

Presentation of Our Lord

February 2, 2021 + Mount Olive Lutheran Church



Focus on the Season: Presentation of Our Lord

The Presentation of Our Lord is the celebration of the presentation of Jesus as a first-born son in the Temple forty days after his birth, and the completion of Mary's ritual purification, all in accordance with Jewish law. Mount Olive always celebrates this festival on February 2, the day of the Presentation, even if it isn't a Sunday. In some parts of the Church the Presentation is called Candlemas because of an ancient tradition of blessing the candles to be used in the church in the coming year at the Eucharist celebrated that day. It is the song of Simeon at Jesus' presentation that speaks of him as a "light" for revelation to all the nations, and at worship our candles give the sign of that light. It is our tradition at Mount Olive to continue this practice and bless our candles today.

Keep this document open on the screen, to aid in your worship today. The links are embedded in this pdf, so you don't have to return to the email. You can also print these pages and use the links in the email.



Centering and Gathering: Candlemas Blessing

Light your candle. [Start the video by clicking here](#); it will continue through the Postlude.

GREETING

- Light and peace in Jesus Christ our Lord.
- Thanks be to God.**

THE SONG OF SIMEON

Leader All

A light, a light to re-veal you to the na - tions

and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - - - ra - el.

- Lord, now you let your servant go in peace; your word has been fulfilled. A light . . .
- A light to reveal you to the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.**
- My own eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared in the sight of every people. A light . . .
- A light to reveal you to 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 forever. A light . . .
- A light to reveal you to the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.**

Recorded on Saturday, January 30, 2021.

PRAYER OF BLESSING

- ☐ Let us pray. God our Father, source of all light, today you revealed to the aged Simeon your light which enlightens the nations. Bless these candles which we offer in thanksgiving. May they be to us a sign of Christ, the Light of the world, the light no darkness can overcome. Fill our hearts with the light of faith, that we who bear these candles may walk in the path of goodness, and come to that Light that shines forever, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

☑ **Amen**

PSALMODY: Psalm 84

The candles are lighted as Psalm 84 is chanted.

The verses of the psalm are sung by the soloist. The refrain is sung by all:

Leader All
A light, a light to reveal you to the na - tions
and the glo - ry of your peo - ple Is - - - ra - el.

ENTRANCE HYMN: ELW 417, “In His Temple Now Behold Him”

Sung at Mount Olive on the Presentation of Our Lord, February 2, 2014.

GREETING AND 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**

Word

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4 – Judy Hinck, lector

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.

SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:14-18; reader – Steve Berg, assisting minister

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.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION: *ELW* page 142, “Alleluia. Lord, to whom shall we go?”

Sung at Mount Olive on the Twenty-third Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 30, year C, October 23, 2016.

HOLY GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

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 male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said 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, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹ that 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 his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

³⁹ And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

SERMON

Songs of Praise

Vicar Andrea Bonneville

Silence for reflection.

HYMN: *ELW* 843 “Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness”

Sung at Mount Olive on the Second Sunday after Pentecost, Lect. 12 C, June 23, 2019.

INTERCESSORY PRAYERS

*Our Assisting Minister for today, Steve Berg, has prepared intercessory prayers for us to pray this feast day. As our prayers rise up from all over the metro area and beyond, once more we are joined together in Christ. (Our weekly prayer list is on the last page.) Response: **Hear our prayer.***

PEACE *Please greet one another with Christ’s peace.*

AT THE OFFERING

There are ways to continue to give of your gifts to our shared work at Mount Olive during this time apart. The Olive Branch has suggested ways both electronic and by mail. See:

<https://www.mountolivechurch.org/resources/olive-branch-newsletter/>

Sending

LORD'S PRAYER *Pray the Lord's Prayer together.*

BLESSING *Response: **Amen***

HYMN: ELW 718, "In a Lowly Manger Born"

Sung at Mount Olive on the Presentation of Our Lord, February 2, 2014.

DISMISSAL *The assisting minister leads the dismissal.*

☐ Go in peace to love and serve as Christ.

☑ **Thanks be to God.**

