

The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple

St. John's Episcopal Church, Ithaca NY

February 2, 2025 Year C

10:30 am

* indicates please stand

Prelude Toccata and Fugue in G minor Johann Eberlin (1702–62)

***Processional Hymn** O Gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ (*The Eighth Tune*) **Hymnal #25**

***Opening Acclamation** **BCP 355**

***Collect For Purity**

***Gloria** **Hymnal #S-280**

Collect of the Day

Almighty and ever-living 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.*

First Lesson

Malachi 3:1–4

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 84 *Quam Dilecta!*

Sung by all, (seated)

Hymnal #517

The Epistle

Hebrews 2:14–18

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.

***The Gospel Reading**

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.

***Sequence** Christ, Mighty Savior (*Innisfree Farm*)

Hymnal #34 vv. 4–5

The Sermon

The Rev. Kit Tobin

***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.*

***The Prayers of the People**

Dear God, mercifully hear the prayers and supplications which we now offer, as we respond to each petition by saying, “Hear us, God of Glory.”

+ For peace in our hearts, our families, and our world, that deliverance may come to all who are oppressed, abused, or imprisoned unjustly; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, God of glory.

+ For the leaders of nations, especially for N., our President, our legislators, and members of the Supreme Court, that they may have wisdom to know when to build up and when to change; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, God of glory.

+ For members of our vestry and diocesan bodies, and all who exercise leadership in the Church, that they may be responsive to God’s truth revealed in scripture and proclaim it through their deliberations and decisions; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, God of glory.

+ For those seeking spiritual nourishment and healing today, for those fighting disease, for our neighbors who are lonely and those who are dying, that God’s presence may be a stronghold and refuge for them, as it has been for the faithful throughout all ages; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, God of glory.

+ For this congregation, that we may find within ourselves a generosity of spirit to renew our community of faith; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, God of glory.

+ For those we love but see no longer, grant eternal rest, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them; let us pray to the Lord.

Hear us, God of glory.

Sustained by the hope and confidence that comes to us from God, let us continue our prayers, either silently or aloud.

Almighty God of mercy and compassion, you sent your Son Jesus to teach us the things that make for peace; help the leaders of this world to lay down their weapons of war. Help those who make decisions on behalf of the people of Israel and of Gaza working toward a durable ceasefire agreement to safeguard human life and the beginning of reconstruction. Help us living in the US to use our liberty and safety to speak on behalf of those who live in deprivation and danger, and save us from denial and complicity in the evils we deplore, and as we labor, give comfort, strength, and safety to all of your children in the land we call Holy. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

God of mercy and compassion, who wept with Rachel as she lamented over her children—be with us, who lament the plague of gun violence that lies heavy over our land. Open our eyes to see the ways we might transform the shadow of strife and death into the way of love and peace. Strengthen us to tirelessly care for one another, that we may truly find our security in the boundless love you call us to, and lead us all to your promised future, where no sword will be drawn against another, and no power known but the power of love. All this we ask through the name of your Son, Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

From fire and flame, from smoke and smog, from fear and falsehood, from desperation and despair; Good Lord, deliver us. *Amen. Bishop Deon K. Johnson*

For the special needs and concerns of our congregation, and especially for:

Roger	Bev	Howard	Jane	Lorraine	Jim
Charles	Virginia	Miranda	Jack	Edith	Otto
Wes	Cece	Cathey	Julianne	Terry	
Shirley	Linda	Joan	Ted	Olivia	

For those celebrating the anniversary of their birth this week:

Mitzi Clark, Ben Norton, David Eichner, Muriel Everhart, Stephen Miller

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.

Announcements & Welcome

Offertory Sentence

Anthem Nunc Dimittis

Edward Bairstow (1874–1946)

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation;

Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;

To be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy people Israel

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son and to the Holy Ghost;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be world without end. *Amen.*

***The Great Thanksgiving**

Expanded Language Prayer A

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And also with you

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts

People: We lift them to the Lord

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

People: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

Celebrant: *continuing:* Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Holy, holy, holy (*Sanctus*)

Hymnal #S-129

Holy and gracious God: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had fallen into sin and became subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, Sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and maker of all.

Jesus stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Savior Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper, Jesus took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, He gave it to them, and said "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Christ has died

Christ is risen

Christ will come again.

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, Almighty God, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling Christ's death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in Christ.

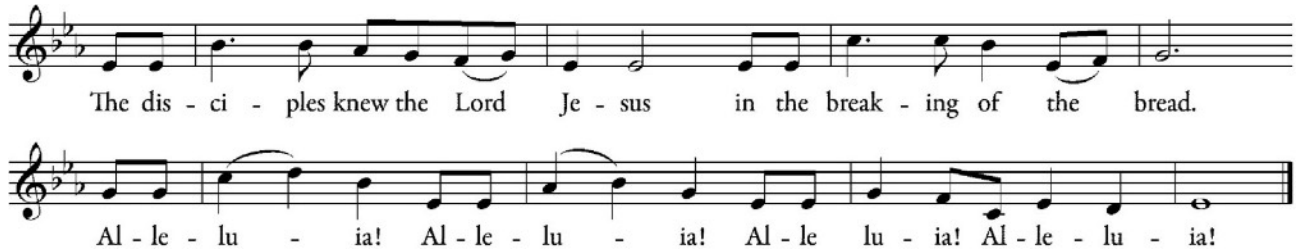
Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day, bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through Jesus Christ our Savior. By Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty God, now and forever. **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

Fraction Anthem

Michael McCarthy (b. 1955)



The dis - ci - ples knew the Lord Je - sus in the break - ing of the bread.

Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia! Al - le lu - ia! Al - le - lu - ia!

The Communion of the People

All people are invited to the Lord's Table.

Eucharist will be distributed in the center aisle. Please come forward in a single line to receive.

You may either intinct your wafer or you may drink from the common chalice after consuming the wafer.

Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.

Communion Music Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly (*Raquel*)

Hymnal #277

Post Communion Prayer

*Eternal God, heavenly Father,
you have graciously accepted us as living members
of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ,
and you have fed us with spiritual food
in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood.
Send us now into the world in peace,
and grant us strength and courage
to love and serve you
with gladness and singleness of heart;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.*

Blessing

***Recessional** How bright appears the Morning Star (*Wie schön*)

Hymnal #497

Dismissal

Postlude Praeludium in C major

Johann Krebs (1713–80)

Liturgical Ministers: Sally Hundley, Michael Roman, Pamela Talbott

Virtual Vergers: Michael Roman, John Jackson

This morning we welcome The Rev. Kit Tobin as our celebrant and guest preacher.

*The flowers on the altar are given to the Glory of God in memory of Eugene Hall Jr. and Willa T. Raspberry
by Lloyd Hall*

St. John's extends a warm welcome to visitors!

May you experience the Lord's presence during worship. Please fill out a visitor card and place it in the offering plate and stay for coffee in the parish hall after the service.

**LARGE PRINT EDITIONS OF THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER ARE
AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX.**

Permission to podcast/stream the music in this service obtained from
One License with license # **A – 724223**



St. John's Church

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“Like” us on facebook @ Saint John's Episcopal Church

Office Hours Monday thru Thursday 10–3

Rector

Pamela Talbott, Senior Warden
Ilze Lemesis, Parish Administrator
Timothy E. Smith, Director of Music/Organist

Lillian Wright, Junior Warden
Chuck Merrill, Weekday Sexton

If you need pastoral assistance, please call or text the Senior Warden at 607-339-8462.

If you would like to contribute to our ministries, you may make a secure donation at <https://stjohnsithaca.org/donate/>. Thank you!

Sign up for our weekly newsletter The Fledgling by contacting the church office.

Forward Day by Day for **February, March, and April** is available on the table in the rear of the church.

Please Join Us for Coffee Hour in the Parish Hall following the service.

St. John's Game Night: Friday, February 21st in the Parish Hall. Hot food will be offered at 6 pm, and games begin at 6:30. Come and enjoy the games, the food, the fun-loving company. Hope to see you there!

Candles and Flowers: If you wish to give candles or Sunday flowers in memory of a loved one, or to celebrate a special occasion, please call the church office (607-273-6532).

End Child Hunger: Bread for the World Nearly 1 in 10 people in the world go to bed hungry, and 1 in 5 children in the U.S. face food insecurity—but world hunger *is* solvable. You can be part of a national effort to end child hunger in the U.S. and around the world by getting involved with Bread for the World; a national, ecumenical, anti-hunger advocacy organization. *Nourish Our Future* is Bread for the World's new advocacy campaign, focused on policies to end child hunger in the U.S. and abroad. Register for Bread's national online meeting to launch the campaign on **Tuesday, February 4 at 7pm**. Sign up at tinyurl.com/NourishOurFuture Join the chorus of Christians around the country insisting we don't want any of God's children to go hungry.

The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple
February 2, 2025 Year C
Hymns

O Gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ
(The Eighth Tune)
Hymnal #25

1 O gracious light, Lord Jesus Christ,
In you the Father's glory shone immortal,
holy blest is he, and blest are you, his holy
Son

2 Now sunset comes, but light shines forth,
the lamps are lit to pierce the night. Praise
Father, Son, and Spirit; God who dwells in
the eternal light.

3 Worthy are you of endless praise, O Son
of God, Life-giving wherefore you are
through all the earth and in the highest
heaven adored.

Psalm 84 (Brother James' Air)
Hymnal #517

1 How lovely is thy dwelling place,
O Lord of hosts, to me!
My thirsty soul desires and longs
within thy courts to be;
my very heart and flesh cry out,
O living God, for thee.

2 Beside thine altars, gracious Lord,
the swallows find a nest;
how happy they who dwell with thee
and praise thee without rest,
and happy they whose hearts are set
upon the pilgrims' quest.

3 They who go through the desert vale
will find it filled with springs,
and they shall climb from height to height
till Zion's temple rings
with praise to thee, in glory throned,
Lord God, great King of kings.

4 One day within thy courts excels
a thousand spent away;
how happy they who keep thy laws
nor from thy precepts stray,
for thou shalt surely bless all those
who live the words they pray.

(Optional stanza from Psalm 23:
Goodness and mercy all my life
shall surely follow me,
and in God's house forevermore
my dwelling place shall be;
and in God's house forevermore
my dwelling place shall be.)

Words: Sts. 3-4 Copyright © 1982, Carl P. Daw, Jr.

Christ, Mighty Savior (Innisfree Farm)
Hymnal #34

1 Christ, mighty Savior, Light of all creation,
you make the daytime radiant with the
sunlight
and to the night give glittering adornment,
stars in the heavens.

2 Now comes the day's end as the sun is
setting:
mirror of daybreak, pledge of resurrection;
while in the heavens choirs of stars
appearing
hallow the nightfall.

3 Therefore we come now evening rites to
offer,
joyfully chanting holy hymns to praise you,
with all creation joining hearts and voices
singing your glory.

4 Give heed, we pray you, to our
supplication:
that you may grant us pardon for offenses,
strength for our weak hearts, rest for aching
bodies,
soothing the weary.

5 Though bodies slumber, hearts shall keep
their vigil,
forever resting in the peace of Jesus,
in light or darkness worshipping our Savior
now and for ever.

Words: © 1982, Anne LeCroy.

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light
(Houston)
Hymnal #490

1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

Refrain:

In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.

2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my
path,
and show me the way to the Father. [Refrain]

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Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly (Raquel)
Hymnal #277

1 Sing of Mary meek and lowly,
Virgin-mother pure and mild,
Sing of God's own Son most holy,
Who became her little child.
Fairest child of fairest mother,
God the Lord who came to earth,
Word made flesh, our very brother,
Takes our nature by his birth.

2 Sing of Jesus, son of Mary,
In the home at Nazareth.
Toil and labor cannot weary
Love enduring unto death.
Constant was the love he gave her,
Though he went forth from her side,
Forth to preach, and heal, and suffer,
Till on Calvary he died.

3 Glory be to God the Father;
Glory be to God the Son;
Glory be to God the Spirit;
Glory to the Three in One.
From the heart of blessed Mary,
From all saints the song ascends,
And the Church the strain reechoes
Unto earth's remotest ends.

Words: Used by permission of the Reverend Roland F.
Palmer.

How bright appears the Morning Star
(Wie schön)
Hymnal #497

1 How bright appears the Morning Star,
with mercy beaming from afar;
the host of heaven rejoices;
O righteous Branch, O Jesse's Rod!
Thou Son of Man and Son of God!
We, too, will lift our voices:
Jesus, Jesus! Holy, holy, yet most lowly,
draw thou near us;
great Emmanuel, come and hear us.

2 Though circled by the hosts on high,
he deigned to cast a pitying eye
upon his helpless creature;
the whole creation's Head and Lord,
by highest seraphim adored,
assumed our very nature;
Jesus, grant us, through thy merit, to inherit
thy salvation;
hear, O hear our supplication.

3 Rejoice, ye heavens; thou earth, reply;
with praise, ye sinners, fill the sky,
for this his Incarnation.
Incarnate God, put forth thy power,
ride on, ride on, great Conqueror,
till all know thy salvation.
Amen, amen!
Alleluia,
alleluia!
Praise be given
evermore, by earth and heaven.