

FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH
1100 EAST SUPERIOR STREET, DULUTH, MN

February 1, 2026

8:30 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.

*You are invited to light a candle in prayer on the Tree of Life during the service.
The candle-lighter is hanging on the wall; you may need to take a candle out to light it.*

Please pass the Friendship Notebook along your row and greet those around you that you may not know.

We welcome children in worship. There is a family room across from the right front sanctuary doors and a few steps to the left a staffed nursery for any who wish to use them.

Hearing assist receivers are available at the ushers' station.

GATHERING

The Holy Spirit calls us together as the people of God.

PRELUDE *In Thee Is Gladness* - In dir ist Freude, setting by J.S. Bach

WELCOME

The assembly stands.

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 which enlightens everyone." [John 1]

As these candles are kindled, may our baptismal commission be rekindled in us:

"To let our lights shine before others that they may see our good works and glorify our God in heaven" [Matthew 5:16]

May our hearts be enlightened by the invisible fire of your Spirit.

May our spirits be illuminated by the fire we call Christ.

With Simeon and Anna may we see your salvation and be bathed in your light that never fades away.

May we enter into darkness knowing that so often that is where we will find you.

May the fire of your love refine our lives.

May the flame of your love burn within us.

May the light of your love illumine our path,

and spread hope for the whole of creation.

GATHERING HYMN ELW #417 *In His Temple Now Behold Him*

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.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

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.**

The assembly is seated.

WORD

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

TIME FOR YOUNG DISCIPLES

Pr. Andrea Bonneville

FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-4

My messenger is a refiner and purifier

Word of God.

Word of Life.

PSALM 84 (read responsively)

¹ How lovely is your dwelling place, O LORD of hosts!

² **My soul longs, indeed it faints, for the courts of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

³ Even the sparrow finds a home and the swallow a nest for herself,
where she may lay her young, at your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.

⁴ **Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.**

⁵ Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

⁶ **As they go through the valley of Baca, they make it a place of springs;
the early rain also covers it with pools.**

⁷ They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

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

⁹ Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed.

¹⁰ **For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere.**

I would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.

¹¹ **For the LORD God is a sun and shield; he bestows favor and honor.**

No good thing does the LORD withhold from those who walk uprightly.

¹² **O LORD of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.**

Word of God.

Word of Life.

The assembly stands to welcome the gospel.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go?



You have the words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia.

GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

The child is brought to the temple

The Holy Gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

SERMON

Pr. Andrea Bonneville

The assembly stands to proclaim the word of God in song.

HYMN OF THE DAY ELW #261 *As the Dark Awaits the Dawn*

PRAYERS OF THE CHURCH

Hear us, O God. *or* Bless we the Lord,
Your mercy is great. Thanks be to God!

PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people may greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace. All are then seated for the offering.

MEAL

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ

OFFERING

*You are invited to use our digital offering plate. Text "**flcduluth**" to **73256**. You'll be sent a text with a link to give. Click on the link and enter your giving information. Thank you for supporting God's mission through FLC.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM *Nunc Dimittis* – music by John Michael Trotta (b.1978); Chamber Choir

O 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 assembly stands.

OFFERING PRAYER

Let us pray together:

God of majesty,

no eye has seen, no ear has heard

what you have prepared for those who love you,

yet in this meal you reveal the wideness of your mercy.

Use what we have gathered

to feed all with the reign of God come near,

Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord. Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

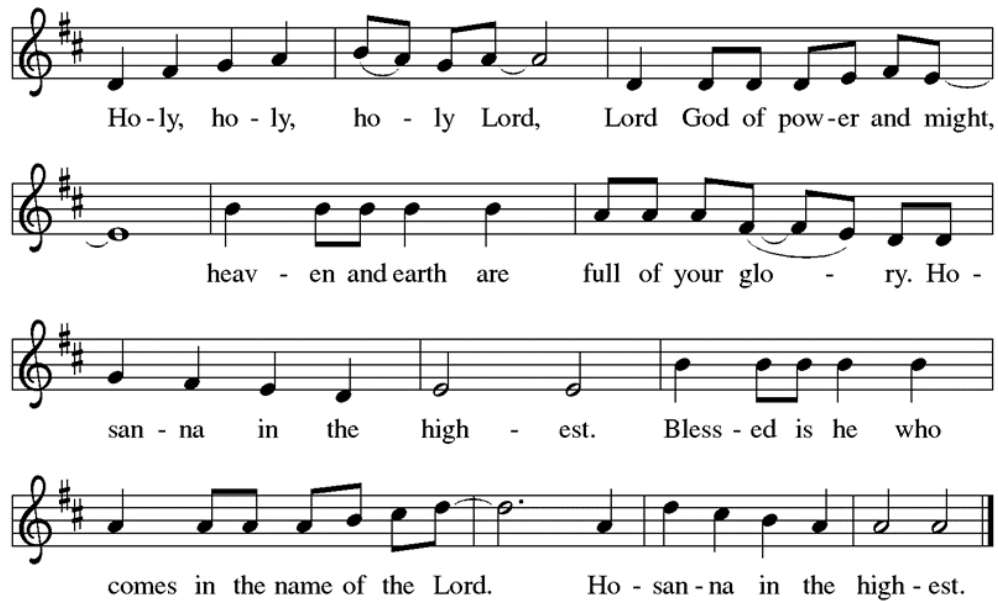
It is right to give our thanks and praise.

It is indeed right, our duty and our joy, that we should at all times and in all places
give thanks and praise to you, almighty and merciful God, through our Savior Jesus Christ.

By the leading of a star he was shown forth to all nations;
in the waters of the Jordan you proclaimed him your beloved Son;
and in the miracle of water turned to wine he revealed your glory.

And so, with all the choirs of angels, with all creation, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho-ly, ho-ly, ho-ly Lord, Lord God of pow-er and might,
heav-en 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.

We pray together the prayer Jesus taught to help illumine our path:

**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.

The assembly is seated.

*We practice Eucharistic hospitality; all are welcome. Receive the bread and dip it into the wine (red)
or grape juice (white). Gluten-free wafers are available upon request.*

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Here is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!

Come to the table; taste and see.

LAMB OF GOD

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.

COMMUNION HYMN: ELW #726 *Light Dawns on a Weary World*

ELW #632 *O God, Our Help in Ages Past*

SENDING OF COMMUNION

Let us pray together:

**O God of tender compassion, as you healed the sick and welcomed the stranger,
bless those who leave this assembly to share the gifts of this table
with our siblings who are sick or homebound.**

**May they be sustained by the love and prayers of this community,
and by the Bread of Life that satisfies all hunger, Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

SENDING

God blesses us and sends us in mission to the world

OPPORTUNITIES TO SERVE

BLESSING

The presiding minister proclaims God's blessing. Amen.

SENDING HYMN ACS #915 *When a Star is Shining*



1 When a star is shin-ing o - ver east - ern hills,
 2 Where the world is wait-ing for an un - known day,
 3 Lead us on, O Day-star, in the qui - et night;



when the air is si - lent, and the clam - or stills,
 where a voice for - got - ten cries, "Pre - pare the way!"
 guide us through the shad - ow with your gen - tle light;



when the night is wait-ing, and the old hopes rise,
 Where an earth - ly pow - er makes the heart turn cold,
 show us in a man - ger our re - demp - tion's sign;



then the time has rip - ened and the heart grows wise.
 there the gifts are of - fered— in - cense, myrrh, and gold.
 bring us to a morn - ing where the prom - ise shines.



Lead us on, lead us on, to a morn - ing where the



prom - ise shines. Lead us on, lead us on,



to a morn - ing where the prom - ise shines.

DISMISSAL

Go in peace. Do justice, love mercy.

Thanks be to God.

POSTLUDE *In Thee Is Gladness* - In dir ist Freude, setting by Kevin Hildebrand

Ministers All People of First Lutheran Church
Pastor The Rev. Dianne O. Loufman
Program Staff Karen Sande, Director of Music
Michael Fuchs, Director of Choral Activities
Bryan Gatten, Director of Contemporary Worship

Assisting Minister
Reader Richard Gehrke
Musicians Chamber Choir
Audio/Video Team Eric Gatten, Shania Krause, Sam Weston

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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, or where they might be on their faith journey. We acknowledge the indigenous culture of this land. We are committed to the work of racial justice. We extend a special welcome in Christ's love.

faithlovecommunity
First Lutheran Church

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