

— ST. MICHAEL'S — EPISCOPAL CHURCH



FEBRUARY 2, 2025

THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION

PRELUDE MUSIC & WELCOME

Officiant Blessed be God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
People **And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.**
 Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Officiant The Lord be with you.
People **And also with you.**
Officiant Together, let us pray

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 for ever. **Amen.**

PRAYER FOR THE RECTOR SEARCH

O shepherding God, guide the hearts and minds of our Search Committee as we seek to discern the role of Rector for St. Michael's Church. By your light, draw to us those with vision and passion for St. Michael's future. Guide them as they discern your call. Raise up for us a faithful pastor, a dynamic preacher of your Gospel, to shepherd us as your flock, strengthen our ministries, and work with us in building up your kingdom. **Amen**

THE LESSON & PSALM

A reading from the Book of Malachi (3:1-4)

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

People **Thanks be to God.**

Please pray Psalm 84 responsively by half 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!

Officiant A reading from the Gospel of **Luke (2:22-40)**

People **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him 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.

Officiant The Gospel of the Lord.

People **Praise to you, Lord Christ.**

CANDLE LIGHTING AND SILENT PRAYER

You are invited to light a candle and observe a period of silent personal prayer time.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Officiant Let us pray to the Lord who enlightens the nations and gives us hope by praying, Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Reader The church has a mission to light the nations with love and hope. We pray especially for Sean, our Presiding Bishop, Megan our Bishop, Andy, Katie, Mike, Rod, and Jesse, our clergy. Lord, send us out to do your will. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our nation has resources and abundance like no other country Lord. Show us the way to share what we have with our own brothers and sisters in the United States and to help our neighbors around the world. We especially pray for Mary, our head of school, for all the staff, teachers and students at St. Michael's Day School and Starr King TK-8. Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our world was a gift from you, and we are the stewards of your creation. Give us wisdom to conserve and protect all that you have made. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our community has the problems of homelessness, hunger, poverty, injustice, unemployment, and loneliness. Give us the courage to address them as a church and as your disciples. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our friends and families are in need of healing. Give your grace, peace, protection, and healing to those we offer to you now. Especially we pray for **Andrea, Kathy, Chris, Kate, Holly, Frances, Cynthia, Liz, Barbara, Mike, Tina, Mark, Mary, Kay, Hunter, and Billie.** Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

We pray for those in the plane and helicopter crash in DC. For the families and loved ones of those who were involved, we pray for solace and peace. We pray that those who mourn their passings have your blessed assurance of life everlasting wash over them. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Our life ends with new life in you. Bless the dying with peace, especially Margaret Wiggins, and the grieving with comfort. Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

For what else and whom else shall we pray? (*A time of silence is kept.*) Lord in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Officiant Our lives and wellbeing are held in your hand O Lord. Give us trust and faith in you and bless us this day and every day with the peace that only you provide. In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

THE PEACE

Officiant The peace of Christ be always with you.

People **And also with you.**

Officiant Let us invite the Lord Jesus through this prayer for spiritual communion:

In union, O Lord, with the faithful at every altar of your Church where the Holy Eucharist is celebrated, I desire to offer you praise and thanksgiving. I present to you my soul and body with the earnest wish that I may always be united to you, and, since I cannot now receive you sacramentally, I beseech you to come spiritually into my heart. I unite myself with you, and embrace you with all the love of my soul. Let nothing ever separate you from me. May I live in you, and may you live in me, both in this life and in the life to come. **Amen.**

**Julian of Norwich liturgy*

Officiant Together, let us pray the prayer Jesus taught us.

**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.**

BLESSING

The peace of God, which surpasses 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 amongst you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Officiant Alleluia, Alleluia. Let us go into the world to love and serve Christ.

People **Thanks be to God. Alleluia, Alleluia.**

CONCLUDING REMARKS, DISCUSSION, ANNOUNCEMENTS AND
CHECK IN.