

**FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH**  
**1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN**

January 31, 2021

10:00 a.m.

**PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD: CANDLEMAS**



*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.*

**PRELUDE** *Panis Angelicus (Bread of Angels)*

Cesar Franck (1822-1890)

prerecorded by Janell Lemire, harp; Karen Sande, organ

**WELCOME**

**A CANDLEMAS BLESSING**

As Jesus is presented in the temple,  
we present ourselves and these candles.

**May these candles be a visible reminder of the true light who enlightens everyone coming into the world.**

As these candles kindled with a visible flame  
scatter the darkness of night,

**so may our hearts be enlightened  
by the invisible fire of the Holy Spirit**

that we with Simeon and Anna may see your salvation  
and attain the Light that never fades away.

**Let the flame of your love brighten our spirits.  
Let the flame of your love never be quenched in our hearts.**

Let the flame of your love illumine our path  
and spread hope in your world. **Amen.**

## GATHERING HYMN *Jesus, the Light of the World*

### *Refrain*



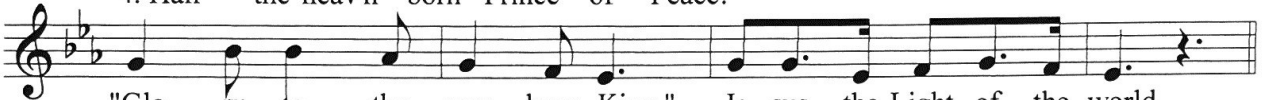
We'll walk in the light, beau-ti-ful light, come where the dew drops of mer-cy shine bright.



Shine all a-round us by day and by night, Je-sus, the Light of the world.



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, Je - sus, the Light of the world;
2. Joy - ful all you na - tions, rise,
3. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored,
4. Hail the heav'n born Prince of Peace!



"Glo - ry to the new - born King," Je - sus, the Light of the world.  
join the tri - umph of the skies;  
Christ, the ev - er - last - ing Lord  
hail the Sun of righ - teous-ness!

### **APOSTOLIC GREETING**

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

**And also with you.**

## SONG OF PRAISE



1 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
2 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;  
3 Glo - ry to you, God, for yours is the earth;

yours is the prom - ise, the bless - ing, the birth.  
yours the ho - san - nas, the dy - ing, re - birth.  
yours the a - noint - ing, the ra - di - ant worth.

Ours the re - joic - ing for Word giv - en frame;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for na - ture re - claimed;  
Ours the re - joic - ing for spir - its a - flame;

ours the thanks - giv - ing to your ho - ly name.

Ours be the tell - ing of deeds great - ly done;

yours be the glo - ry, O God, yours a - lone.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

Almighty God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple, filling it with light and wonder. Cause our hearts to overflow with joy at your presence, so that like Anna and Simeon, we might sing your praises. In the name of the One, holy, living God, we pray. **Amen.**

# WORD

*God speaks to us in scripture reading, preaching, and song*

## TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Logan McLean Strike, Pastoral Intern

### FIRST READING *Malachi 3:1-4*

*read by David Haavik*

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

Word of God.

**Word of Life.**

### SECOND READING *Hebrews 2:14-18*

*read by Gail Tate*

<sup>14</sup>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, <sup>15</sup>and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. <sup>16</sup>For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham.

<sup>17</sup>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. <sup>18</sup>Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Word of God.

**Word of Life.**

## GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le-lu - ia, al - le-lu - ia, al-le-lu - ia.

*Repeat alleluia*



Our hearts burn with - in us as you open to us the scriptures.

## **GOSPEL *Luke 2:22-40***

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup>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 <sup>23</sup>(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), <sup>24</sup>and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

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

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

<sup>30</sup>for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup>which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup>a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

<sup>33</sup>And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him.

<sup>34</sup>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 <sup>35</sup>so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

<sup>36</sup>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, <sup>37</sup>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. <sup>38</sup>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.

<sup>39</sup>When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. <sup>40</sup>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, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

Logan McLean Strike, Pastoral Intern

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation*



1 The Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion, the  
 3 Wait on the Lord and be of good cour - age, oh,



Lord is my light and my sal - va - tion, the Lord is my  
 wait on the Lord and be of good cour - age, . . . wait on the



light and my sal - va - tion; whom shall I fear?  
 Lord and be of good cour - age; he shall strength-en thy heart.

*Refrain*



Whom shall I fear, whom shall I fear?



The Lord is the strength of my life; whom shall I fear?



2 In the time of trou-ble, he shall hide me; in the time of



trou-ble, he shall hide me; in the time of trou-ble,

*D.C. (to stanza 3)*



he shall hide me; whom shall I fear?

**PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH**

Hear us, O God.  
 Your mercy is great.

*or*

Bless we the Lord,  
 Thanks be to God!

**THE PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
 And also with you.

## OFFERING

You are invited to use our digital offering plate. Simply send a text to **218-325-9525** with amount you would like to contribute. Enter a simple number (with no decimal). You'll be sent a text with a link to register. Click on the link and enter your card information. Thank you for supporting God's mission through FLC.

## OFFERTORY MUSIC *Bist du bei mir, geh ich mit Freuden*

G.H.Stölzel/J.S.Bach

(When you are with me, I go in joy)

prerecorded by Bob Boman, trumpet; Karen Sande, organ

*This beautiful aria is usually attributed to J.S. Bach because he transcribed it into a music notebook for his second wife, Anna Magdalena Bach. It is a simple song of gratitude, faith and trust in God.*

## OFFERING PRAYER

O God,  
receive these gifts as you receive us:  
like a mother receives her child, with arms open wide.  
Nourish us anew in your tender care,  
and empower us in faithful service  
to tend to others with this same love,  
through Jesus Christ, our saving grace.  
**Amen.**

## FOOD FOR THE JOURNEY

*O God, you are my God, eagerly I seek you, my soul thirsts for you;  
my flesh faints for you, as in a dry and weary land where there is no water. Ps. 63:1*

The brightness of your presence blazes and guides us as we journey through time. Gift us, as you did the magi, secure steps as we go. We take this bread, and remember the faithful you sustained and accompanied on their journey—Anna, Simeon, Mary and Joseph, Rev. Earlean Miller, and William Stringfellow. We taste this bread, marveling with joy at how you provide for us in all times and places. May the light you give burn brightly in us and spill out into your world. **Amen.**

## HYMN #744 *Lord, Be Glorified*



1 In my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;  
2 In our song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;  
3 In your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;  
4 In your world, Lord, be glo - ri - fied, be glo - ri - fied;



in my life, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.  
in our song, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.  
in your church, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.  
in your world, Lord, be glo - ri - fied to - day.

# SENDING

*God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world*

## **THE LORD'S PRAYER**

Walking in the light of Christ, we 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.**

## **OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE**

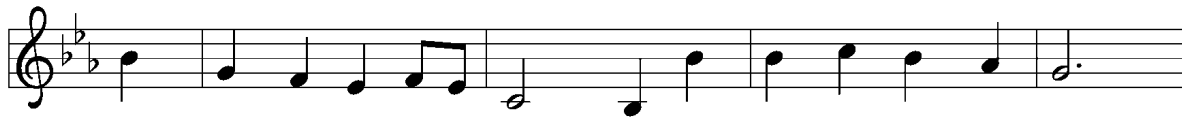
### **BLESSING**

*The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing.*

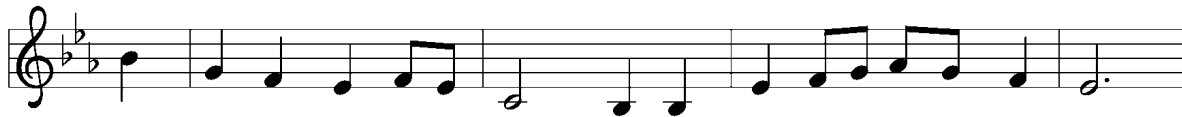
God the creator strengthen you;  
Jesus the beloved fill you;  
and the Holy Spirit the comforter + keep you in peace.  
**Amen.**



**SENDING HYMN #313** *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.

**DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. Be the light of Christ.

**Thanks be to God.**

**POSTLUDE** *Partita on O Lord, Now Let Your Servant*

Finnish folk tune *Kuortane*,  
setting by Sulo Salonen (1899-1976)  
Karen Sande, organ

**MINISTERS** All People of First Lutheran Church

**PASTOR** The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman

**PASTORAL INTERN** Logan McLean Strike

**PROGRAM STAFF** Ann Beck, Pastoral Associate  
Karen Sande, Director of Music  
Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities  
Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship

**MUSICIANS** Mary Dontje, LoAnn Stone, Glen Backman, David Haavik and Michael Fuchs,  
singers; Janell Lemire, harp; Bob Boman, trumpet

**VIDEO TEAM** Shania Krause, David Sproat, Sam Weston

**DIGITAL COMMUNICATIONS MANAGER** Stacie Curnow

**ACKNOWLEDGMENTS** Evangelical Lutheran Worship texts and hymns ©2020 Augsburg Fortress. All rights reserved. From ELW worship supplement *All Creation Sings*, Holy Communion Setting 12: Glory to You, God, text Susan Palo Cherwien, music J. Bert Carlson; Gospel Acclamation, music Anne Krentz Organ; Reprinted by permission under Augsburg Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SAS009917 and One License #A-729428. CCS WorshipCast streaming License #13132.

Two names mentioned in Food for the Journey today: the Rev. Earlean Miller (1935-2014) was the first Black woman ordained in the Lutheran church in the U.S. in 1979; William Stringfellow (1928-1985) was a civil rights activist, lay theologian and lawyer.

First Lutheran Church, dedicated to the mission of Jesus Christ, welcomes YOU into this community of faith, where we share life in its entirety, with all its joys and sorrows. We believe all people are created in the image of God and are offered God's love, grace, and forgiveness, regardless of religious tradition, age, gender identity, race, education, economic status, sexual orientation, family structure, mental or physical abilities. We acknowledge the indigenous culture of this land.

We extend a special welcome in Christ's love.

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