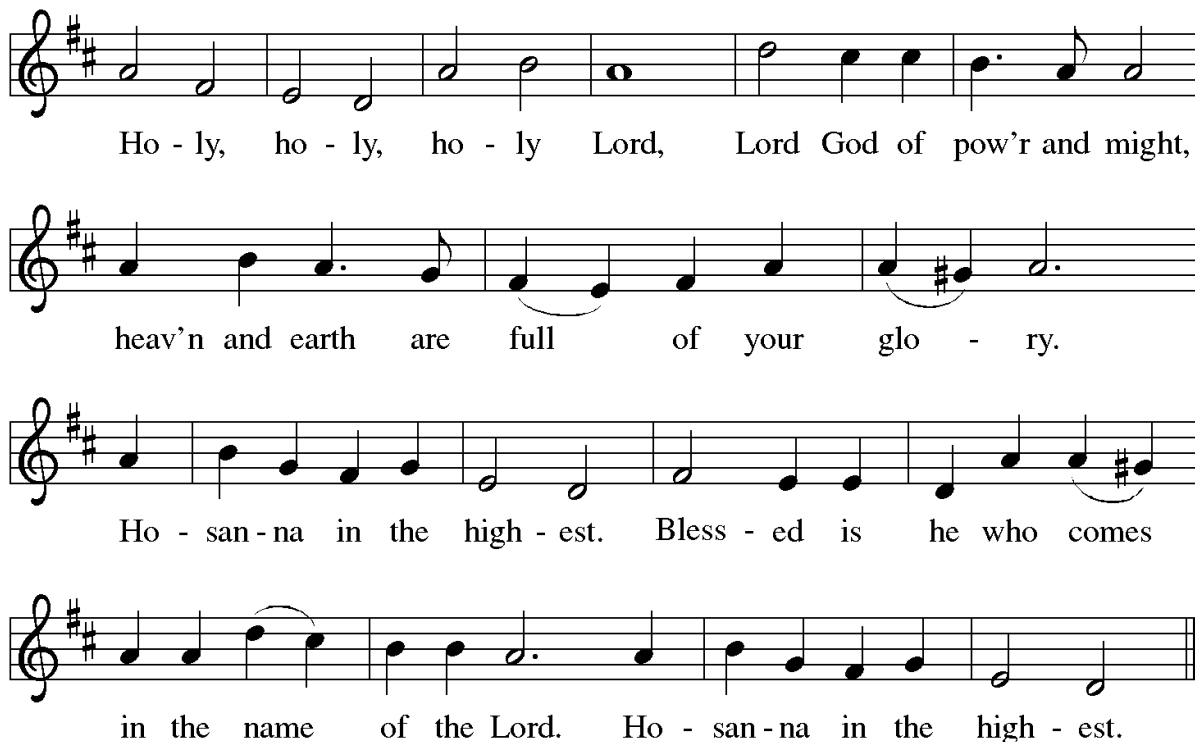
P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C: **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

THE PREFACE

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, Lord God of pow'r and might,
heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who comes
in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE

P: Holy One, the beginning and the end, the giver of life:
Blessed are you for the birth of creation.
Blessed are you in the darkness and in the light.
Blessed are you for your promise to your people.
Blessed are you in the prophets' hopes and dreams.
Blessed are you for Mary's openness to your will.
Blessed are you for your Son Jesus, the Word made flesh.

In the night in which he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus took
bread, and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples,
Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.
Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

C: Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P: With this bread and cup we remember your Word dwelling among us,
full of grace and truth. We remember our new birth in his death and
resurrection. We look with hope for his coming.

C: Come, Lord Jesus.

P: May your Word take flesh in us. Awaken your people. Fill us with your light
Bring the gift of peace on earth.

C: Come, Holy Spirit.

P: All praise and glory are yours, Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate, Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.

C: Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

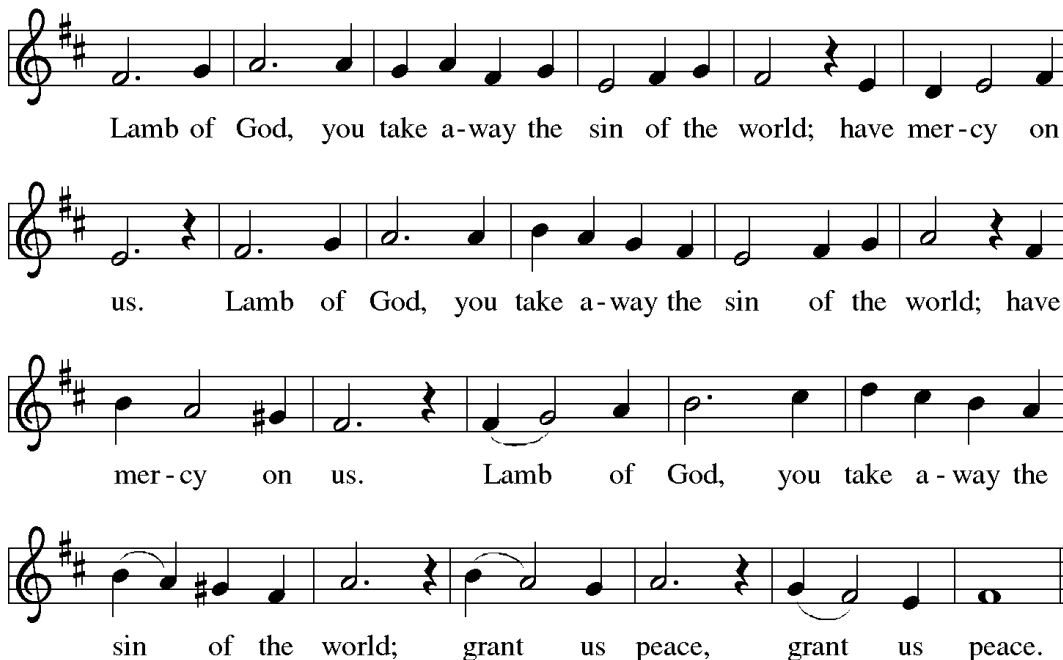
P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, we say the prayer Jesus has taught us:

**C: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name,
Your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as it is 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.**

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

The joy of the Lord is our strength.
Come, eat this meal of gladness.
Come to the table where all are welcome.

AGNUS DEI



CONTINUOUS COMMUNION

Please come forward for Communion, beginning with those in the back pews, alternating sides, leaving adequate space between you and the person in front of you. Masking is optional but recommended as you come forward to receive the wafer & cup until you step away from the communion tray.

***A tray with individual cups is located in front of each pew section.
The center contains purple grape juice.
White wine is in the remainder of the tray.***

After use, please deposit cup in receptacle at the end of pew section.

Baptized Christians who recognize the presence of Christ in the bread and wine for the forgiveness of sins and eternal life are welcome to receive communion. If you have not yet been baptized or have never before received Holy Communion, you may come forward to receive a blessing. Fold your arms across your chest to let the Pastor know you wish to receive a blessing.

Please stand.

POST-COMMUNION BLESSING:

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you
in Christ's grace.

C: Amen.

POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE:

Nunc Dimittis

LBW, Setting 2

Lord, now you let your ser- vant go in peace; your word has been ful -
filled. My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre -
pared in the sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re - veal you to the
na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - ra - el.
Glo - ry to the Fa - ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho - ly Spir - it,
as it was in the be - gin - ning, is now,
and will be for - ev - er. A - men

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Let us pray.
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.

C: Amen.

BLESSING

P: The Spirit of the triune God ✠ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion,
and send you in love.

C: Amen.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

SENDING HYMN

Lord, Dismiss Us with Your Blessing

ELW 545



1 Lord, dis - miss us with your bless-ing, fill our hearts with joy and peace;
2 Thanks we give and ad - o - ra - tion for your gos - pel's joy - ful sound.
3 Sav - ior, when your love shall call us from our strug - gling pil - grim way,



let us each, your love pos - sess-ing, tri - umph in re - deem-ing grace.
May the fruits of your sal - va - tion in our hearts and lives a - bound.
let no fear of death ap - pall us, glad your sum - mons to o - bey.



Oh, re - fresh us; oh, re - fresh us, trav - 'ling through this wil - der-ness.
Ev - er faith-ful, ev - er faith-ful to your truth may we be found.
May we ev - er, may we ev - er reign with you in end-less day.

Text: attr. John Fawcett, 1740–1817, sts. 1–2, alt.; Godfrey Thring, 1823–1903, st. 3, alt.
Music: SICILIAN MARINERS, Sicilian, 18th cent.

DISMISSAL

A: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: Thanks be to God

POSTLUDE:

Give Praise to the Lord

Music HH Parry 1894

**OUR SPECIAL THANKS TODAY
TO**

Patricia Brady-Danzig, Guest Musician
Janet Thalmann - Greeter
Jack Martinez - Crucifer
Julie Buckingham, Liturgical Cantor
Sue Papera, Liturgist & Reader
Lynn Buckingham, Prayers of Intercession
Lynn Buckingham, Altar Guild

Memorial Mass for Carol Weber

Friday, February 14th at 4 PM

There will be no visitation at a funeral home.

Cards for the family can be mailed to:

The Baumann / Lambson Family
157 Washington Avenue
Tappan, NY 10983

SEARCH COMMITTEE: ORGANIST

As a result of Carol's transition to heaven

Your help is needed.

Let Lynn or Pastor know

if you would be willing to serve on this important committee
as we strive to continue
the music ministries and traditions
of this church.



How to Help Victims of the CA Wildfires

Sharing God's hope, healing, and renewal...

Contributions can be made online or check mailed to:

Lutheran Disaster Response
PO Box 1809, Merrifield, VA 22116-8009

With check: *enclose form located on the table
where you picked up your bulletin this morning.*



After Mass Today

Refreshments available in the Memorial Room



At Grace in Memorial Room

Wednesday, February 5th, at 1:30 PM



Thursday, February 6th at Noon Via Zoom

Connection link will be emailed

A Study on the Readings for Sunday.

Isaiah 6:1-8 [9-13]

Isaiah says, Here am I; send me

Psalms 138

I will bow down toward your holy temple. (Ps. 138:2)

1 Corinthians 15:1-11

I am the least of the apostles

Luke 5:1-11

Jesus calls the disciples to fish for people

In care of God's creation:

*We invite you to take your bulletin home for meditation
and to remember those on our prayer list. If you choose not to,
please place the bulletin on the table at the back of the church or place it
in the large plastic bin on the floor near the mailboxes after Mass.*

All cardboard and paper are recycled from those locations.

A recycle receptacle for plastic and glass is in the Memorial / Coffee Room



PRAYERS

Joan Costello (Jackie's mother-in-law & Kaitlin's & Lindsay's grandmother); **Doris Baumann, Dale Lambson, and Family** as they grieve the loss of Carol; **Darla Lambson** (leukemia); **Brad Gohmann** (cancer); Zulema's friends and family: **Donald Lazlear** and his family, **Katie and Surella Borowski**; **Rose Davis** (cancer); **Marc & Bella Yaffe** and **Leslyn Cooke**; **Susan Bethke** (Lynn's cousin undergoing chemo and other treatment for a brain tumor); **Marion Soohoo** (Will's Mother-in-law recovering from surgery); Sue Papera's friends and family: **Arlene Rizzo** (cancer) and Arlene's family; **Chris Palmer** (health concerns); **Caleb** (mental health issues); **Jenny L.** (health issues); **Carol Mulvaney** (breast cancer); **Michael Mulvaney** (prostate cancer); **Edward Foley** (back surgery); Janet's family and friends: **Jason and Paul Thalmann**; **Beverly Philip** (severe dementia), **Kathy O'Brien**, **Bert Maltz** (health concerns), **Michele Rusciano**; **Al & Mark Crovatto**; **Anita & Harold Bontekoe** (health concerns), Mary Ellen's family and friends: **Susan Beever**; **Dominick Capalba** (6 year old with brain cancer); **Patty Fitzgerald** (terminal lung cancer); Kay Roseen's family: **Jessica and Casey O'Neil** (Kay Roseen's daughter and son-in-law who work for the State Department); **Marcia & Chuck Hendron** (Kay's parents – memory care); **John Steffen** (Lorli's brother with health concerns); **Tammy** (Lorli's niece with an immune disorder); **Judy Letwink** (Lorli's nephew's Mother-in-law recovering from a stroke); **James Ilgenfritz** (Erika's son); **Peter Schelbli** (Erika's nephew with cancer); Friends of the congregation: **Kevin** (cancer), **Doris Feirer**, **Arouss Darpinian** (health concerns); **Chris Niederer** (Pastor's son with immune system disorder); **Nancy Barbee** (Pastor's friend with lung cancer); Dennis **Keohane** (Catherine's uncle); **Willi Lewis' Aunt Kelly** (health concerns); **Donna Maxwell**, **James Mingo** (Donna's grandson - health concerns); **Hana Kim** (health concerns); **Mary Sue Kaplow** (health concerns); (baby) **Hannah Muñiz** (a hospice patient where Jack works); **Chris** (Ruth DiCicco's daughter) & **Bob Wheeler**; (**Paul Whelan, Evan Gershkovich, and Alsu Kurmasheva** (recovering after release from Russian Prisons); the hostages in Gaza; Christians under persecution and all experiencing violence, captivity, or war: the people of Israel, Gaza, Palestine, Syria, Lebanon, Ukraine, Russia, Afghanistan, Sudan and organizations and individuals who are providing resources and care for refugees; front line workers, medical researchers; health care workers; national and regional relief workers and firefighters and all affected by natural disasters and wildfires.

Let Lynn or Pastor know of changes needed on the prayer list.



COMMEMORATIONS FOR THE WEEK

Presentation of Our Lord Sunday, February 2, 2025

Forty days after the birth of Jesus we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged priest who offered the song "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace," as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel.

Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865 Monday, February 3, 2025

A monk who helped bring Christianity to Scandinavia, Ansgar returned to Germany where he was named bishop of Hamburg. He is remembered for his love for poor people.

The Martyrs of Japan, died 1597 Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Christianity was brought to Japan in the sixteenth century by Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries. The religion was suppressed, however, and in 1597 twenty-six missionaries and converts were crucified. Nevertheless, Christianity survived and later prospered.

