PRINCE OF PEACE LUTHERAN CHURCH

"A Disciple Making Community"
"KNOW, GROW, and GO"

West Salem, Wisconsin
The Lutheran Church – Missouri Synod

The Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord
February 2, 2025

Our Mission:
"Prince of Peace exists to be a disciple making community for the Lord Jesus Christ"

Our Message:
"We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ"

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Holy Communion at Prince of Peace, LCMS

The Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod practices "Close Communion" as an expression of unity in doctrine (1 Corinthians 10:16-17; Romans 16:17; 1 Corinthians 1:10). When a person partakes of the Sacrament at the Altar he is also confessing his unreserved agreement with that church body's doctrine. Because of doctrinal differences existing between the Missouri Synod and other Lutheran bodies, and also with other denominations, we cannot expect their members to make that kind of confession at our altar, nor do we desire anyone to compromise his own convictions and his church body's teachings. Therefore, our practice of "Close Communion" admits only those in doctrinal agreement who are members of congregations of the Missouri Synod.

The Holy Sacrament requires a mature participation which includes self-examination (1 Corinthians 11:28). Scripture also warns against "unworthy" reception (impenitence or unbelief) which would bring God's judgment on the recipient: 1 Corinthians 11:27; 1 Corinthians 11:29. Thus, out of loving concern for all, and commitment to the Holy Scripture and the Lutheran Confessions, we practice "Close Communion". We thank you for your cooperation and respect for our practice.

Those who will not be communing, but would like to receive a blessing are invited to come forward. Please cross your arms on your chest to indicate that you are requesting a blessing. May the Holy Spirit bless us all as we "Search the Scriptures" (John 5:39), and humbly strive to "Continue in His Word." (John 8:31) Please speak to an elder if you have questions concerning communion.

Theme

The children of God by faith are grafted into the flesh and blood of Jesus—the mitigator of fear and the destroyer of death. And so we are mightily fortified with Christ to withstand temptation's assault, because He is our merciful companion in every respect. Therefore, along with Simeon we revel in knowing, seeing, and believing in the incomparable revelation and glory of Jesus—our salvation in living and dying.

Order of Service: **Divine Service 3, p. 184 ff.**

Opening Hymn **519 In His Temple Now Behold Him**

Confession and Absolution **(LSB p. 184)**

Service of the Word **(LSB p.186-193)**

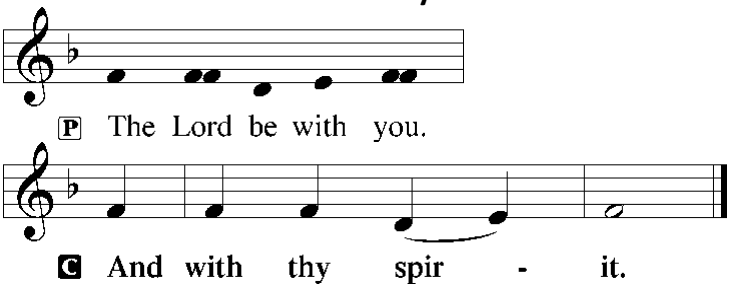
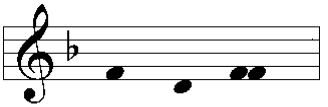
Introit *Psalm 48:1–3, 8; antiphon: v. 9*

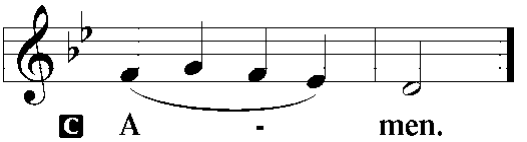
We have thought on your steadfast love, O God,
in the midst of your temple.
Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised
in the city of our God!
His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth,
Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King.
Within her citadels
God has made himself known as a fortress.
As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts, in the city of our God,
which God will establish forever.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning,
is now, and will be forever. Amen.
We have thought on your steadfast love, O God,
in the midst of your temple.

Kyrie **(LSB p.186)**

Hymn of Praise: Gloria in Excelsis **(LSB p.187)**

Salutation and Collect of the Day



P Almighty and ever-living God, as Your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in the substance of our flesh, grant that we may be presented to You with pure and clean hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

Sit

Old Testament Reading: 1 Samuel 1:21–28 *1 Samuel 1:21–28*

21 The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice
and to pay his vow. 22 But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, “As soon
as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the
LORD and dwell there forever.” 23 Elkanah her husband said to her, “Do what seems
best to you; wait until you have weaned him; only, may the LORD establish his word.”
So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him. 24 And when she
had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah
of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh.
And the child was young. 25 Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child
to Eli. 26 And she said, “Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was
standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. 27 For this child I prayed, and the
LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. 28 Therefore I have lent him to the
LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD.”
And he worshiped the LORD there.

A This is the Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

Gradual *Psalm 48:1, 8a, 9*

Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised
in the city of our God, his holy mountain!
As we have heard, so have we seen
in the city of the LORD of hosts.
We have thought on your steadfast love, O God,
in the midst of your temple.

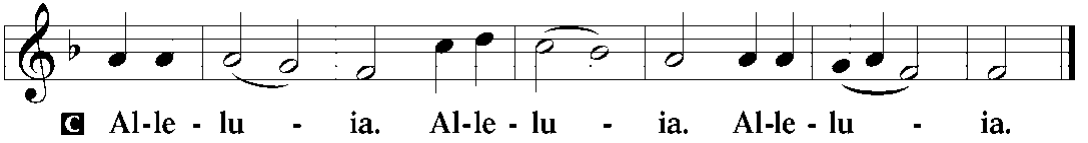
Epistle: Hebrews 2:14–18 *Hebrews 2:14–18*

14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook
of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power
of death, that is, the devil, 15 and deliver all those who through fear of death were
subject to lifelong slavery. 16 For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the
offspring of Abraham. 17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every
respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of
God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For because he himself has
suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

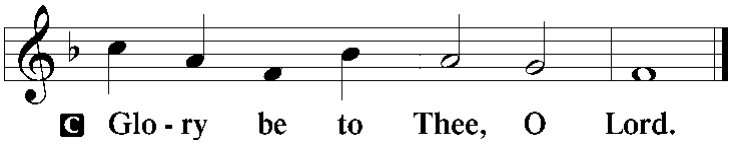
A This is the Word of the Lord. C **Thanks be to God.**

Stand

Alleluia



Holy Gospel: Luke 2:22–40 *Luke 2:22–40*

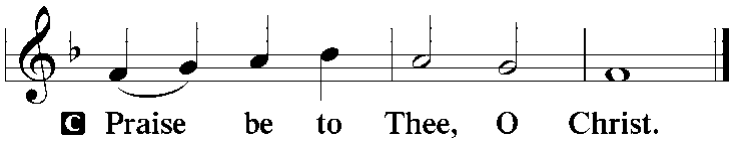
P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the second chapter.

22When 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 23(as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") 24and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." 25Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. 26And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. 27And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, 28he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

29"Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word;
30for my eyes have seen your salvation
31that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
32a light for revelation to the Gentiles,
and for glory to your people Israel."

33And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. 34And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed 35(and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

[36]And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, [37]and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. [38]And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

[39]And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. [40]And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him.

P This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Nicene Creed **(p. 191)**

Sit

Children's Sermon

Hymn of the Day **937 Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace**

Sermon **"Jesus Presents Himself for Us"** **Luke 2:22-40**

Offering

Offertory **(p. 192-193)**

Prayer of the Church

P Let us pray for the whole Church of God in Christ Jesus and for all people according to their needs.
Everlasting God, we remember how Simeon faithfully trusted Your promise that he would not die until he had seen the Savior. Grant us the same trust in Christ for the forgiveness of our sins, that having received His body and blood and beholding Him by faith, we would be prepared for the day we meet Him face to face. Lord, in Your mercy, C **hear our prayer.**

P Almighty God, in the depth of love for creation, You brought Your Son to the temple and placed Him in the hands of blessed St. Simeon. Abide with those placed in the Office of the Holy Ministry, that their hands would be ever ready to deliver Your gifts to Your people and their lips bold to speak Your Gospel. Lord, in Your mercy, C **hear our prayer.**

P Gracious Father, You placed Your Son into the home of Mary and Joseph. Bless our homes, especially *Holly, Damian and Emma Ford,* that they would be places where truth is taught and confessed. Like Joseph took Mary to be his wife, make all husbands courageous and compassionate in their love for their wives. As Mary submitted to Joseph, grant all wives grace for respectful submission to their husbands. Bless the work of parents as they instruct their children in Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Ruler of the nations, bless those placed in authority over us. Grant that they would serve with integrity and honor, having the welfare of all in mind. Look favorably on our country, that division, conflict and strife would give way to unity, peace and quietness. Lord, in Your mercy, C **hear our prayer.**

P Heavenly Father, as Your Son has become our faithful High Priest, making propitiation for the sins of all people, hear His intercession for His Bride, the Church. Grant that the suffering, sick and sorrowful *[especially _____]* would be blessed by Your loving visitation. Lord, in Your mercy,

C **hear our prayer.**

P Father of lasting peace, show mercy to those who receive the Lord's Supper this day, that they would behold their salvation in the very body and blood of Christ given for them and, with St. Simeon, be well prepared to depart in peace according to Your Word. Lord, in Your mercy, C **hear our prayer.**

P Join these, our prayers and praises, with those of Your faithful people of all times and places, and unite them in the ceaseless petitions of our great High Priest, Jesus Christ, until He comes again in glory as victorious Lord of all. Through Him, with Him and in Him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all glory and honor is Yours, almighty Father, forever and ever.

C **Amen.**

Service of the Sacrament **(p. 194ff)**

Distribution Hymns

617 O Lord, We Praise Thee
367 Angels from the Realms of Glory
621 Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence

Post-Communion Canticle Nunc Dimittis (LSB p. 199)

Post-Communion Collect (LSB p. 201)

Salutation and Benedicamus (LSB p. 201)

Benediction (LSB p. 202)

Closing Hymn Peace Be Yours

Peace be yours, May the Lord be with you,
As we gather now and your whole life through,
Blessing and mercy and wholeness, too.
May God's peace be yours.

Peace be yours, as you scatter from here.
Anywhere you go, God is always near,
Loving and calming your deepest fear.
May God's peace be yours.

Seek your strength where the Lord does abide,
When the greatest evil is at your side.
In Word and Sacrament, Christ resides.
May God's peace be yours.

Always know He has conquered the one,
Who defies your life in God's only Son.
Yours is the struggle that Christ has won.
May God's peace be yours.

Words and music by Blair A'Hearn. © 1997 Blair A'Hearn. CCLI # 1413786

Prince of Peace News and Notes for February 2, 2025

Please fill out a registration card today and leave it on the table in the back of the sanctuary or put it in the offering plate. Thank you.

Serving the Lord and One Another Today: *Ushers:* Russ & Sharie Brunk; *Greeters:* POP Family; *Song leader:* Patty & Nancy Horstmann*; Money Counters*: elaine Schmidt & Chris Leis.

Serving the Lord and One Another Next Sunday: *Ushers:* Dan & Kari Moen; *Greeters*: Randy & DeAnne Otto; *Song leader:* Holly Ford*; Money Counters*: Lori Peters & Barb Hinds

Do you have an announcement that you want to share with the Congregation? Send it to office@wspop.org by the end of the day on Tuesday and it will be printed in this week's bulletin. You can also publish key information in the newsletter by submitting it the same way. Newsletter information is due by the end of the day on the Wednesday before the last Sunday.

Our Response to God's Gifts

Attendance last Sunday and Monday: 47
Weekly Budget Need: $3868.38
January 26 offering: $3700.00
Special Gifts:

Wednesday Morning Bible Study: Join us Wednesday mornings at 9:30 as we study 2 Peter and Jude!

First Friday – Join your fellow brothers and sisters in Christ on Friday, February 7 at 5 p.m. with fellowship and other activities!

Sunday Morning Bible Study: Join us this morning as we follow the experience of a fictional family as they look for a church family to call their own. Insights from this study will help us understand our own church experiences. So, "Will the real church please stand up?"

Scrip Sales – Scrip gift cards are available for purchase after our worship service in the fellowship hall.

Altar Flowers – There is a sign up sheet in the narthex if you would like to bring flowers for the altar.

We have two priority projects this year: 1) Replace the most problematic furnace. Timing: August or September. Cost: about $4250 with fundraising starting immediately 2) Repaint the storage shed. Requires stripping old paint, prime coat and finish coat. We need volunteers, ladders and equipment. We plan to start as weather permits.

Life Thought from Lutheran for Life: Ever since sinfulness first afflicted creation, labor and delivery sheds a mother's blood. The Law of the Lord laments that this echo and threat of death operates right where human life emerges from. So He intervenes with atonement to preserve that precious life. And Jesus embodies this opposition to abortion from the very beginning (Luke 2:22-24).

Listen to POP Sermons Online! Faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ! POP sermons are available at http://www.wspop.org/sermons.html via Spotify. You may also listen by clicking the QR Code.

Stewardship Thoughts: Luke 2:24 – [They went] to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.'" Throughout the Old and New Testaments, God gives us the pattern of proportional giving. If you look at Leviticus 12, you'll see that the sacrifice for purification was either a lamb or a pair of birds if the family had no means to buy a lamb. God calls us to give in proportion to how He has blessed us—and of course Jesus sets the pattern by giving not only a portion, but His all.