

Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
(Candlemas)
Fourth Sunday after Epiphany
February 2, 2025
11:00 a.m.

Mission Statement

Christ the King Evangelical Lutheran Church is a welcoming and inclusive community nourished by



Christ in vibrant worship and committed to God's mission of love and service especially to the oppressed and to the poor.

Welcome Statement

Wherever you are in your faith journey, you are welcome here. Called by the Holy Spirit, we are committed to welcoming and celebrating all people, inclusive of culture, age, race or ethnicity, gender identity and expression, sexual orientation, ability, economic status, or family structure. We are committed to the work of racial equity and justice within and through our community that we all may be transformed to be fully the body of Christ in our world. We invite you to worship with us, receive Christ's gift of Holy Communion with us, share your own story with us, and serve with us as we strive to live into God's universal embrace in Jesus Christ.

Whether you are a new member or visiting for the first time, we welcome you to our spiritual home.

- If this is your first Sunday with us, please stop by our information kiosk to learn more about our church community.
- During our worship service, children are invited to enjoy the prayground area. For families with infants, our nursery attendants are available to provide care. The nursery is accessible through the courtyard.
- Our Holy Communion elements are free of gluten and alcohol. You may choose to receive both the bread and cup, or either one: Christ is fully present in all.
- Restrooms are conveniently located in the ministry building. From the nave, simply follow the cloister through the courtyard and enter the double doors; you will find the restrooms on your left.
- Please note that firearms are strictly prohibited within all Christ the King Church buildings and courtyard at all times.

We are delighted to have you join us and hope you have a meaningful experience with us.

Cover: Presentation of Christ in the Temple, oil on wood, Raphael, 1502-1503.

HOLY COMMUNION

Evangelical Lutheran Worship, Setting Nine, beginning on page 193.

Gathering

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

Pealing of the Bells

Prelude

Sonata No. 4 in D Minor "The Presentation" Heinrich Ignaz Franz Biber (1644-1704)

The organ prelude serves as an opportunity to center oneself before worship. We ask the congregation to refrain from conversation once the prelude begins.

stand

Confession and Forgiveness

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism, as the presiding minister begins.

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

Amen.

Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

Merciful God,
you speak blessing and compassion into the world.
Forgive us for the ways we act
with judgment, cruelty, or indifference.
We ignore the needs of our neighbors;
we resist your call to oppose injustice;
we give in to scarcity and fear;
we assume the worst about one another.
Cleanse us from our faults
and release us from their grasp.
Show us your lovingkindness.
Restore our hearts and repair your world,
that we may live in Christ's ways.
Amen.

God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you.

I have called you by name. You are mine."

In + Christ, you are forgiven.

In the Spirit, you are made free.

Refreshed by the waters of mercy,
live anew as beloved children of God.

Amen.



Text: Henry J. Pye, 1825–1903, alt. Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

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.

Lord,

Kyrie





have mer - cy.

For the peace from a - bove, and for our sal-vation, let us pray to the Lord.

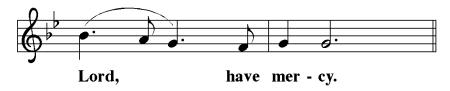


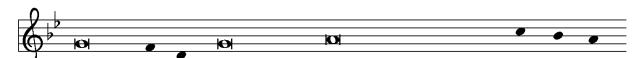


For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the church of

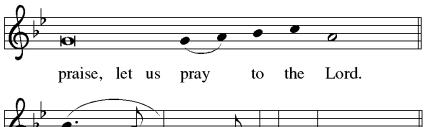


God, and for the u-ni-ty of all, let us pray to the Lord.

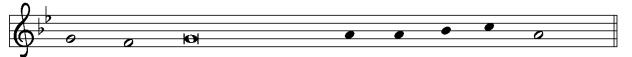




For this ho-ly house, and for all who offer here their wor-ship and





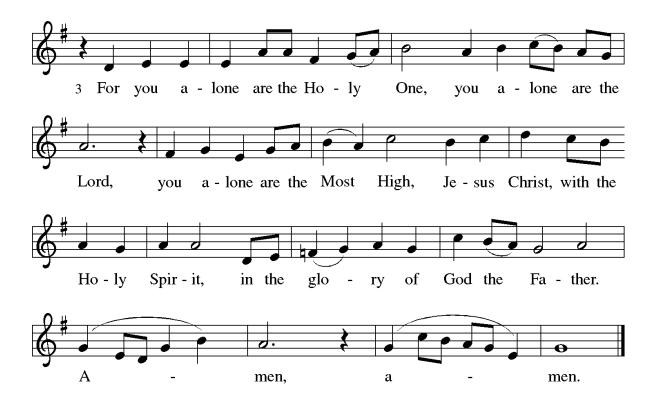


Help, save, comfort, and de - fend us, gra - cious Lord.



Gloria





Prayer of the Day

Let us pray:

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.**

Almighty and ever-living God, increase in us the gifts of faith, hope, and love; and that we may obtain what you promise, make us love what you command, through your Son, Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen.**

Word

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

sit

First Reading

Malachi 3:1-4

My messenger is a refiner and purifier Whirl Story Bible, p. 166

¹ 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.

² 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; ³ 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. ⁴ 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.

or

The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Thanks be to God.

Psalm 84

Sung in alternation by verse



- ¹ How dear to me | is your dwelling, O | LORD of hosts!
- ² My soul has a desire and longing for the courts | of the LORD; my heart and my flesh rejoice in the | living God.
- ³ Even the sparrow has found a home, 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.

- ⁴ Happy are they who dwell | in your house! They will always be | praising you.
- ⁵ Happy are the people whose strength | is in you, whose hearts are set on the | pilgrims' way.
- ⁶ Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a | place of springs, for the early rains have covered it with | pools of water.
- ⁷ They will climb from | height to height, and the God of gods will be | seen in Zion.
- ⁸ LORD God of hosts, | hear my prayer; give ear, O | God of Jacob.
- ⁹ Behold our defend- | er, O God; and look upon the face of | your anointed.
- ¹⁰ For one day in your courts is better than a | thousand elsewhere.

 I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than dwell in the tents | of the wicked.
- ¹¹ For the LORD God is both sun and shield, bestowing | grace and glory; 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!

¹⁴ 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, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ 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.

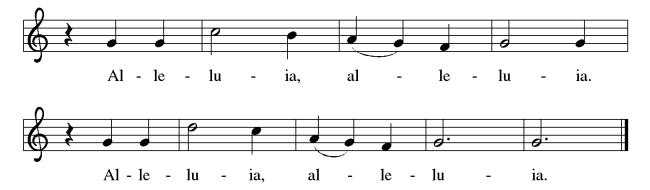
or The Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Thanks be to God.

stand

Gospel Acclamation



My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples. *Luke 2:30-31*

Whirl Story Bible, p. 190; Spark Story Bible, p. 226

The holy gospel according to Luke.

Glory to you, O Lord.

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

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

- ²⁹ "Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word;
- ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,
 - ³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
- ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."
- ³³ And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ 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 ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too."

³⁶ 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, ³⁷ 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. ³⁸ 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.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The gospel of the Lord.

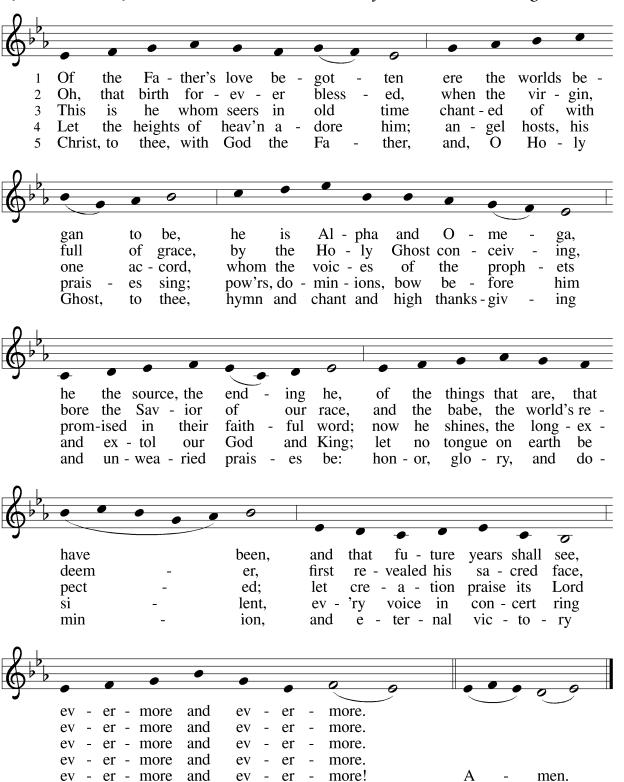
Praise to you, O Christ.

sit

Sermon

Silence

At the conclusion of the introduction, the assembly stands to sing the Hymn of the Day.



Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

Baptism Anniversaries and Apostles Creed

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism as we rejoice with all who celebrate the anniversary of their baptism this week: Todd Balsley, Dawn Dancy, Meghan McAfee, Gail Glass:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, 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, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come 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.

Prayers of Intercession

Sit or kneel. Those in the Prayground are invited to light a tea light on the Prayground altar or color their prayers at this time and will be collected during the offering.

God of grace, receive our prayer.

We join the whole church in commemorating: Presentation of Our Lord, February 2; Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865, February 3; The Martyrs of Japan, died 1597, February 5.

Blessing of Scouts

O God, your will is that all your children should grow into fullness of life.

We lift to you the ministry of scouting.

We offer you thanks for camping,

to teach us that the world is our great home;

for study and work, to build character;

for service, to see our responsibility to those in need;

for encouragement in our duty to God and to country.

Bless the work of scouting, in this place and around the world, that, through its efforts, these young people and adults may, like our Lord, increase in wisdom and in stature, and in love for you and all people. In Jesus' name we pray.

Amen. (Adaptation of blessing created by Mark Trotter, U.S.A., 20th Cent.)

stand

Peace

The peace of Christ be with you always.

And also with you.

The people greet one another with a sign of Christ's peace and may say: Peace be with you.

Meal

God feeds us with the presence of Jesus Christ.

Offering

If you give through your bank or online, please place a reusable "Our Offering" card in the basket. These cards are located in front of you in the pew backs.

Motet

Nunc dimittis

Herbert Murrill (1909–1952)

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;

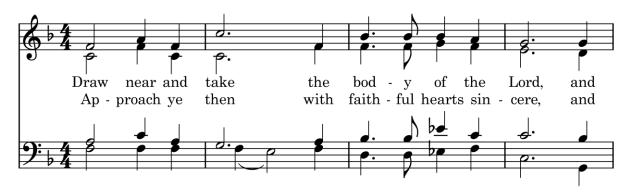
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

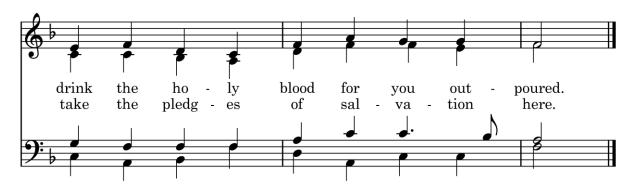
Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

stand

Setting the Table (vs 1 & 5)

Draw near and take





Offering Prayer

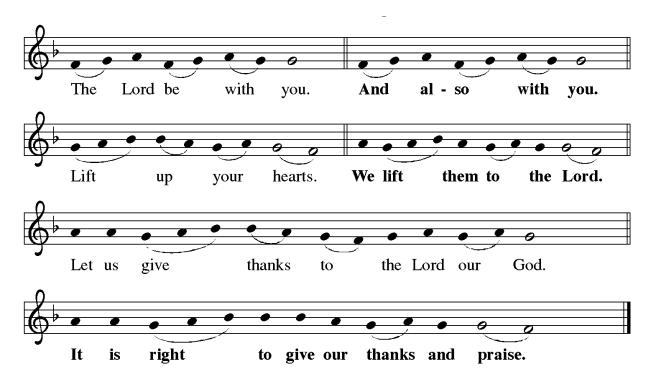
Let us pray:

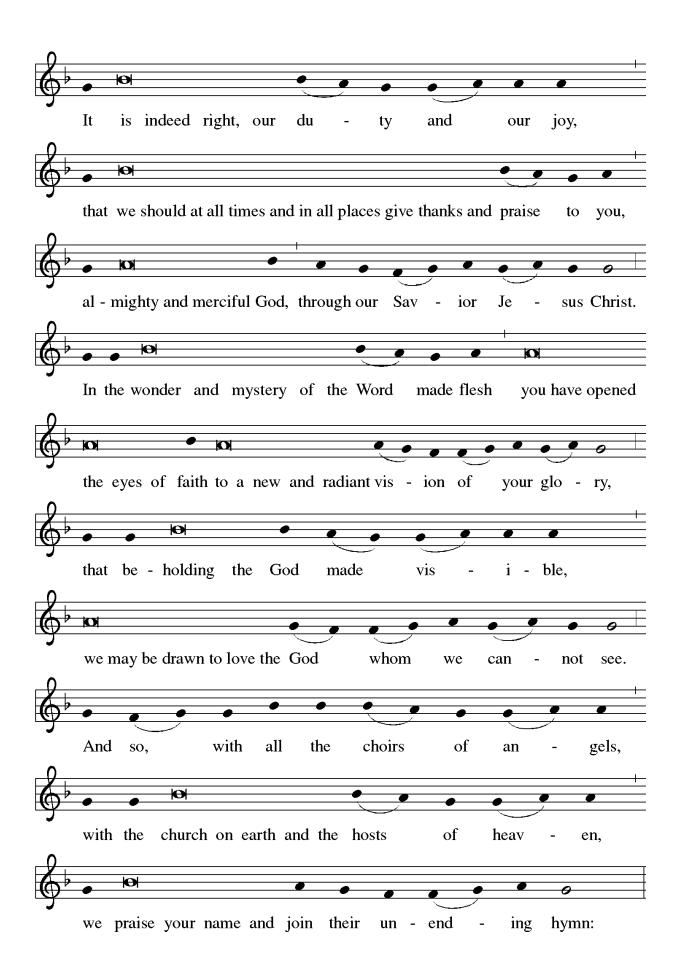
God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

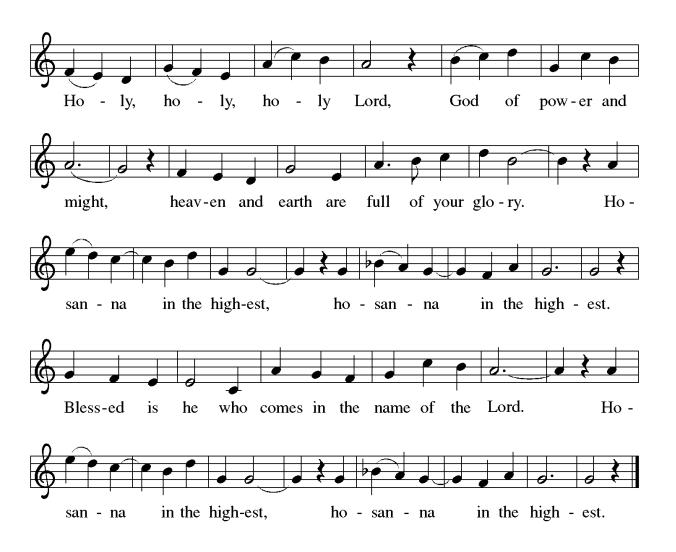
Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always.

Amen.

Great Thanksgiving







The presiding minister continues in thanksgiving and intercession.

We sing a new song to you, O God of our salvation, for you have done marvelous things.

Since the beginning of time, you have spoken your Word, and your light shines in our darkness.

Glory to you, O God:

Glory to you, O God.

The seas are thundering with praise, the rivers are clapping their hands. The hills ring out with gladness, and the trees are shouting their joy. Glory to you, O God: Glory to you, O God.

Your Son rules in truth and justice, victorious and merciful is he!
We praise your majesty lying in a manger,
Jesus Christ, born of Mary and lauded by angels.
Glory to you, O God:

Glory to you, O God.

On the night before he died, Jesus took bread, and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying:

This cup is the new covenant in my blood, shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.

Do this for the remembrance of me.

Send your Spirit on us and on this meal of wonder. In this bread, give us the body of Christ.

With this cup, reveal the grace of your risen Son.

Make known to the whole earth your steadfast love.

Glory to you, O God:

Glory to you, O God.

In these dark days, bring the dawn of your righteousness to birth. Hold the living and the dead in your hands.

In your good time, awaken the sleeping animals, and revive the dormant plants with your life-giving Spirit.

Glory to you, O God:

Glory to you, O God.

With trumpets and horns and harps, with the faithful on earth and the hosts of heaven, we sing to your splendor, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, God Most High, Light of the earth, and Judge of the world, today and forever. Amen.

Amen.

Lord's Prayer

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.

Communion

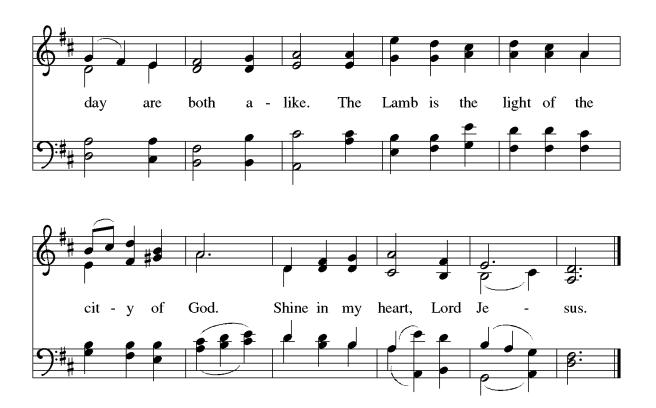
Invitation to the Lord's Table

The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness. All are welcome to receive Holy Communion. You are invited to take an individual communion cup from the table at the corner of the pews and approach the altar rail from its corner. You may receive the sacrament or a blessing, kneeling or standing. Please return to the seats through the short center aisles where there are trays for used glasses. Children of all ages are invited to commune or receive a blessing. Our Holy Communion elements do not contain gluten or alcohol.

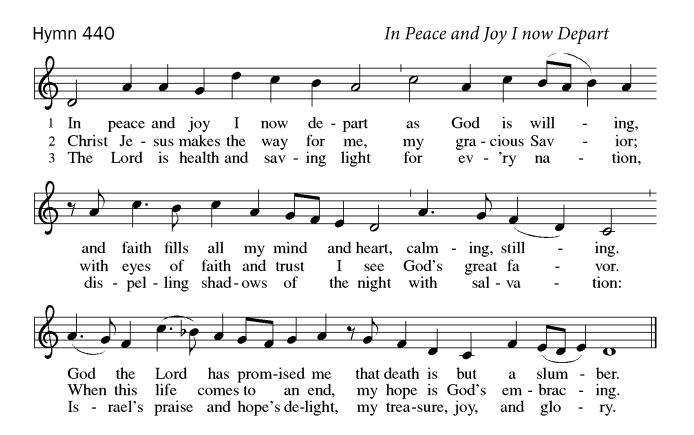
If you do not wish to commune, please come to the altar rail with other worshipers for a blessing.

sit Lamb of God Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin the of God, world; have mer-cy Lamb on us. you of the world; take a-way the sin have mer-cy on us. take Lamb of God, a - way the sin of the you world; grant us peace, grant peace. us





Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934 Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration.



Text: Martin Luther, 1483–1546, based on the Nunc dimittis; tr. composite Music: MIT FRIED UND FREUD, Martin Luther Text © 2000 Augsburg Fortress.

stand

Communion Blessing

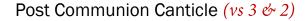
The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace. **Amen.**

Sending of the Lay Eucharistic Ministers

In the name of this congregation, I send you forth bearing these holy gifts, that those to whom you go may share with us in the communion of Christ's body and blood.

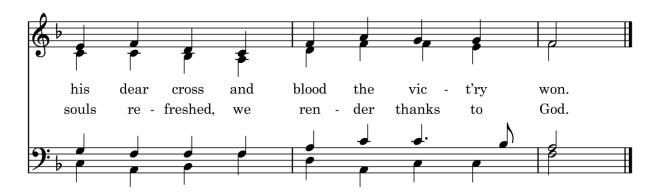
We who are many are one body, because we all share one bread, one cup. Amen.

The bread and wine are taken from the Lord's table to members who are hospitalized, home-bound, or otherwise unable to be present in the liturgy.



Draw near and take





Post-Communion Prayer

Let us pray:

Nourishing God,
at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody your good news
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray,

Amen.

Sending

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

Brief Announcements

stand

Candlemas Procession & Blessing

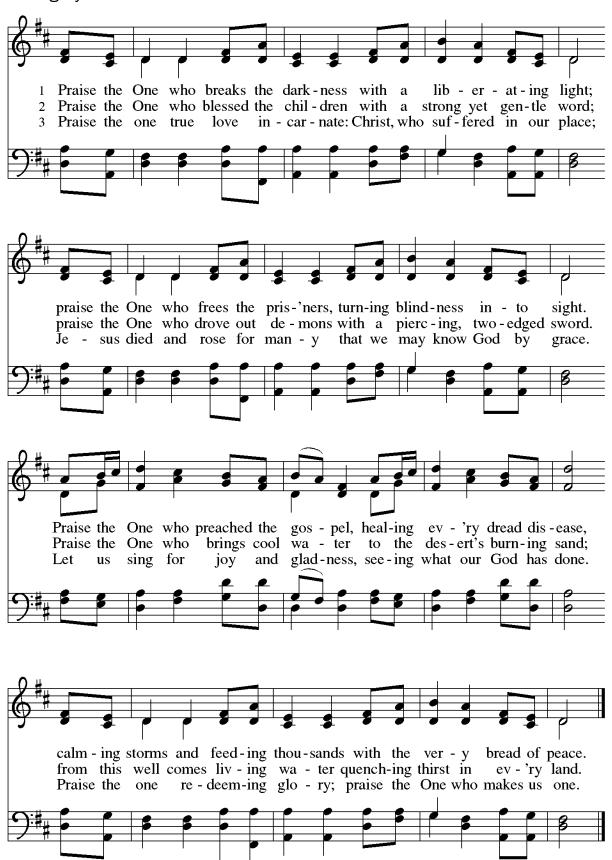
Let us pray:

Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light, pour into the hearts of your people the brilliance of your eternal splendor, that we, who by these kindling flames light up this temple to your glory, may see the shadows of our fears dispelled, and so be counted worthy to stand before you in that eternal city where you live and reign, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. **Amen**.

As the hymn is introduced, worshipers' candles are lit. Please tip your unlighted candle to be lit by someone holding a lighted candle upright.

Sending Hymn 843

Praise the One Who Breaks the Darkness



Text: Rusty Edwards, b. 1955
Music: NETTLETON, J. Wyeth, Repository of Sacred Music, Part II, 1813
Text © 1987 Hope Publishing Company, Carol Stream, IL 60188. All rights reserved. Used by permission.

Candlemas Dismissal

God of grace, here we bring to an end our celebration of Christ's birth.

Help us, in whom Christ has been born, to live the life that has no end.

Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.

Help us, who have received your Spirit, to be thankful for your gift.

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.

Help us, who have found Christ in the temple, to trust in your promises.

Here we have greeted the Light of the world.

Help us, who extinguish these candles, never to forsake the light of God's love.

All now extinguish their candles.

Here we now stand near the place of baptism.

Help us, who are marked with the cross, to share Christ's death and resurrection.

Here we turn from Christ's birth to Christ's passion.

Help us, as Lent draws near, to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.

Here we bless one another in your name.

Help us, who now go in peace, to shine with your light in the world.

Thanks be to God! Amen.

Pealing of the Bells

Earliest accounts of Christian worship testify to an offering following the Eucharist designated to the poor and the alien by those able to give out of gratitude to God and generosity in imitating Christ.

January contributions to SEARCH were \$1,454.29.

Christ the King Lutheran Church thanks you for your generous financial support. Offerings may be mailed to the church office, 2353 Rice Blvd., Houston, TX 77005, or given online through our website, www.ctkelc.org.



Snacks are provided by Gretchen Miertschin. Donations benefit the ELCA World Hunger.

The altar flowers are given to the glory of God by Paul Monroe in celebration of Marie Monroe's birthday.

Flowers for the Nave in 2025

You are invited to sign up to provide the altar flowers for weekend services. To donate flowers in honor, memory of or thanksgiving for someone, you will find available dates listed by scanning the QR Code, https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10C0A4BABA92FA1FCC61-53410172-2025, or you may email your preferred date to Cheryl at cherylgaspard@ctkelc.org. Flower arrangements are \$70 per Sunday. Checks can be made out to Christ the King Lutheran Church with "Altar Flowers" in the memo line or submit an online payment at www.ctkelc.org.

Snacks Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to provide snacks after worship for:

- February 9 at 8:30 a.m.
- February 16 at 8:30 a.m.
- February 23 at 8:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.

You can sign up by scanning the QR Code. Plan to provide snacks for 30 people. All monetary donations received at the snack table will benefit ELCA World Hunger. Thank you for signing up!

Serving

God gives us gifts and talents so that we might serve.

Jeff Thompson	Head Usher
Rustin Buck, Jim Willcockson	Bellringers
David Karohl, KC Lunden, Liz Lunden	Ushers
	Acolytes
Ben Kerswell	Cantor
Martin Jones	Music Associate
Rachel McWhirter, Mark Lichetenberger	Digital Vergers
Gary and Gretchen Miertschin	. Lay Eucharistic Minister
Dcn. Ben Remmert	Crucifer
Bill Pelham	Server
Dcn. Aimee Elles	Server
Lisa Krueger	Assisting Minister
The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hope-Tringali	Presiding Minister
Chris Bryant	Preacher

Members of the Altar Guild:

Jill Bailer, Bette Bowers, Anita Bryant, Kellye Burke, Carole Derr, Reinetta Hansen, Maureen Lamson, Gaelyn Lesher, Liz Lloyd, Linda Marx, Peggy Mathis, Jacquelyn McAnelly, Marie Monroe, Mary Jane Orsburn, Jan Petner, Eleanor Verret, and Nyla Woods. Members bake bread and order flowers, deliver flowers to church members, rotate paraments, arrange the communion ware, and generally prepare the nave for worship. Contact Gaelyn Lesher, lesher2@sbcglobal.net, for more information.

The People of Christ the King Church Ministers
The Rev. Dr. Jennifer Hope-Tringali Senior Pastor
The Rev. Sergio Rodriguez
Dcn. Ben RemmertDeacon of Children, Youth, and Family Ministry
Dcn. Aimee EllesDirector of Congregational Engagement
Rachel McWhirterDirector of Digital Ministry
Kim WilliamsDirector of Community Engagement
Ben Kerswell
Dcn. Rick Erickson
Martin Jones
Robert Walp Director of the Brass Choir
Vicki Gorman, Calvin Harris, Fernando GrimaldoStaff Singers
Scott Summers Property Maintenance Technician
Cheryl GaspardExecutive Administrator
Maribel Haro Administrative Assistant
Herlinda Torres, Lena ZahlanNursery Attendants
Santiago Callejas, Arturo Ortega

Rice Village Campus: 2353 Rice Boulevard, Houston, TX 77005-2696

Memorial Campus: 12211 Memorial Drive, Houston, TX 77024

Email: ctk@ctkelc.org Website: ctkelc.org Telephone: 713-523-2864

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All scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

