

Saint Christopher's Episcopal Church

A GROWING COMMUNITY OF LOVE, JOY, AND HOPE

*Whoever and wherever you are on your journey of faith, you are welcome.
Our message is that God's unconditional love is extended to you right now
through Jesus Christ. Here in this church, God says, "You belong, this is my
family, and you have a place in it".*

The Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple

Holy Eucharist Rite II

February 2, 2025



GATHERING

Stand as you are able

Opening Hymn 569 *Blue Hymnal* *God, the Omnipotent!*

Celebrant: Blessed be God; Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

People: *And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever.
Amen.*

Collect for Purity

Worship Leader:

Almighty God, to you all hearts are open, all desires known, and from you no secrets are hid: Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love you, and worthily magnify your holy Name; through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Gloria Hymn # S280

Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his people on earth. Lord God, heavenly King, almighty God and Father, we worship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glory. Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world: have mercy on us; you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect of the Day *Book of Common Prayer 215*

Worship Leader: The Lord be with you.

People: **And also with you.**

Worship Leader: 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.*

THE WORD OF GOD

The Lessons

All are seated

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: The word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God.

Psalm 19 *read responsively by the half verse* BCP 606

- 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!

Epistle:**Hebrews 2: 14-18**

Since God's 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, 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.

Reader: The word of the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God.*

Stand as you are able

Gospel Hymn: *Love Astounding*

- 1 *Love astounding, love confounding
limits fearful minds impose.
love renewing, love pursuing
every heart until it knows
love's transforming, healing goodness,
love's abiding, gentle grace,
love's endurance, love's assurance,
love's consoling, strong embrace.*
- 2 *Love receiving, love believing,
we rejoice with thanks and song,
faith regaining, hope proclaiming;
love has taught us, we belong
safe within love's tender keeping,
safe from fear's persistent call.
Love defending, love unending,
love of God enfolding all.*

Officiant: The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to **Luke, (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.

All are seated

Sermon: The Rev. Paul Crips

Stand as you are able

The Nicene Creed

BCP (blue) 358

We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen. We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father. Through him all things were made. For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven: by the power of the Holy Spirit he became incarnate from the Virgin Mary, and was made man. For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures; he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end. We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son. With the Father and the Son he is worshiped and glorified. He has spoken through the Prophets. We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins. We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

All stand or kneel

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE Form IV

The Leader and People pray responsively

In our Episcopal Church cycle of prayer we pray for All Soul's in Kaycee and in our Anglican cycle of prayer we pray for the Church in Aotearoa, New Zealand, and Polynesia. Let us pray for the church and for the world. Grant, Almighty God, that all who confess your Name may be united in your truth, live together in your love, and reveal your glory in the world.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

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 your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Give us all a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor and glory.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Bless all whose lives are closely linked with ours, and grant that we may serve Christ in them, and love one another as he loves us.

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

Comfort all those who suffer in body, mind, or spirit; give them courage or hope in their troubles, and bring them the joy of your salvation.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

We commend to your mercy all who have died, that your will for them will be fulfilled; and we pray that we may share with all your saints in your eternal kingdom.

Silence

Lord, in your mercy

Hear our prayer.

The celebrant adds a concluding collect.

THE CONFESSION

Celebrant: Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name.

Amen.

Celebrant: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life.

Amen.

THE PEACE

Stand as you are able

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

People: *And also with you.*

The people greet one another in the name of the Lord.

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Celebrant: Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself
for us, an offering and sacrifice to God.

An offering is collected as a symbol of our life and to support the work of the church. Thank you for your generosity.

Doxology Hymn #380

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;

Praise Him, all creatures here below;

Praise Him above, ye heavenly host:

Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Amen.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

Great Thanksgiving: Eucharistic Prayer

Celebrant: The Lord be with you.

People: *And also with you.*

Celebrant: Lift up your hearts.

People: *We lift them to the Lord.*

Celebrant: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People: *It is right to give him thanks and praise.*

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth. Because in the mystery of the Lord made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who for ever

sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Celebrant and People

**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

The Celebrant continues:

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself, and, when we had fallen into sin and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent Jesus Christ, your only and eternal Son, to share our human nature, to live and die as one of us, to reconcile us to you, the God and Father of all.

He stretched out his arms upon the cross, and offered himself, in obedience to your will, a perfect sacrifice for the whole world.

On the night he was handed over to suffering and death, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks to you, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, and said, "Take, eat: This is my Body, which is given for you. Do this for the remembrance of me."

After supper he took the cup of wine; and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, and said, "Drink this, all of you: This is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Whenever you drink it, do this for the remembrance of me."

Therefore, we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

The Celebrant continues

We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. Recalling his death, resurrection, and ascension, we offer you these gifts. Sanctify them by your Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son, the holy food and drink of new and unending life in him.

Sanctify us also that we may faithfully receive this holy Sacrament, and serve you in unity, constancy, and peace; and at the last day bring us with all your saints into the joy of your eternal kingdom.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: By him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit all honor and glory is yours, Almighty Father, now and for ever. *Amen.*

And now, as our Savior Christ taught us, we are bold to *sing* The Lord's Prayer:

Our Father in heaven hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save from the time of trial and deliver us from evil, for the kingdom, the pow'r and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

Celebrant: Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;

People: Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

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 heart by faith with thanksgiving.

Communion Hymn: King of Kings

Verse 1

*In the darkness we were waiting, Without hope without light
Till from Heaven You came running, There was mercy in Your eyes*

*To fulfil the law and prophets, To a virgin came the Word
From a throne of endless glory, To a cradle in the dirt*

Chorus

*Praise the Father, Praise the Son, Praise the Spirit three in one
God of Glory, Majesty, Praise forever to the King of kings*

Verse 2

*To reveal the kingdom coming, And to reconcile the lost
To redeem the whole creation, You did not despise the cross*

*For even in Your suffering, You saw to the other side
Knowing this was our salvation, Jesus for our sake You died*

Verse 3

*And the morning that You rose, All of heaven held its breath
Till that stone was moved for good, For the Lamb had conquered death*

*And the dead rose from their tombs, And the angels stood in awe
For the souls of all who'd come, To the Father are restored*

Verse 4

*And the Church of Christ was born, Then the Spirit lit the flame
Now this Gospel truth of old, Shall not kneel shall not faint*

*By His blood and in His Name, In His freedom I am free
For the love of Jesus Christ, Who has resurrected me*

SENDING FORTH

The people stand or kneel

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

Let us pray.

Celebrant and People

Eternal God, heavenly Father, you have graciously accepted us as living members of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ, and you have fed us with spiritual food in the Sacrament of his Body and Blood. Send us now into the world in peace, and grant us strength and courage to love and serve you with gladness and singleness of heart; through Christ our Lord. Amen.

CONCLUDING BLESSING

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Weekly Calendar:

February 5, Men's Breakfast at Perkins, 8:30 am

February 6, Holy Eucharist, 11:30 am

February 7, First Friday Coffee, 10:00 am

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

COMMISSIONING OF ST. CHRISTOPHER'S EUCHARISTIC MINISTERS

(Inside back cover of BCP)

Stand as you are able

Recessional Hymn: 448, vs. 4-6 *O, love, how deep, how broad*

Celebrant: Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

People: *Thanks be to God. Alleluia.*

Acknowledgements:

Celebrant: The Rev. Paul Crips
Worship Leader: Karen Boehner
Preacher: The Rev. Paul Crips
Lector: Tina Gillespie
Acolyte: Justice Wake
Usher: Kiki & Luisa Vigil
Prayers of the People: Sandi Raney

ZOOM

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