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# ST. MICHAEL'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ALL SOULS ARE WELCOME. INTENTIONALLY INCLUSIVE. NO EXCEPTIONS.

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## EVENING PRAYER: RITE TWO

### THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

February 2, 2022, 6:30 p.m., Zoom Meeting ID: 928 461 1047, Passcode: StMichael

#### PRESIDER

The Rev. Paul Clark

#### RESPONDER

Richard Hendricks

#### READER

Dave Waller

### CANDLEMAS PROCESSION

*From the Book of Occasional Services (adapted for Zoom)*

*The Presider greets the people with these words*

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

*The following canticle is then said.*

A Light to enlighten the nations,  
and the glory of your people Israel,  
**A Light to enlighten the nations,  
and the glory of your people Israel.**

Lord, you now have set your servant free\*  
to go in peace as you have promised.

**A Light to enlighten the nations,  
and the glory of your people Israel.**

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,\*  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see.

**A Light to enlighten the nations,  
and the glory of your people Israel.**

*The Presider then says the following prayer*

Let us pray.

God our Father, source of all light, today you revealed to the aged Simeon you light which enlightens the nations. Fill our hearts with the light of faith, that we who bear these candles may walk in the path of goodness, and come to the Light that shines forever, your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Presider:* Let us go forth in peace.

*Responder:* **In the Name of Christ. Amen.**

*Presider:* We have waited on your loving kindness, O Lord, in the midst of your temple.



PSALM 48:1-2,10-13

- 1 Great is the LORD, and highly to be praised; \*  
in the city of our God is his holy hill.
- 2 **Beautiful and lofty, the joy of all the earth, is the hill of Zion, \*  
the very center of the world and the city of the great King.**
- 10 Let Mount Zion be glad and the cities of Judah rejoice, \*  
because of your judgments.
- 11 **Make the circuit of Zion; walk round about her; \*  
count the number of her towers.**
- 12 Consider well her bulwarks; examine her strongholds; \*  
that you may tell those who come after.
- 13 **This God is our God for ever and ever; \*  
he shall be our guide for evermore.**

**THE INVITATORY AND PSALTER**

*Presider:* O God, be not far from us.

*Responder:* **Come quickly to help us, O God.**

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:

as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. **Amen. Alleluia.**

**O GRACIOUS LIGHT**

(EOW p. 23)

*Presider and responder*

Light of the world, in grace and beauty,  
Mirror of God's eternal face,  
**Transparent flame of love's free duty,  
You bring salvation to our race.**  
Now, as we see the lights of evening,  
We raise our voice in hymns of praise;  
**Worthy are you of endless blessing,  
Sun of our night, lamp of our days.**



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**PSALM APPOINTED**

PSALM 84

(BCP p. 707)

*Presider and **responder** alternate by whole verse.*

- 1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of hosts! \*  
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- 2 **The sparrow has found her a house  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; \*  
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.**
- 3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*  
they will always be praising you.
- 4 **Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.**
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, \*  
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.
- 6 **They will climb from height to height, \*  
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.**
- 7 LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer; \*  
hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 8 **Behold our defender, O God; \*  
and look upon the face of your Anointed.**
- 9 For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, \*  
and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God  
than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.
- 10 **For the LORD God is both sun and shield; \*  
he will give grace and glory;**
- 11 No good thing will the LORD withhold \*  
from those who walk with integrity.
- 12 **O LORD of hosts, \*  
happy are they who put their trust in you!**

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.



## THE READINGS

### THE FIRST READING

MALACHI 3:1-4

DAVE WALLER

A READING FROM THE PROPHET 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.

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*Responder:* **Thanks be to God.**

### THE SONG OF MARY

LUKE 1:46-55

(EOW p. 27)

*Presider and responder alternate by whole verse.*

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in you, O God my Savior; \*  
for you have looked with favor on your lowly servant.

**From this day all generations will call me blessed: \***

**you, the Almighty, have done great things for me, and holy is your Name.**

You have mercy on those who fear you \*  
from generation to generation.

**You have shown strength with your arm, \*  
and scattered the proud in their conceit,**

Casting down the mighty from their thrones, \*  
and lifting up the lowly.

**You have filled the hungry with good things, \*  
and sent the rich away empty.**

You have come to the help of your servant Israel, \*  
for you have remembered your promise of mercy,

**The promise you made to our forebears, \*  
to Abraham and his children for ever.**

Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.

### THE SECOND READING

LUKE 2:22-40

DAVE WALLER

A READING FROM THE GOSPEL ACCORDING TO LUKE:

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Joseph and Mary brought Jesus 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.

*Reader:* Hear what the Spirit is saying to God's people.

*Responder:* **Thanks be to God.**

## **THE SONG OF SIMEON**

LUKE 2:29-32

(BCP p. 120)

*Presider and responder alternate by whole verse.*

Lord, you now have set your servant free \*

to go in peace as you have promised;

**For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \***

**whom you have prepared for all the world to see:**

A Light to enlighten the nations, \*

and the glory of your people Israel.

**Praise to the holy and undivided Trinity, one God:**

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

## **SCRIPTURE DISCUSSION**



## APOSTLES' CREED

(BCP p. 120)

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth;

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.

He suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried.

He descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again.

He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church,

the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

## THE PRAYERS

### THE LORD'S PRAYER

(BCP p. 121)

*Presider:* God be with you.

*Responder:* **And also with you.**

*Presider:* Let us 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, for ever and ever. Amen.

### SUFFRAGES B

(BCP p. 121)

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear,

and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of St. Michael the Archangel and all your saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,

**We entreat you, O Lord.**

### THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD (BCP p. 239)

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 forever. **Amen.**



## **A COLLECT FOR THE PRESENCE OF CHRIST**

*(BCP p. 124)*

Lord Jesus, stay with us, for evening is at hand and the day is past; be our companion in the way, kindle our hearts, and awaken hope, that we may know you as you are revealed in Scripture and the breaking of bread. Grant this for the sake of your love. **Amen.**

## **A PRAYER FOR MISSION**

*(BCP p. 124)*

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*Presider:* Are there any prayers or thanksgivings you wish to offer?  
*The people may offer their intercessions and thanksgivings.*

## **A PRAYER OF ST. CHRYSOSTOM**

*(BCP p. 126)*

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplication to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered together in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. **Amen.**

*Presider* Let us bless the Lord.  
*Responder* **Thanks be to God.**

## **CLOSING SENTENCE**

2 CORINTHIANS 13:14

*(BCP p. 126)*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us all evermore. **Amen.**



## THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

Today's feast is sometimes known as the Purification of Saint Mary the Virgin, and also as Candlemas. In the Orthodox Church it has also been called the Meeting of Christ with Simeon. Such a variety of names is ample testimony to the wealth of spiritual meaning that generations of Christians have discovered in this small incident.

The title "The Presentation" reminds us of the Jewish law (Exodus 13:2; 22:29) that every firstborn son had to be dedicated to God in memory of the Israelites' deliverance from Egypt, when the firstborn sons of the Egyptians died and those of Israel were spared.

When Mary placed her infant son into the arms of Simeon, it was the meeting of the Old and New Dispensations. The old sacrifices, the burnt offerings and oblations, were done away; a new and perfect offering had come into the temple. God had provided himself a lamb for the burnt offering (Genesis 22:8), his only Son. The offering was to be made once for all on the cross. At every Eucharist those who are in Christ recall that sinless offering and unite "themselves, their souls and bodies" with the self-oblation of their Lord and Savior.

It is traditional that candles are blessed on this day, for use throughout the rest of the year, which is why the feast is also sometimes known as "Candlemas."

*(Lesser Feasts and Fasts 2018 p. 72)*

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*The people of Saint Michael's welcome all those who seek a deeper understanding of God's love for ALL His children. Our congregation is "intentionally inclusive," welcoming all persons without regard to age, race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, physical or developmental disability.*

This service conforms to Daily Evening Prayer: Rite Two, which begins on page 115 of the 1979 Book of Common Prayer (BCP). Scripture readings are appointed by the Daily Office Lectionary and are excerpted from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, copyright 1989 by the Division of Christian Education of the National Council of the Church of Christ in the USA or the Common English Bible (CEB), copyright 2011. Psalm texts are taken from the BCP. Other liturgical elements may include materials compiled from Episcopal Church publications including Enriching Our Worship (EOW), the 2018 Book of Occasional Services (BOS), and the 2018 Lesser Feasts and Fasts (LFF).