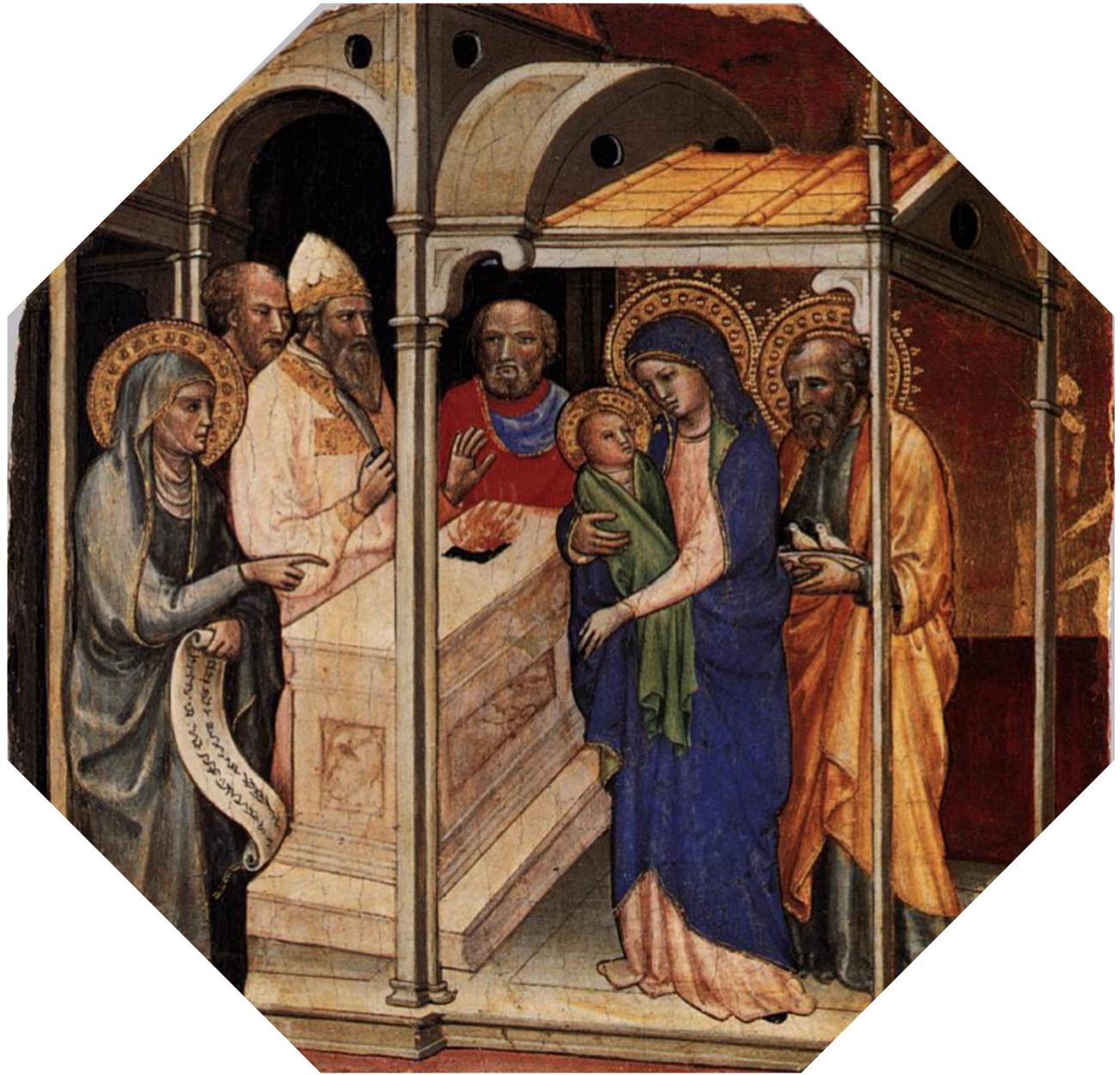


GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH



Candlemas

~ The Presentation

of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple

Sunday, February 2, 2025

Service Program for the 10:30 a.m. Solemn High Mass
Bulletin Insert from the Episcopal Church
Grace Notes
This Week at Grace

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We are a diverse community united by our commitment to Jesus Christ and our desire to live the Christian life. Our prayers and the Sacraments help us find Christ in church and in the world. Seeing Christ in each other and in the faces of strangers, we are inspired to reach out in love and service.

The Rev. Rowena J. Kemp, *Rector*
Cell phone: 203-209-4178 Church office: 860-233-0825
Email: RevRowena@gracehartford.org

The Rev. Marta S. Rivera Monclova, PhD, *Curate*
The Rev. Canon Robert G. Carroon, *Associate Priest*
The Rev. Canon Annika Warren, *Associate Priest*
The Rev. Joseph L. Pace, *Associate Priest*
Mr. Kyle Swann, *Choirmaster and Organist*

The Vestry

Claudia Gwardyak, *Senior Warden*; Barbara Galbreath, *Junior Warden*
Katharine Rovetti, *Parish Clerk*
Mark Lacedonia, *Treasurer*; Barbara Galbreath, *Assistant Treasurer*
Adrienne Brown, Josephine Dominguez, Linda Galarza-Rosa,
Douglas Gould, Sheryl Rifkin, Gregory Simmons



WELCOME to all who are joining with us virtually as we celebrate *THE FEAST OF CANDLEMAS*. We hope you feel at home with us and that you find the love, peace, inspiration, and strength to meet the challenges of your daily life.

We encourage you to take part in our worship by making the Peoples' responses as indicated and joining in the hymn-singing.

If you would like more information about Grace Church, or the Episcopal Church, please communicate with our Rector, The Rev. Rowena Kemp, or make an appointment with her to discuss any questions you have.

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

The Feast of Candlemas ~

*The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple
and The Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary*

February 2, 2025

Solemn High Mass, 10:30 A.M.

Propers of Year C

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*Mass Setting: Missa Puerorum*

Josef Rheinberger (d. 1901)

*This setting of the Ordinary of the Mass will be sung by the choir.*

Voluntary: Cantilena , from *Sonata No. II, Op. 148*

J. Rheinberger

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The Candlemas Liturgy

The Blessing of the Candles

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who as on this day didst present thine only-begotten Son in thy holy temple to be received in the arms of blessed Simeon: we humbly entreat thy mercy, that thou wouldst vouchsafe to ✠ bless, hallow, and kindle with the light of thy heavenly benediction these candles which we thy servants desire to receive and to carry, lighted in honor of thy holy Name. By offering them to thee our Lord and God, may we be inflamed with the fire of thy love, and made worthy to be presented in the holy temple of thy glory; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, liveth and reigneth, one God, world without end. *Amen.*

The Lighting of the Candles

Celebrant: Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Nunc Dimittis (*choir*)

Tone II.I

Antiphon: A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

LO RD, 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 peoples, 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.*

Collect

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O GOD our Father, Source of all light, who didst reveal to the aged Simeon thy 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 shineth for ever, even thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who with thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth, world without end. *Amen.*



The Procession

Celebrant: Let us go forth in peace.

People: In the Name of Christ. Amen.

Hymn 259; vv. 1 & 2 (*sung by all*) "Hail to the Lord Who Comes"

Old 120th

1 Hail to the Lord who comes, comes to his tem - ple gate;
2 but, borne up - on the throne of Ma - ry's gen - tle breast,
not with his an - gel host, not in his king - ly state;
watched by her du - teous love, in her fond arms at rest,
no shouts pro - claim him nigh, no crowds his com - ing wait;
thus to his Fa - ther's house he comes, the heaven - ly guest.

Station at the Font:

Celebrant: We have waited on thy loving kindness, O Lord:

People: In the midst of thy temple.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O GOD, who hast made this day holy by the presentation of thy Son in the temple, and by the purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Mercifully grant that we, who delight in her humble readiness to be the birth-giver of the Only-begotten, may rejoice for ever in our adoption as his sisters and brothers; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

3 There Jo - seph at her side in rev - erent won - der stands;

and, filled with ho - ly joy, old Si - meon in his hands

takes up the prom - ised child, the glo - ry of all lands.

Station at the Shrine of Our Lady of Grace:

Celebrant: Be glad, O ye righteous, and rejoice in the Lord:

People: And be joyful, all ye that are true of heart.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

O GOD, who didst endue with singular grace the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ: Grant us the grace to follow her example of humility and purity; through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



4 O Light of all the earth, thy chil - dren wait for thee!

Come to thy tem - ples here, that we, from sin set free,

be - fore thy Fa - ther's face may all pre - sent - ed be!

Concluding Collect at the High Altar:

Celebrant: Let us pray.

WE have waited in silence on your loving-kindness, O Lord, in the midst of your temple. Your praise, like your Name, O God, reaches to the world's end; your right hand is full of justice. *Amen.*



The Word of God

Introit (*choir*) *Suscepimus*

Tone VII

[*Antiphon*] We have waited, O God, for thy loving-kindness in the midst of thy temple; according to thy Name, O God, so is thy praise unto the world's end: thy right hand is full of righteousness. [*Psalms*] Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised: in the city of our God, even upon his holy hill. 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. [*Repeat antiphon.*]



Kyrie eleison (*choir*)

J. Rheinberger

KYRIE ELEISON. Christe eleison. Kyrie eleison.
[Lord, have mercy. Christ, have mercy. Lord, have mercy.]

Gloria in excelsis (*choir*)

J. Rheinberger

GLORIA in excelsis Deo et in terra pax hominibus bonae voluntatis. Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te, glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi propter magnam gloriam tuam. Domine Deus, agnus Dei, filius patris. qui sedes ad dexteram patris, miserere nobis. Quoniam tu solus sanctus, tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe, cum sancto spiritu in gloria Dei patris, amen.

[Glory be to God on high, and on earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory. O Lord God, lamb of God, son of the father, thou that sittest at the right hand of the father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy, thou only, art most high, Jesus Christ, with the holy spirit in the glory of God the Father. Amen.]

The Collect of the Day

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, we humbly beseech thee that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts by the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

All extinguish their candles at the end of the collect.

The Old Testament Lesson: Malachi 3: 1-4 [NRSV]

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Malachi.

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.

The Word of the Lord.

Congregation's Response: Thanks be to God.

The Gradual: Psalm 84

Quam delicta!

Tone III.2

(Congregation remains seated and sings the italicized verses.)

Antiphon [Cantor first, then all.]:

O how a- mi-a- ble are thy dwell-ings: thou Lord of hosts!

- 2 MY SOUL hath a desire and longing to enter into the | courts of the LORD;
** my heart and my flesh rejoice | in thē living ^ God.*
- 3 *Yea the sparrow hath found her an house,*
and the swallow a nest where | she may ^ lay her young;
** even thy altars O LORD of hosts, my | King änd my God.*
- 4 Blessed are they that | dwell in thy house;
** they will be | älwäy praising ^ thee.*
- 5 *Blessed is the man whose | strength is in thee;*
** in whose | hēart äre thy ways.*
- 6 Who going through the vale of misery | use it ^ for a well;
** and the pools are fill- | ed with water.*
- 7 *They will | go from ^ strength to strength,*
** and unto the God of gods appeareth every one of | thēm in Sion.*
- 8 O LORD God of | hosts, hear my prayer;
** hearken, O | Gōd öf Jacob.*
- 9 *Behold, O | God our ^ defender,*
** and look upon the face of | thine änoointed.*
- 10 For one | day in thy courts
** is better | thän ä thousand.*
- 11 *I had rather be a door-keeper in the | house of my God,*
** than to dwell in the tents | öf üngodli^ness.*
- 12 For the LORD God is a | light and defence;
** the LORD will give grace and worship;*
and no good thing shall he withhold from them that | live ä godly ^ life.
- 13 O | LORD God of hosts,
** blessed is the man that putteth | his trüist in thee.* [All repeat antiphon.]

The Epistle: Hebrews 2: 14-18 [NRSV]

A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

SINCE, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he 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, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. 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. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The Word of the Lord.

People's Response: Thanks be to God.



Alleluia *Senex puerum*

Tone VI



Choir: THE OLD MAN carried the Child: but the Child governed the old man.





The Holy Gospel: Luke 2: 22-40 [RSV]

Celebrant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

People's response: ✠ Glory be to thee, O Lord.

AND when the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said 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, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel." And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed." And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of him to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. And when they had performed everything according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city, Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

People's response: Praise be to thee, O Christ.



The Nicene Creed (*said by all*)

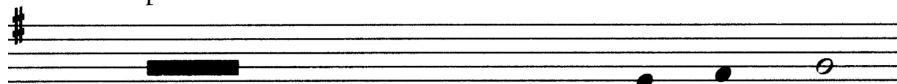
Prayer Book p. 327

I BELIEVE IN ONE GOD, the Father Almighty,
 maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible;
 And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God,
 begotten of his Father before all worlds,
 God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God, begotten, not made,
 being of one substance with the Father; by whom all things were made;
 who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven,
 and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, and was made man;
 and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate;
 he suffered and was buried
 and the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, and ascended into heaven,
 and sitteth on the right hand of the Father;
 and he shall come again, with glory, to judge both the quick and the dead;
 whose kingdom shall have no end.

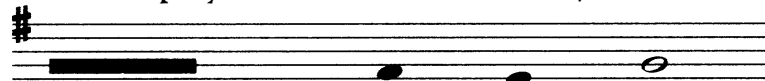
And I believe in the Holy Ghost the Lord, and Giver of Life,
 who proceedeth from the Father and the Son;
 who with the Father and the Son together is worshiped and glorified;
 who spake by the Prophets.

And I believe one holy Catholic and Apostolic Church;
 I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins;
 ✠ and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

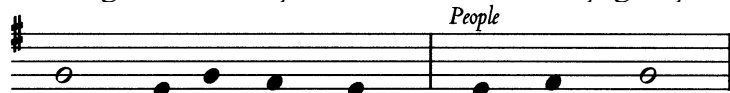




Leader: Let us pray for the Church and | for the world.



Grant almighty God, that all who confess thy Name may be united in thy truth, live together in thy love, and reveal thy glory / in the world. (*Silence*)



Lord, in thy mer - cy *People* hear our prayer. (*Sung after every intercession*)

Leader: Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the / common good. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy *People: hear our prayer.*

Leader: Give us all a reverence for the earth as thine own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to thy hon-/or and glory. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy *People: hear our prayer.*

Leader: Watch over thy child *Lindsay*, O Lord, as her days increase; bless and guide her wherever she may be. Strengthen her when she stands; comfort her when discouraged or sorrowful; raise her up if she falls; and in her heart may thy peace which passeth understanding abide all the days / of her life. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy *People: hear our prayer.*

Leader: We pray for an increase in the membership of this parish; that we may have the hands and hearts to carry / out thy will. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy *People: hear our prayer.*

Leader: We commend to thy gracious care and keeping all the men and women of our armed forces at home and abroad [*especially N.*]. Defend them day by day with thy heavenly grace; strengthen them in their trials and temptations; give them courage to face the perils which beset them; and grant them a sense of thine abiding presence wherever / they may be. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy *People: hear our prayer.*

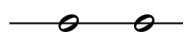
Leader: Comfort and heal all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit (*pause*); give them courage and hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of / thy salvation. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy *People: hear our prayer.*

Leader: We commend to thy mercy all who have died, that thy will for them may be fulfilled (*pause*); and we pray that we may share with all thy saints in thine e-/ternal kingdom. (*Silence*)

Lord, in thy mercy *People: hear our prayer.*

Celebrant: Lord, hear the prayers of thy people; and what we have asked faithfully, grant that we may obtain effectually, to the glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *People*



A - men.

Confession of Sin and Absolution

Celebrant: Ye who do truly and earnestly repent you of your sins, and are in love and charity with your neighbors, and intend to lead a new life, following the commandments of God, and walking from henceforth in his holy ways: draw near with faith, and make your humble confession to Almighty God, devoutly kneeling.

People: Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men: We acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins and wickedness, which we from time to time most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. We do earnestly repent, and are heartily sorry for these our misdoings; the remembrance of them is grievous unto us, the burden of them is intolerable. Have mercy upon us, have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; for thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may ever hereafter serve and please thee in newness of life, to the honor and glory of thy Name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all those who with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him, have mercy upon you, ✠ pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Comfortable Words

Celebrant: Hear the Word of God to all who truly turn to him.

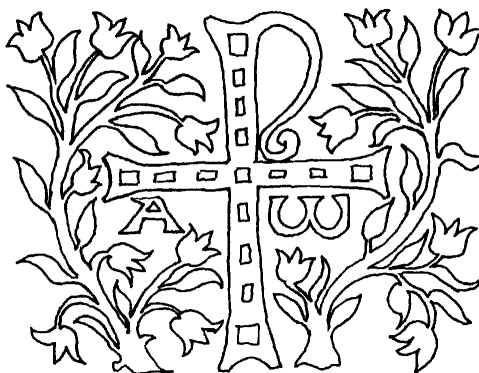
COME UNTO ME, all ye that travail and are heavy laden, and I will refresh you. *Matthew 11: 28*
GOD SO LOVED THE WORLD, that he gave his only-begotten Son, to the end that all that believe in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. *John 3: 16*

The Peace

Celebrant: The peace of the Lord be always with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

The Ministers and People greet one another in the Name of the Lord.



The Holy Communion

Offertory Sentence

Celebrant: Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving, and make good thy vows unto the Most High. *Psalms 50: 14*

Offertory (*choir*) *Diffusa est gratias*

Tone II

FULL OF GRACE are thy lips: because God hath blessed thee for ever.

1 Sing we of the bless - ed Mo - ther who re - ceived the an - gel's
 2 Sing we, too, of Ma - ry's sor - rows, of the sword that pierced her
 3 Sing a - gain the joys of Ma - ry when she saw the ris - en
 4 Sing the chief - est joy of Ma - ry when on earth her work was

word, and o - be - dient to the sum - mons bore in
 through, when be - neath the cross of Je - sus she his
 Lord, and in prayer with Christ's a - pos - tles, wait - ed
 done, and the Lord of all cre - a - tion brought her

love the in - fant Lord; sing we of the joys of
 weight of suf - fer - ing knew, looked up - on her Son and
 on his prom - ised word; from on high the blaz - ing
 to his heaven - ly home; where, raised high with saints and

Ma - ry at whose breast the child was fed who is
 Sa - vior reign - ing from the aw - ful tree, saw the
 glo - ry of the Spi - rit's pres - ence came, heaven - ly
 an - gels, in Je - ru - sa - lem a - bove, she be -

Son of God e - ter - nal and the ev - er - last - ing Bread.
 price of our re - demp - tion paid to set the sin - ner free.
 breath of God's own be - ing, man - i - fest in wind and flame.
 holds her son and Sa - vior reign - ing as the Lord of love.

Presentation of the alms and oblations

Celebrant: All things come of thee, O Lord,

People: And of thine own have we given thee.

Orate

Celebrant: Pray that this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving may be acceptable to God the Father Almighty.

People: May the Lord receive this sacrifice at thy hands, to the praise and glory of his holy Name, both to our benefit and that of all his holy Church.

Sursum corda

The musical score consists of four staves of music in G major, 4/4 time. The first staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "The Lord be with you. And with thy spi- rit." The second staff is for the People, with the lyrics "Lift up your hearts. We lift them up un-to the Lord." The third staff is for the Celebrant, with the lyrics "Let us give thanks un- to our Lord God." The fourth staff is for the People, with the lyrics "It is meet and right so to do."

Then, facing the Holy Table, the Celebrant says,

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, holy Father, almighty, everlasting God.

BECAUSE in the mystery of the Word made flesh, thou hast caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of thy glory in the face of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee, and saying,



Sanctus and Benedictus (*choir*)

J. Rheinberger

SANCTUS, sanctus, sanctus, Dominus Deus Sabaoth, pleni sunt coeli et terra gloria tua, Hosanna in excelsis. ✠ Benedictus qui venit in nomine Domini. Osanna in excelsis.

[Holy, holy, holy, Lord God of Host, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Hosanna in the highest. ✠ Blessed is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.]

Celebrant: Let us pray.

ALL glory be to thee, Almighty God, our heavenly Father, for that thou, of thy tender mercy, didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to suffer death upon the cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memory of that his precious death and sacrifice, until his coming again.

For in the night in which he was betrayed, he took bread; and when he had given thanks, he brake it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat, this is my Body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me." ✠

Likewise, after supper, he took the cup; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink ye all of this; for this is my Blood of the New Testament, which is shed for you, and for many, for the remission of sins. Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me." ✠

Wherefore, O Lord and heavenly Father, according to the institution of thy dearly beloved Son our Savior Jesus Christ, we, thy humble servants, do celebrate and make here before thy divine Majesty, with these thy holy gifts, which we now offer unto thee, the memorial thy Son hath commanded us to make; having in remembrance his blessed passion and precious death, his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension; rendering unto thee most hearty thanks for the innumerable benefits procured unto us by the same.

And we most humbly beseech thee, O merciful Father, to hear us; and, of thy almighty goodness, vouchsafe to bless and sanctify, with thy Word and Holy Spirit, these thy gifts and creatures of bread and wine; that we, receiving them according to thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood.

And we earnestly desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving; most humbly beseeching thee to grant that, by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church, may obtain remission of our sins and all other benefits of his passion.

And here we offer and present unto thee, O Lord, our selves, our souls and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and living sacrifice unto thee; humbly beseeching thee that we, and all others who shall be partakers of this Holy Communion, may worthily receive the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son Jesus Christ, ✠ be filled with thy grace and heavenly benediction, and made one body with him that he may dwell in us, and we in him.

And although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our bounden duty and service, not weighing our merits but pardoning our offenses, through Jesus Christ our Lord;

BY whom, and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Ghost all honor and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end.

People

—●—○—○—
A- men.

The Lord's Prayer (*sung by all*)

Celebrant: And now, as our Savior Christ hath taught us, we are bold to say,

Our Fa-ther, who art in hea-ven, hal-low-ed be thy Name,
 thy king-dom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in hea-ven.
 Give us this day our dai-ly bread. And for-give us our tres-pas-ses,
 as we for-give those who tres-pass a-gainst us. And lead us not in-to
 temp-ta-tion, but de-liv-er us from e-vil. For thine is the king-dom,
 and the power, and the glo-ry, for ev-er and ev-er. A-men.

The Fraction

Celebrant
 Al-le-lu-ia. Christ our Pass-o-ver is sac-ri-ficed for us.
People
 There-fore let us keep the feast. Al-le-lu-ia.

Agnus Dei (*choir*)

J. Rheinberger

AGNUS DEI, qui tollis peccata mundi, miserere nobis. Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi, dona nobis pacem. [O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.]

Prayer of Humble Access (*said by all*)

Celebrant: Let us pray.

WE do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, so to eat the flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, and to drink his blood, that we may evermore dwell in him, and he in us. Amen.

The Invitation to Communion

Celebrant: The Gifts of God for the People of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you, and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

People: Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof; but speak the word only, and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Proper (*choir*) *Responsum accepit Simeon*

Tone I

IT WAS REVEALED UNTO SIMEON by the Holy Spirit: that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Anointed.

Prayer of Spiritual Communion (*said by those worshipping virtually*)

IN UNION, O Dear Lord, with the faithful at every Altar of Thy Church, where Thy blessed Body and Blood are being offered to the Father, I desire to offer Thee praise and thanksgiving. I present to Thee my soul and body, with the earnest wish that I may ever be united to Thee. And since I cannot now receive Thee sacramentally, I beseech Thee to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself to Thee, and embrace Thee with all the affections of my soul. O let nothing ever separate me from Thee. Let me live and die in Thy love. Amen.

SENEX PUERUM PORTABAT: puer autem senem regebat: quem virgo peperit, et post partum virgo permansit: ipsum quem genuit, adoravit.

[The old man carried the child, but the child ruled the old man; him whom the Virgin brought forth, and after childbirth remained a virgin him whom she bore, she adored.]

Prayer of Thanksgiving after Communion

Celebrant: Let us pray.

People: Almighty and everliving God, we most heartily thank thee for that thou dost feed us, in these Holy Mysteries, with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of thy Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and dost assure us thereby of thy favor and goodness towards us; and that we are very members incorporate in the mystical Body of thy Son, the blessed company of all faithful people; and are also heirs, through hope, of thy everlasting kingdom. And we humbly beseech thee, O heavenly Father, so to assist us with thy grace, that we may continue in that holy fellowship, and do all such good works as thou hast prepared for us to walk in; through Jesus Christ our Lord, to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, be all honor and glory, world without end. Amen.

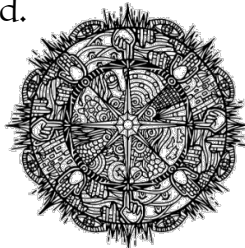
The Blessing

THE peace of God, which passeth all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and the blessing of God Almighty, ✠ the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. *Amen.*

The Dismissal

Celebrant: Let us go forth in the name of Christ.

The People respond: Thanks be to God.



The Last Gospel

St. John I: I-14

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Celebrant: ✠ The Beginning of the holy Gospel according to John.

People: Glory be to thee, O Lord.

IN THE BEGINNING was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him: and without Him was not anything made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men: and the light shineth in the darkness, and the darkness comprehended it not. There was a man sent from God, whose name was John. The same came for a witness, to bear witness of the light, that all men through him might believe. He was not that light, but was sent to bear witness of that light. That was the true light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world. He was in the world, and the world was made by him, and the world knew him not. He came unto his own, and his own received him not. But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (*Here genuflect*) AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH, (*Here rise*) and dwelt among us: and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the Only-begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.

People: Thanks be to God.

ALMA Redemptóris Mater, quæ pèrvia cæli porta manes, et stella maris, succúrre cadénti, Súrgere qui curat pópulo: Tu quæ genuísti, natúra miránte, tuum sanctum Genitórem, Virgo prius ac postérius, Gabriélis ab ore Sumens illud Ave, peccatórum miserére.

[Loving mother of the Redeemer, gate of heaven, star of the sea, assist your people who have fallen yet strive to rise again, to the wonderment of nature you bore your Creator, yet remained a virgin after as before, You who received Gabriel's joyful greeting, have pity on us poor sinners.]



The Angelus

Celebrant: The Angel of the Lord announced unto Mary.

People: And she conceived by the Holy Ghost.

Celebrant: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

People: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Celebrant: Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

People: Be it unto me according to thy word.

Celebrant: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

People: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

(Here genuflect) Celebrant: And the Word was made flesh.

(Here rise) People: And dwelt among us.

Celebrant: Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

People: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Celebrant: Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

People: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Celebrant: Let us pray.

We beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts, that, as we have known the Incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his Passion we may be brought unto the glory of his resurrection, through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

1 Vir - gin - born, we bow be - fore thee: bless - ed was the
2 Bless - ed she by all cre - a - tion, who brought forth the

womb that bore thee; — Ma - ry, Mo - ther meek and mild, —
world's sal - va - tion, and bless - ed they, for ev - er blest, who

bless - ed was she in her child. Bless - ed was the breast that fed thee;
love thee most and serve thee best. Vir - gin - born, we bow be - fore thee;

bless - ed was the hand that led thee; bless - ed was the
bless - ed was the womb that bore thee; Ma - ry, Mo - ther

par - ent's eye that watched thy slum - bering in - fan - cy.
meek and mild, — bless - ed was she in her Child.



February 2, 2025 – The Presentation
Epiphany Bible Study: Week 4

During the season of Epiphany, The Episcopal Church’s Office of Global Partnerships is offering a weekly Bible study prepared by writers across the church and Anglican Communion. Each piece, consisting of the Sunday readings, can be studied alone, in small groups, or even with a congregation. You can find the whole study for each week at www.sermonsthatwork.org. This week’s study for the Presentation was written by **the Rev. Cn. Wadie N. Far**, a priest from Jordan serving in the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem.

Hebrews 2:14-18

¹⁴Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he 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, ¹⁵and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Commentary from Wadie Far

While for some, God is far and distant, that should not be the case for us Christians. We believe that God came down to earth to be with us, to guide, to teach, to heal, and to give us salvation. In this belief, we should find great strength, for our God is not a distant, far away God, who does not understand our problems and challenges. Rather, God is the one who humbled himself and took on flesh for us. We believe in a God who wants to dwell in our hearts and wants to be close to us. Jesus paid our debt on the wood of the cross, and gave us life; in return, we are asked to believe in him, and that faith, if it is a living faith, should lead us to care for others as he has cared for us. We are to walk humbly with people, teaching and guiding them, listening to them, proclaiming the gift of salvation to them, and reminding them that our Lord and Savior knows what they are going through. He is not far from their suffering, and he has given them life.

Discussion Questions

Have you opened your heart for Jesus to dwell in it?

Do you trust Jesus with your sufferings and challenges, or are you still trying to take care of them by yourself?

Do you lead others to Christ, so that they can find their comfort in him?

GRACE NOTES

February 2 THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

FOR PASTORAL ASSISTANCE

THE REV. ROWENA KEMP welcomes hearing from you. Please don't hesitate to contact her if there's something you'd like to discuss, and please contact her immediately, should there be an illness, hospitalization, or any other pastoral emergency that she should know about. [For such emergencies, please note Rev. Rowena's cell phone number: 203-209-4178.]

PEOPLE AND PLACES TO KEEP IN YOUR PRAYERS

A reminder: Tori Burns manages this list for us, and prayer requests need to be renewed after 2 weeks. Please communicate all prayer requests & updates with her (860-539-8790); (tburns@gracehartford.org).

- *Bishops and Clergy:* Justin, Archbishop of Canterbury; Sean, Presiding Bishop; Jeffrey and Laura, Bishops of ECCT; Rowena, Jerry, Annika, and Joseph, our priests, and Marta, our curate.
- *Diocesan Cycle of Prayer:* **We pray for an increase in the membership of this parish, that we may have the hands and hearts to carry out thy will;** for the Episcopal Church in CT & the Anglican Communion; Christ & the Epiphany, East Haven; St. John's, East Windsor; Christ Church, Easton; Holy Trinity, Enfield; Comite Hispano, Spanish-language Cursillo, and Latino/Hispanic ministry in Connecticut. *The Anglican Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand & Polynesia.*
- *World & Community Concerns:* For peace throughout the world, especially between Iran, Israel, and Gaza, and in the Middle East; in Sudan; and between Russia and Ukraine; for Christians being persecuted around the world, particularly in China and Palestine; for those who are suffering because of extreme climate; for the hungry and poor in our midst; and the volunteers who serve *A Place of Grace* food pantry.
- *Serving Our Country in the Military (especially those associated with Grace Church):* Brian, Spencer, Bradley, Curtis, Jordan, John, Carrington, William, Noel, James, Ryan, Michael, Karl, Alec, Jeff, David, Tom, Michael, and Charles.
- *Thanksgiving and Celebrations:* We give thanks and ask for thy blessings upon Lindsay Rodriguez (Tue.), whose birthday we celebrate this week.
- *Sick or in need:* Antoinette; Lynne; David; Neil; Lea & the Rivera Family; Mark; Jerry; Bonnie & the Burns Family; Megin; Walter & Claudia; Tom & Elaine; Ellen; Sally; Errol, Norma & the Kemp Family; Barbara; Nigel, Kraig & Deidre; Mary; Josephine, Melissa, Jaden, Tay, Soraya & Rapael; Julia, Mike, André & Maria; Linda, Tiffany & the Galarza Family; Kathy; Patti; Delores; Nancy; Marcolina; Peter; Sr. Linda; Leonard; Joy; Cori and the Mackey Family; Brad & Mary; Judy; Jane; Bill, Carolyn & Susan; McJohn; Doreen; Ted; Kanata; Betty & John; Mary & Lou; Nelda Sue; Diane; Nina; Ellen and Jim; Lauren, Alexandra & Anna; Mark & Diane; Jean; and all victims of natural and man-made disasters.
- *The Deceased:* We pray for the repose of Alfred White, Alton Brennan, all soldiers and civilians killed in war or civil strife, and in memory of Elmer Heinlein, Seraph Root, The Rev. John H. Findlay, Amy Dearden, The Rev. Charles G. Morgan, Morgan Odman, and Pearl Sunbury.

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

THE REV. ROWENA J. KEMP, RECTOR

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Church e-mail: church@gracehartford.org Website: www.gracehartford.org



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THIS WEEK AT GRACE

Sunday, February 2 *THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE*
~ *THE PURIFICATION OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN* ~ *CANDLEMAS*

8:00 a.m.: Low Mass

10:30 a.m.: Solemn High Mass (*also on Facebook Live*)

Tuesday, February 4 *Cornelius the Centurion*

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.: Office Hours

Wednesday, February 5 *The Martyrs of Japan, 1597*

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.: Office Hours

7:00 p.m.: Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, February 6

10:00 a.m.: "A Place of Grace" food pantry distribution

Friday, February 7 *Feria*

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.: Office Hours

Sunday, February 9 *The Fifth Sunday after the Epiphany*

8:00 a.m.: Low Mass

10:30 a.m.: Solemn High Mass (*also on Facebook Live*)



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Please join, and help us spread the good news online!

