

**The Presentation of Our Lord,
Jesus Christ, in the Temple**
February 2, 2025 10:15 a.m.



*Almighty God, may we be presented to you
with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Welcome to Church of the Ascension

Church of the Ascension provides opportunities to
Connect with God and one another,
Grow in faith and understanding, and
Serve the Lord, one another, and the world around us.

We are an active community of faith committed to welcoming all
and sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ.

Christ-centered + Spirit-filled + Mission-minded



Youth Sunday: Celebrating our young people!

The Liturgy of the Word of God

✠ Please stand as you are able.

Greetings

Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson

Prelude

✠ **Processional Hymn**

“Holy, Holy, Holy”

1. Holy holy holy,
Lord God Almighty
Early in the morning our song shall rise to Thee
Holy holy holy
Merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed trinity

3. Holy holy holy
Though the darkness hide thee
Though the eye of sinful man thy glory may not see
Only thou art holy
There is none beside thee
Perfect in power in love and purity

2. Holy holy holy
All the saints adore thee
Casting down their golden crowns around the
glassy sea
Cherubim and seraphim falling down before thee
Which wert and art and evermore shalt be

4. Holy holy holy
Lord God Almighty
All Thy works shall praise thy name in earth and
sky and sea
Holy holy holy
Merciful and mighty
God in three persons, blessed trinity

Opening Acclamation

Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Blessed be God’s kingdom, now and forever. Amen.

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Hymn of Praise

Setting: Mass of Ascension
Donna Parker

1. Glo-ry Glo ry Glo-ry to God and peace to God's peo-ple on
Earth 2. Lord God Heav-en-ly King: al - migh-ty God and Fa-ther, we
wor - ship You we give You thanks we praise you for Your glo-ry. 3. Lord Je - sus

Christ on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God Lamb of God you take a -
 way the sins of the world have mer - cy on us. 1.Glo-ry Glo ry
 Glo - ry to God and peace to God's peo - ple on Earth 5.You are
 seat - ed at the righthand of the Fa - ther re-ceive our prayer For
 You a - lone are the Ho - ly One, You a - lone are the Lord. 7.You a -
 lone are the mo - st high Je - sus Christ with the Ho - ly Spi - rit in the
 glo - ry of God the Fa - ther A - men A - men 1.Glo-ry Glo ry
 Glo - ry to God and peace to God's peo - ple on Earth

The Collect

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.**

The First Lesson: Malachi 3:1-4

A Reading from the Book of Malachi

Thus says the Lord, 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. 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; 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. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Psalm 24:7-10

7 Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.

8 "Who is this King of glory?" *
"The LORD, strong and mighty,
the LORD, mighty in battle."

9 Lift up your heads, O gates;
lift them high, O everlasting doors; *
and the King of glory shall come in.

10 "Who is he, this King of glory?" *
"The LORD of hosts,
he is the King of glory."

The Second Lesson: Hebrews 2:14-18

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews

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

The Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

Sequence Song

"Hallelu, Halleluia"

Children's Choir

Hallelu, Hallelu, Hellelu, Halleluia
Praise Ye the Lord
Hallelu, Hallelu, Hellelu, Halleluia
Praise Ye the Lord

Praise Ye the Lord, Halleluia
Praise Ye the Lord, Halleluia
Praise Ye the Lord, Halleluia
Praise Ye the Lord

✠The Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

Glory to you, Lord Christ.

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

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. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had

seen the Lord's Messiah. 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, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

"Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."

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

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, 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. 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.

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

The Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

Children's Sermon

Sermon

Rev. Pierre-Henry Buisson

✠The Nicene Creed

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 the People (*Adapted from Planning for Rites and Rituals*)

With Simeon and Anna, we long for the promises of God to be fulfilled, let us pray for the redemption of the world, saying let our eyes see your salvation

For the Church and your call to work for reconciliation in Christ's name, we pray;
let our eyes see your salvation.

For those in civil authority, that they may make decisions for the common good, we pray,
let our eyes see your salvation.

For all those in places of strife, war and conflict; for those who suffer from systems of oppression and injustice; embolden us to respond with your love, justice, and mercy, we pray, **let our eyes see your salvation.**

For those who are without shelter, for those who hunger, for victims of inclement and violent weather; for those who mourn, and for all who are sick and suffering, especially Sherry, Jenny, Molly, Bill, Bob, Ernest, Matt, Sue, Rich, Kadaj, Mary, Rick, Kathy, Kevin, (*pause*) open our hearts to respond in Christ's name, we pray,
let our eyes see your salvation.

For all who have died and know already the salvation that Christ promises; for all those who mourn, we pray, **let our eyes see your salvation.**

For the many blessings of our lives, for ourselves, for all those we love, and for Nancy, Emelia, and Mary Lee celebrating birthdays this week, we pray,
let our eyes see your salvation.

Celebrant: Almighty God, you have poured upon us the new light of your Incarnate Word: grant that this light, enkindled in our hearts, may shine forth in our lives; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

Confession of Sin

Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

The Peace

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

Birthday and Anniversary Prayer

O God, our times are in your hands: look with favor, we pray, on your servants as they begin another year. Grant that they may grow in wisdom and grace. Send your blessings upon them, that their homes may be a haven of peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Announcements



The Celebration of the Holy Communion

Thank you for your financial support! To make an online offering, please scan the QR code.

Offertory

1. Let us build a house
Where love can dwell
And all can safely live
A place where
Saints and children tell
How hearts learn to forgive
Built of hopes and dreams and visions
Rock of faith and vault of grace
Here the love of Christ shall end divisions

Chorus:
All are welcome, all are welcome
All are welcome in this place

"All Are Welcome"

2. Let us build a house where prophets speak
And words are strong and true
Where all God's children dare to seek
To dream God's reign anew
Here the cross shall stand as witness
And a symbol of God's grace
Here as one we claim the faith of Jesus *Chorus*

3. Let us build a house where love is found
In water, wine and wheat
A banquet hall on holy ground
Where peace and justice meet
Here the love of God, through Jesus
Is revealed in time and space
As we share in Christ the feast that frees us *Chorus*

Words: Marty Haugen | Music: *Two Oaks*, Marty Haugen

✠ Presentation Hymn

"The Doxology"

Hymnal #380, v. 3

Praise God, from whom all blessings flow; praise him, all creatures here be - low; praise
him a - bove ye heaven - ly host: praise Fa - ther, Son, and Ho - ly Ghost. A - men.

Words: Isaac Watts (1674-1748) Music: *Old 100th*

The Great Thanksgiving: Enriching Our Worship, Eucharistic Prayer 2

The Lord be with you. **And also 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 him thanks and praise.**

We praise you and we bless you, holy and gracious God, source of life abundant. From before time you made ready the creation. Your Spirit moved over the deep and brought all things into being: sun, moon, and stars; earth, winds, and waters; and every living thing. You made us in your image, and taught us to walk in your ways. But we rebelled against you, and wandered far away; and yet, as a mother cares for her children, you would not forget us. Time and again you called us to live in the fullness of your love. And so this day we join with Saints and Angels in the chorus of praise that rings through eternity, lifting our voices to magnify you as we sing:

Sanctus

Setting: Mass of Ascension, Donna Parker

Ho - ly Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord. God of pow - er God of might

8
Hea - ven and earth are full of Your glo - ry Ho - sa na in the high -

16
est. Blest is He, who comes in the name of the Lord Ho - sa - na

26
in the high - est Ho - sa na in the high - est

Glory and honor and praise to you, holy and living God. To deliver us from the power of sin and death and to reveal the riches of your grace, you looked with favor upon Mary, your willing servant, that she might conceive and bear a son, Jesus the holy child of God. Living among us, Jesus loved us. He broke bread with outcasts and sinners, healed the sick, and proclaimed good news to the poor. He yearned to draw all the world to himself yet we were heedless of his call to walk in love. Then, the time came for him to complete upon the cross the sacrifice of his life, and to be glorified by you.

On the night before he died for us, Jesus was at table with his friends. He took bread, gave thanks to you, broke it, and gave it to them, and said: "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

As supper was ending, Jesus took the cup of wine. Again, he gave thanks to you, gave it to them, and said: "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Memorial Acclamation

Setting: Mass of Ascension
Donna Parker

Christ has died Christ is ris-en Christ will come A - gain

Now gathered at your table, O God of all creation, and remembering Christ, crucified and risen, who was and is and is to come, we offer to you our gifts of bread and wine, and ourselves, a living sacrifice.

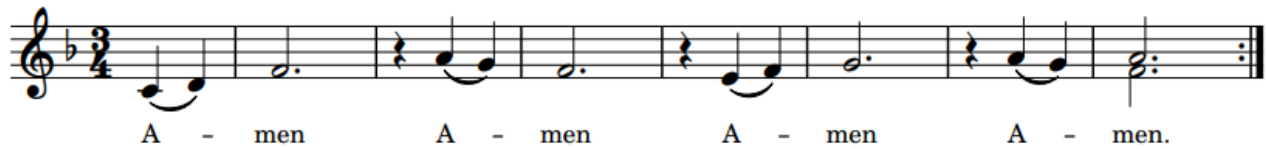
Pour out your Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Body and Blood of Christ. Breathe your Spirit over the whole earth and make us your new creation, the Body of Christ given for the world you have made.

In the fullness of time bring us, with Mary, Peter, Hilary, Anthony, and all your saints, from every tribe, language, people and nation, to feast at the banquet prepared from the foundation of the world.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever.

The Great "AMEN"

Setting: Mass of Ascension
Donna Parker



And now as our Savior Christ has taught us we are bold to say:

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, for ever and ever. Amen.

The Breaking of Bread

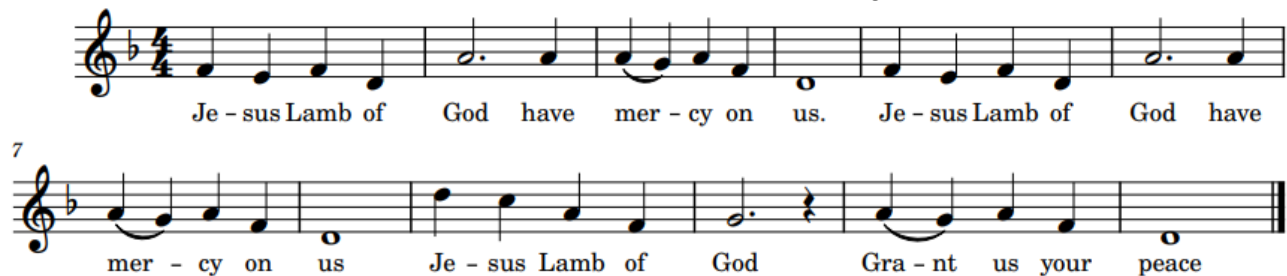
Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us:

Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

Fraction Anthem

"Lamb of God"

Setting: Mass of Ascension, Donna Parker



The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving. **Amen.**

The Communion of the People

All baptized persons are welcome to receive Holy Communion. When directed by an Usher, please come forward to receive Holy Communion. If you would prefer a blessing, please indicate by crossing your arms over your chest.

Communion Songs

“I Come With Joy To Meet My Lord”

Hymnal #304

1. I come with joy to meet my Lord,
forgiven, loved, and free,
in awe and wonder to recall
his life laid down for me.
2. I come with Christians far and near
to find, as all are fed,
the new community of love
in Christ's communion bread.
3. As Christ breaks bread and bids us share,
each proud division ends.
The love that made us makes us one,
and strangers now are friends.

4. And thus with joy we meet our Lord.
His presence, always near,
is in such friendship better known:
we see and praise him here.
5. Together met, together bound,
we'll go our different ways
and as his people in the world
we'll live and speak his praise.

Words: Brian A. Wren Music: *Land of Rest*

“We Remember, We Believe”

- Refrain:
We remember, we believe
in this bread of life, in this cup poured out,
and together now receive
the truth of Christ, in his saving love,
we remember, we believe.
1. Jesus, bread of hope,
Word become flesh, manna from heaven:
we receive you now, saved by your sacrifice;
we give you our lives.

2. Jesus, cup of joy, drink for the world,
foretaste of heaven: we receive you now,
saved by your sacrifice; we give you our lives.
3. Jesus, Word of life, spoken to save,
love freely given: we receive you now,
filling our every need; you give us your life.

CCLI Song # 5767711

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✠ Post Communion Prayer

From *Enriching Our Worship*

Let us pray.

God of abundance, you have fed us with the bread of life and cup of salvation; you have united us with Christ and one another; and you have made us one with all your people in heaven and on earth. Now send us forth in the power of your Spirit, that we may proclaim your redeeming love to the world and continue for ever in the risen life of Christ our Savior. Amen.

The Blessing

May Christ, the Son of God, be manifest in you, that your lives may be a light to the world. And the blessing of God and the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you for ever. **Amen.**

Recessional Song

“All the People Said Amen”

1. You are not alone if you are lonely
When you feel afraid you're not the only
We are all the same in need of mercy
To be forgiven and be free
It's all you got to lean on
But thank God it's all you need

2. If you're rich or poor well it don't matter
Weak or strong you know love is what we're after.
We're all broken but we're all in this together. God
knows we stumble and fall
And He so loved the world
He sent His son to save us all

Chorus:

And all the people said amen whoa
And all the people said amen
Give thanks to the Lord for His love never ends
And all the people said amen

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The Dismissal

Go in peace to love and serve the Lord, Alleluia, alleluia!

Thanks be to God, Alleluia, alleluia!

Postlude

Worship Assistants	February 2	February 9
Organist	Donna Parker	Mary Butler
Musicians	Praise Ensemble	Adult Ensemble, Handbell Choir
Ushers	David Horn, <i>1 needed</i>	<i>2 needed</i>
Acolyte	Emelia Howe	<i>1 needed</i>
Lector	Olivia Carpenter	Buck Lyon-Vaiden
Chalicians	Jill Horn, Mark Howe, John Holbert, <i>1 needed</i>	Kat Dittrich, Melissa Leahy, John Holbert, Betsy Reinders
Worship Slides	Lynn Lyon-Vaiden	<i>1 needed</i>
Audio Visual	Gabriel Hoff	Travis Collins

February Altar Guild: Team 1

Karen Lance Jenny Lui Kathy Sullivan Sandy White

The Altar Flowers are given to the glory of God by Emelia Sesay-Howe, in celebration of her birthday, and in thanksgiving to God for all His many blessings towards her and her family.

The Bread and Wine

The Bread and Wine are given to the glory of God by David Kreider, in loving memory of Bruce Kreider.

The Bread and Wine are given to the glory of God by Emelia Sesay-Howe, in thanksgiving and celebration for her passing the state board exam to become a Registered Nurse.

Attendance - January 26:

8:00 am - 30 10:15 am In-person - 78 YouTube - 5 Facebook - 2 **Total: 115**

Readings for Next Sunday: The Fifth Sunday after Epiphany - C

Isaiah 6:1-8 Psalm 138 1 Corinthians 15:1-11 Luke 5:1-11