

Welcome to
St. Peter's Lutheran Church



Presentation of Our Lord

February 2, 2025

10:15 Worship Service

Pastor Brandon Johns

If you brought a candle or candles with you as part of the Candlemas element of today's worship, then you may place it on the table at the front of the nave as you enter for worship. Alternatively, you may place it there during the candle procession or keep them with you throughout the service.

BELL RINGING**OPENING DIALOGUE**

The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it.

The Word became flesh and lived among us,
and we have beheld Christ's glory.

To us a child is born, to us a Son is given.

In the Word was life, and the life was the light of all people.

In the name of the Father, and of the + Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen

Forty days ago, we celebrated the joyful feast of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today we recall the holy day on which he was presented in the temple, fulfilling the law of Moses and at the same time going to meet his faithful people. Led by the Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the temple, recognized Christ as their Lord, and proclaimed him with joy. United by the Spirit, may we now go to the house of God to welcome Christ the Lord. There we shall behold him in Word and Sacrament until he comes again in glory.

Let us pray.

Gracious God, you have built us up like living stones into a holy house, with Jesus Christ our precious cornerstone. Set us as a city on a hill, shining with the light of your steadfast love and proclaiming your praise to the ends of the earth; through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

Let us go forth in peace to meet the Lord.

Procession of Candles now begins. As children and youth process throughout the Nave the rest of the congregation is invited to join as the procession comes around. If you are still holding your candle for blessing, you are invited to bring it with you and then place it on the table during the procession to be part of the collected candles awaiting blessing later in the service.

PROCESSIONAL HYMN: O Splendor of God's Glory Bright

1 O Splen - dor of God's glo - ry bright, from light e -
2 Come, Ho - ly Sun of heav - en - ly love, rain down your
3 O joy - ful be the pass - ing day with thoughts as
4 O Lord, with each re - turn - ing morn, your im - age

6 ter - nal bring - ing light; O Light of Light, light's
ra - dian - ce from a - bove, and to our in - ward
clear as morn - ing's ray, with faith like noon - tide
to our heart is born; O may we ev - er

1 liv - ing spring, true Day, all days il - lu - min - ing:
hearts con - vey the Ho - ly Spir - it's cloud - less ray.
shin - ing bright, our souls un - shad - oved by the night.
clear - ly view our Sav - ior and our God in you.

(alternate harmonization, 67)

Glory to God 666

TEXT: Ambrose of Milan, c. 374; trans. composite

MUSIC (PUER NOBIS NASCITUR, LM): Trier ms., 15th cent.; adapt. Michael Praetorius, 1609

BLESSING OF CANDLES

God is our light and our salvation,
our refuge and our stronghold.

From the rising of the sun to its setting,
we praise your name, O God.

Let your light scatter the darkness
and illumine your church.

Let us pray. Blessed are you, O Lord our God, ruler of the universe. You have enriched our lives with every good and perfect gift; you have commanded us to show your splendor to the nations and to praise you with lives of love, justice, and joy. Accept and bless these candles which will illumine our lives and worship of you in the coming year; may they be to us a sign of Christ, the Light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. Bring us all at length to your perfect kingdom, where you live and reign with the Son and the Holy Spirit, now and forever. **Amen.**

CONFESSIOAL HYMN: Renew Me, O Eternal Light

Sung to the tune of The Doxology

**1 Renew me, O eternal Light,
and let my heart and soul be bright,
illumined with the light of grace
that issues from your holy face.**

**2 Remove the pow'r of sin from me
and cleanse all my impurity,
that I may have the strength and will
temptations of the flesh to still.**

**3 Create in me a new heart, Lord,
that gladly I obey your word.
Let what you will be my desire,
and with new life my soul inspire.**

**4 Grant that I only you may love
and seek those things which are above,
till I behold you face to face,
O Light eternal, through your grace.**

GREETING

Christ is the light of the nations:

And the glory of Israel his people.

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

PRAYER OF THE DAY

Let us pray. 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. **Amen.**

SENIOR CHOIR *Come with Joyful Singing* Joseph M. Mart

CHILDREN'S MESSAGE

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

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.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

PSALM 84 (*Read Responsively*)

¹How 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.**

³Even 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.

⁴Happy are they who dwell in your house!

They will always be praising you.

⁵Happy are the people whose strength is in you,
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

**⁶Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a place of
springs, for the early rains have covered it with pools of
water.**

⁷They will climb from height to height,
and the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

**⁸LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer;
give ear, O God of Jacob.**

⁹Behold our defender, O God;
and look upon the face of your anointed.

**¹⁰For 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 tents of the wicked.**

¹¹For 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.

¹²O LORD of hosts, happy are they who put their trust in you!

SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:14-18

¹⁴Since, 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, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore 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. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

This is the Word of the Lord. Thanks be to God!

GOSPEL CANTICLE: Love Has Come

(The assembly stands, if able, to welcome the gospel.)



1 Love has come— a light in the dark - ness! Love shines forth in the
3 Love has come and nev - er will leave us! Love is life ev - er -



Beth - le - hem skies. See, all heav - en has come to pro - claim it;
last - ing and free. Love is Je - sus with - in and a - mong us.



hear how their song of joy a - ris - es; Love! Love! Born un - to
Love is the peace our hearts are seek - ing. Love! Love! Love is the



you, a Sav - ior! Love! Love! Glo - ry to God on high.
gift of Christ - mas. Love! Love! Praise to you, God on high!

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

The holy gospel according to Luke, the second chapter.

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.”

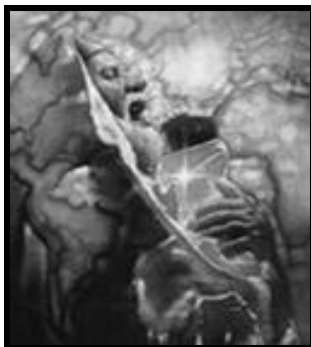
³³And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and 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.

This is the Holy Gospel of the Lord. Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON



HYMN OF THE DAY: In His Temple Now Behold Him

1 In his tem - ple now be - hold him, see the long - ex -
 2 In the arms of her who bore him, vir - gin pure, be -
 3 Je - sus, by your pre - sen - ta - tion, when they blessed you,
 4 Prince and au - thor of sal - va - tion, be your bound - less

pect - ed Lord; an - cient proph - ets had fore - told him,
 hold him lie, while his a - ged saints a - dore him,
 weak and poor, make us see your great sal - va - tion,
 love our theme! Je - sus, praise to you be giv - en

God has sent the prom - ised Word. Now to praise him,
 ere in per - fect faith they die. Al - le - lu - ia!
 seal us with your prom - ise sure; and pre - sent us,
 by the world you did re - deem, with the Fa - ther

his re - deem - ed shall break forth with one ac - cord.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Lo, the in - car - nate God Most High!
 in your glo - ry, to your Fa - ther, cleansed and pure.
 and the Spir - it God of maj - es - ty su - preme!

Text: Henry J. Pye, 1825–1903, alt.
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

APOSTLES' CREED

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 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 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.



PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

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.

The response for each petition is: God of grace, receive our prayer.

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

PEACE

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

OFFERING

Our offerings are made processionaly, which means dropped into the plates located near the entrances to the nave.

OFFERTORY SONG: LET THE VINEYARDS BE FRUITFUL



Let the vine-yards be fruit-ful, Lord, and fill to the brim our cup of



bles-sing. Gath-er a har-vest from the seeds that were sown, that



we may be fed with the bread of life. Gath-er the hopes and dreams of



all; u-nite them with the prayers we of-fer. Grace our ta-ble

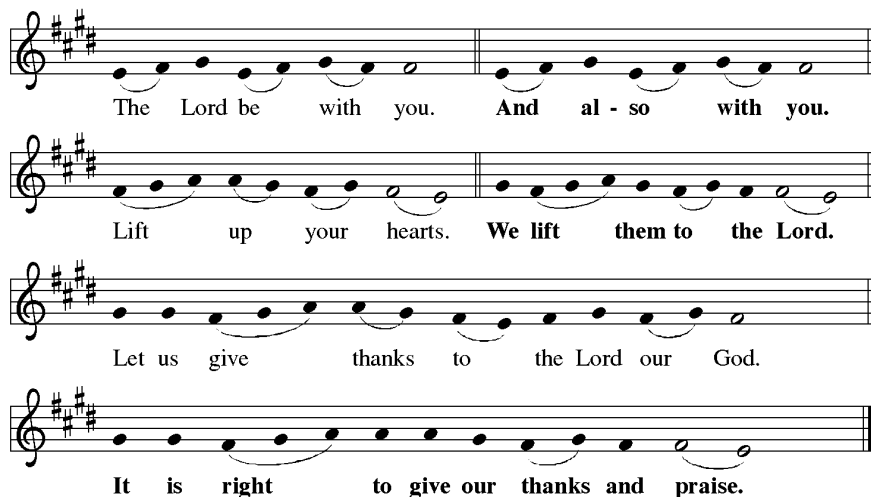


with your pres-ence, and give us a fore-taste of the feast to come.

OFFERTORY PRAYER

Let us pray. God of mercy and grace, **the eyes of all wait upon you, and you open your hand in blessing. Fill us with good things at your table, that we may come to the help of all in need, through Jesus Christ, our redeemer and Lord. Amen.**

DIALOGUE



The Lord be with you. And al - so with you.

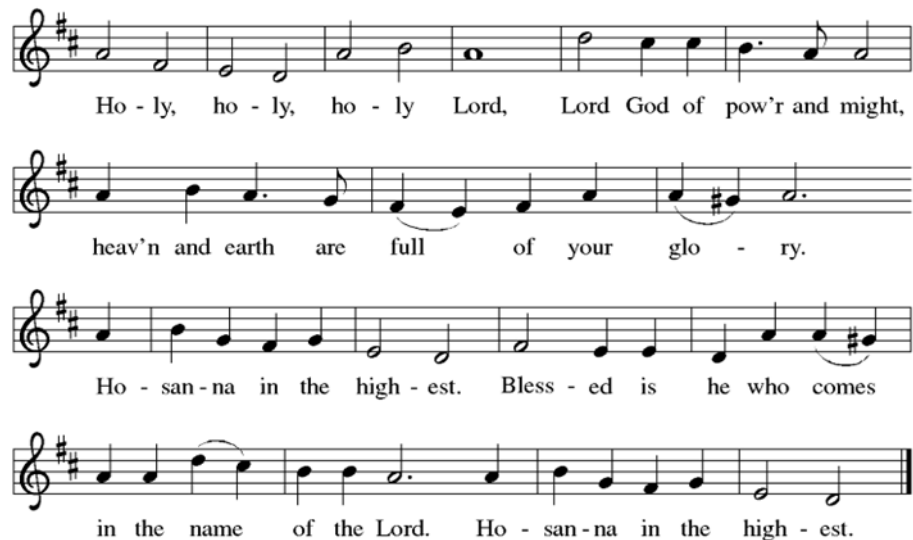
Lift up your hearts. We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

THE PROPER PREFACE *(It is indeed right... join their unending hymn)*

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



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.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

We give you thanks, Father, through Jesus Christ, your beloved Son, whom you sent in this end of the ages to save and redeem us and to proclaim to us your will.

He is your Word, inseparable from you, through whom you created all things, and in whom you take delight.

He is your Word, sent from heaven to a virgin's womb.

He there took on our nature and our lot and was shown forth as your Son, born of the Holy Spirit and of the virgin Mary.

He, our Lord Jesus, fulfilled all your will and won for you a holy people;

he stretched out his hands in suffering in order to free from suffering those who trust you and shine your light upon this world.

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

Remembering, then, his death and resurrection, we take this bread and cup, giving you thanks that you have made us worthy to stand before you and to serve you as your priestly people.

Send your Spirit upon these gifts of your church; gather into one all who share this bread and wine; fill us with your Holy Spirit to establish our faith in truth, that we may praise and glorify you through your Son Jesus Christ; through whom all glory and honor are yours, almighty Father, with the Holy Spirit, in your holy church, both now and forever.

Amen.

LORD'S PRAYER

Illumined by the Light of the World, we are bold to 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, forever and ever. Amen

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here, before our eyes, is the revelation of God's salvation prepared in the presence of all peoples. Come to the table of mercy and joy.

Lamb of God (sung as the distribution of the sacrament begins)



Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on



us. Lamb of God, you take a-way the sin of the world; have



mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the



sin of the world; grant us peace, grant us peace.

The Sacrament will be offered with these words:

The body of Christ, given for you.

And The blood of Christ, shed for you.

Optional responses **Amen or Thanks be to God or Renew us, Lord**

BLESSING

The Body and Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace. **Amen.**

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Let us pray. Radiant God, with our eyes we have seen your salvation, and in this meal we have feasted on your grace. May your Word take flesh in us, that we may be your holy people, revealing your glory made known to us in Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.

Amen.

BENEDICTION

The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord's face shine on you with grace and mercy.

The Lord look upon you with favor and ☩ give you peace. **Amen.**

SENDING SONG: O Lord, Now Let Your Servant

(Located on the next page of this bulletin)

SHARING FOR SERVING

BIRTHDAYS AND MISSION NOTICES

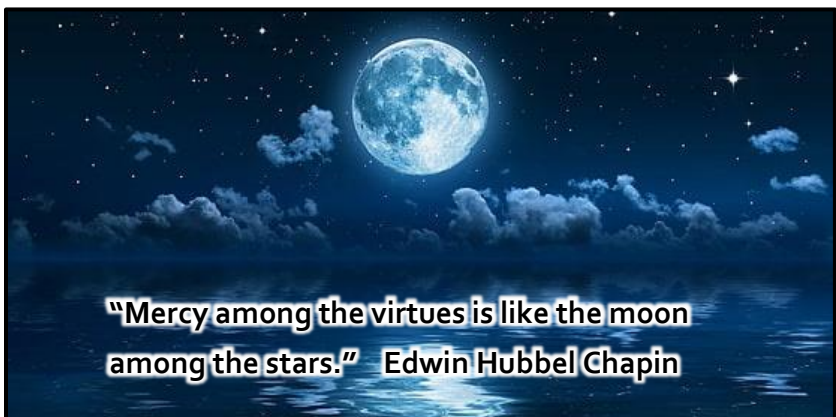
DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Let your light shine. **Thanks be to God!**

POSTLUDE

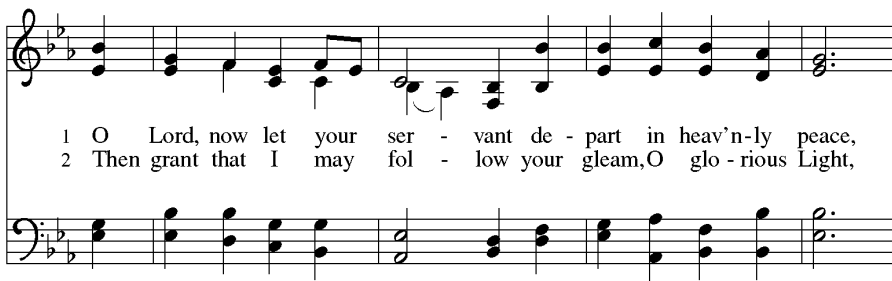
Sortie

Chester Nordman

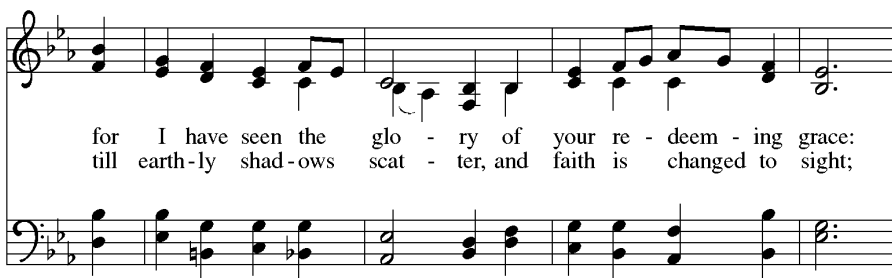


**"Mercy among the virtues is like the moon
among the stars." Edwin Hubbel Chapin**

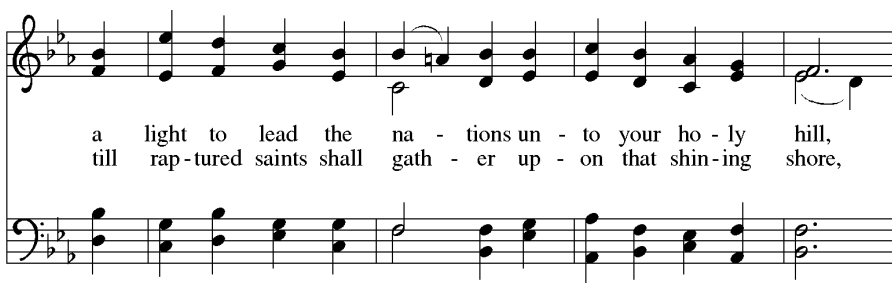
SENDING SONG: O Lord, Now Let Your Servant



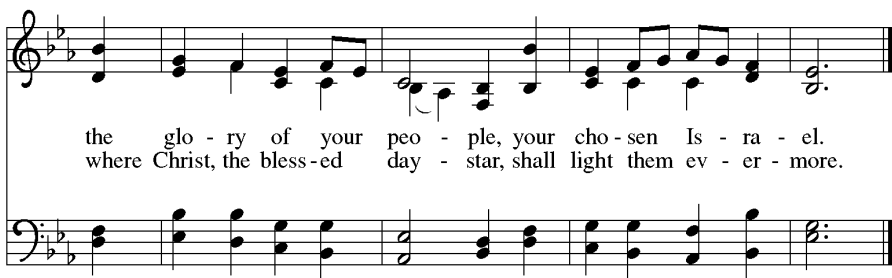
1 O Lord, now let your ser - vant de - part in heav'n-ly peace,
2 Then grant that I may fol - low your gleam, O glo - rious Light,



for I have seen the glo - ry of your re - deem - ing grace:
till earth-ly shad - ows scat - ter, and faith is changed to sight;



a light to lead the na - tions un - to your ho - ly hill,
till rap-tured saints shall gath - er up - on that shin - ing shore,



the glo - ry of your peo - ple, your cho - sen Is - ra - el.
where Christ, the bless - ed day - star, shall light them ev - er - more.

Text: Ernest E. Ryden, 1886–1981, alt.

Music: KUORTANE, Finnish folk tune; arr. hymnal version

Text © 1925 Board of Publication, Lutheran Church in America, admin. Augsburg Fortress.

Arr. © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.

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.

Prayers Have Been Requested Recently for the Following:

Cole Barkley	Troy Barkley	Luke Clawson
Roberta Domhoff	Lisa Burr	Gary Checkan
Kay Burr	Glen Walker	Jerry McElhinny
Mary Marburger Long	Berty McMillen	Albert Dorlain
John Kriebel	David & Betty Wobb	Susan Lohr
Sheila Hernandez	Carmen Morra	Reed Soergel
Fred Sharrar	Pastor Tony Schneck	Jaxton H.
Courtney Siracki	Eva Graziani	Pat Wolfe
Leslie Juliano	Carl & Theresa Kennedy	

The families of Eddie Schoeffel, Joe Maddalon and Joan Hesperheide

Please hold these members and friends of St. Peter's in your prayers.

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause for February

Our Monthly Benevolent Cause will support Sherry Ifft.

If you would like to support this cause, please mark the

Other line on your contribution envelope Sherry Ifft.

Today's altar flowers are in memory of Lynette Wingard who would be celebrating her 68th birthday on February 5th and in memory of Lucille Wingard who would be celebrating her 95th birthday on February 11th. Sponsored by Luann & Perry Brosius.



The eternal candle is presented by Luann & Perry Brosius in memory of our family's February birthdays. Genevieve Brosius, Lucille Wingard & Lynette Wingard

St. Peter's Upcoming Events:

Mon.-Fri.	4-6:00 pm	After School
Mon. Feb. 3 rd	6:30 pm	Fellowship
	7:00 pm	Boy Scouts
Tues. Feb. 4 th	7:00 pm	Property Meeting
Wed. Feb. 5 th	10:00 am	Community Quilting
	5:30 pm	Manna Night
	7:00 pm	Choir Practice
Thurs. Feb. 6 th	10:00 am	Quilters Group
	1:00 pm	Mary Circle
	7:00 pm	Bible Study
Fri. Feb. 7 th	12:00 pm	500 Club & Lunch



ST. PETER'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

is a congregation of the Southwestern Pennsylvania Synod of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA).

Presiding Bishop (ELCA)	The Rev. Elizabeth A. Eaton
Synodical Bishop (SWPA Synod)	The Rev. Kurt A. Kusserow
Pastor	The Rev. Brandon Johns
Music Director and Organist	Marlene Domhoff
Office Secretary	Kimberly Peaco
Sexton	Joe Ludwik
Acolyte	Volunteer
Assisting Minister	Ted Lindgren
Bell Ringer	Wes Schmidt
Greeters	Michael & Staci Bettencourt
Lector	Marsha Reedy
Nursery	Staci Bettencourt
Tech Support	Adam Price
Ushers	Dan & Casey Guerriero

Congregational Meeting – Please plan to stay after worship today, for lunch and our annual Bulletin of Reports meeting.

Nursery – With the nursery being back to regular use, we could use some older children and teens as assistants. We would like to have enough names and commitment to develop a schedule of volunteer assistants. Please let Adam Price or Beverly Barkley know if you're interested. Thank you!

Food Drive – In addition to our Monthly Benevolent Cause, we are collecting boxes of cereal in February for the food cupboard. Please consider donating to help our neighbors in need. Our next pack up day downstairs is Sunday, February 9.

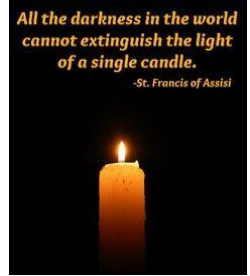
Bell Choir – This lovely ministry of music and fellowship will return to rehearsals on February 16 after worship. You don't need to have been a member of the Bell Choir previously to join in the fun at that time. All are welcome! We'll be preparing our Easter selections.

Electronic Giving – Would you like to make online contributions to St. Peter's? You can! Electronic Giving is an alternative way of giving to St. Peter's. If you are interested in giving in this way you will need to download the TITHE.LY app. or log into TITHE.LY using the link provided on our website. After you download the app or log into the web page you will need to set up an account and select St. Peter's Lutheran Church and the "Give Now" option or set up the autopay offering option. We are also in the process of investigating the pros and cons and logistics of having a St. Peter's Venmo account. If you have any input or questions please see Heidi Beahm or Pastor.

Prayer Requests – Just a quick reminder about how our prayer lists work. When the office receives a request that someone be included in the bulletin for prayer or when a request is made on a prayer card, then that person is put into the bulletin as requested. After 2-3 weeks in the bulletin, then the name is rotated off of the list in the bulletin, unless it is requested that the person remain longer. If it is known by Pastor that the person's need is still critical, then they might stay longer, or if Pastor knows it is an ongoing need, then they are moved to our longer printed prayer list. If you requested the prayer, please keep communicating to the office or Pastor so we know best how to support the person through our prayers.

Welcome to St. Peter's

We are thankful that you are here to worship with other Christians today. In the name of Jesus Christ, we pray that your worship experience will fill you with the grace and mercy of Almighty God through his Holy Spirit.



Newcomers and Guests

New to St. Peter's? Please sign the GUEST REGISTER behind the last pew. A handicapped accessible RESTROOM is located near the Van Buren Street entrance (through Luther Hall, past the kitchen, restroom is on the left in the foyer). You are welcome to commune with us if that is your practice.

Nursery - is staffed by a volunteer and available for children and caregivers. Exit the rear of the nave and follow the steps to the basement, the nursery is on the left. The service can be heard through an intercom in the nursery. There are activity bags in the back of the sanctuary and children's bulletins geared for children ages 5 and up are at the nave entrances.

Staying in Touch:

Our church office is open Monday through Friday from 9 am until noon. Pastor is often there also or by appointment.

Please feel free to contact us by phone or internet:

Church Office: 724.538.5810

Church Email: stpeterslcec@zoominternet.net

Pastor Email: rev.brandonjohns@gmail.com

Church Website: www.stpeterslutheranevanscity.org

Church Facebook Page: St. Peter's Lutheran Church

Sunday Bulletin Deadline: Wednesdays at 10:00 AM.

Newsletter deadline: Third Sunday of the Month

RECOGNITION OF ARTISTS:

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