

# St. John Lutheran Church and Preschool

**FOURTH WEEK AFTER THE EPIPHANY**  
*The Purification of Mary and the Presentation of  
Our Lord*  
*Recognizing Scouts (Sunday)*

**Divine Service Setting Three**  
**FEBRUARY 1&2, 2025**



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**Facebook: St. John Lutheran Church & Preschool**

*Holy Communion The Lord welcomes to his table all who repent of sin and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior. In this meal the Lord is present by a mystery in his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. As the Lord's Supper is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar and lest any eat and drink unworthily, those who are not yet instructed as members or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Lord's Supper, are asked to first speak to the pastor. Those who are not communing but wishing to receive a blessing are also invited to come forward. Simply bow your head to indicate that a blessing is desired.*

**As we prepare for worship together please remember to  
set your phone to silent mode. Thank You!**

**Mission Statement: Growing a Christian Community  
rooted in Faith, Fellowship, and Service**

*Cover: Holbein, Hans the Elder, Altar of the Dominicans, left inner wing, bottom panel: The Presentation of Christ in the Temple, Hamburger Kunsthalle, 1500-01.*



Antiphon: Great is the LORD, and greatly to be praised in the  
city / of our God,  
in the mountain / of His holiness.

**Kyrie - *Lord Have Mercy*** p. 186

**Gloria in Excelsis** p. 187

**Salutation and Collect of the Day** p. 189

**First Reading:** *Malachi 3: 1-4*

Thus says the Lord God: "Behold, I send My messenger, and he will prepare the way before Me. And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple, even the Messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight. Behold, 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 launderers' soap. He will sit as a refiner and a purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the Lord an offering in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasant to the Lord, as in the days of old, as in former years," says the Lord Almighty.

A: This is the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God**

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

Brethren: Inasmuch as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For indeed He does not give aid to angels, but He does give aid to the seed of Abraham. Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted, even Jesus Christ our Lord.

**P:** This is the Word of the Lord

**C: Thanks be to God.**

**Gradual:** *Psalm 48: 8a, 9-10a (Mode II)*

As / we have heard,

so have we seen in the ci-/ty of our God.

We have thought of Thy lovingkind-/ness, O God,

in the midst / of Thy temple.

According to Thy / name, O God,

so is Thy praise unto the / ends of the earth.

**Alleluia**

*(As the music begins, please rise to sing)*

**p. 190**

**Holy Gospel:** *Luke 2: 22-32*

P: The Lord be with You.

**C: And with your Spirit.** (*Spoken*)

P: The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the 2<sup>nd</sup> chapter.

**C: Glory be to Thee, O Lord.**

When the days of Mary's purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Jesus to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every male who 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." And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting 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 would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: "Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, according to Your word; for my eyes have seen Your salvation which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Your people Israel."

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise be to Thee, O Christ.**

**Nicene Creed**

p. 191

**Hymn of the Day:** *Savior of the Nations Come* 332 (1-4)

**Sermon**

**Offertory Music**

**Offertory** *Create in Me A Clean Heart* p. 192

*(As the music begins, please rise to sing)*

**Prayer of the Church**

**Preface** p. 194

**Sanctus** - *Holy, Holy, Holy* p. 195

**Prayer of Thanksgiving 1**

**The Words of Our Lord** p. 197

**Lord's Prayer** p. 196

**Pax Domini** – *The Peace of the Lord* p. 197

**Distribution****p. 199**

*The Lord welcomes to his table all who repent of sin and trust in Jesus Christ as Savior. In this meal the Lord is present by a mystery in his body and blood for the forgiveness of sins. As the Lord's Supper is a confession of the faith which is confessed at this altar and lest any eat and drink unworthily, those who are not yet instructed as members or who hold a confession differing from that of this congregation and the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, and yet desire to receive the Lord's Supper, are asked to first speak to the pastor. Those who are not communing but wishing to receive a blessing are also invited to come forward. Simply bow your head to indicate that a blessing is desired.*

**Communion Prayers** *Prayers are provided for before and after communing inside the front cover of the hymnal under "Prayers for Worship". Please make use of these prayers or your own prayers during the time before, during and after communion*

**Distribution Music – Come, Come Unto Me –**

*K. Dosso (Sunday)*

**Post Communion Collect**

**p. 201**

**Salutation and Benedicamus**

**P. 201**



**Benediction**

p. 202

**Closing Hymn:** *Rock of Ages, Cleft for Me*

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*(We reflect in silent prayer following the closing hymn)***Postlude**

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**Offerings for God** The offering box continues to be available in the narthex for our giving.**Church Attendance**

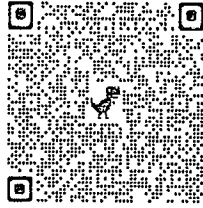
Wednesday.....	7
Saturday .....	12
Sunday .....	60

**Assisting with our service:** Assistant: Paul Patnoad (Sat) Dan Cox (Sun); Lead Deacon: Wayne Sasso (Sat) Beth MacDonald (Sun); Reader: Beth Johnson (Sat) Dan Cox (Sun); Altar Guild: Donna Dlugos (Sat) Joanne Outlaw (Sun).

**Thank you to Scouts!** We thank our scouts, their families and scout leaders for their presence among us today. We appreciate your service among us and sharing with us this morning. The Lord be with you!

<sup>1</sup> *The Prayer of Thanksgiving III* – adapted from *Apostolic Tradition, Worship Supplement, CPH 1969*

**Support Our Preschool:** The preschool has set up a wishlist for supplies and other teaching items on Amazon. Use your cell phone's app to scan this QR code to link directly to the wishlist. You can order and have items shipped directly to the preschool. Thank you for your support.



### **Exploring the Epistles!**

Beginning the new year our adult Bible class will be exploring the appointed Epistle of the day. These texts have been shared by the faithful each Sunday for over a millennium. These readings often match the Gospel and so carry the theme of the day. Join us as we share together beginning at *9:00 AM* each Sunday in the new year. All welcome!

**Did you know? – *Historic Chant:*** Chant has been described as “sung prayer” or an effort to elevate our speech toward God. Chant uses scriptures and psalms set to a song of prayer. Chant is not time or culture bound. Since early centuries chant has always been the church’s music.

We have made use of chant in the Divine Service. Some have shared that they enjoy and appreciate the beauty of the chant. Others have said that the chant helped them to pray better, following along and understanding the words. We now make use of historic Gregorian chant during both the Gradual and the Introit at the start of Service.

## News At St. John Church

**Thank you!** Thank you to our congregation of faith for Christmas well wishes, cards, gifts and the generous congregational gift gathered. The Lord bless and be with us all in the coming year! *Pastor and family*

**Online Giving:** We recently set up a secure giving option through the Joyful Response program, already in use for our direct deposit for offerings. “You may set up a one-time donation or recurring offering to St. John through this link.” Credit/Debit card payments and bank ACH are accepted through this program. Credit card fees are deducted from the amount unless otherwise selected.



**Pre – Lenten season:** In the historic season of Pre Lent *Septuagesima, Sexagesima, and Quinquagesima* are the 3 Sundays before Ash Wednesday that take their names from Latin words indicating that they fall within 70, 60, and 50 days before Easter. *Quadragesima* begins the official 40 day fast of Lent on Ash Wednesday. This season is a little like Lent in that we omit the Alleluia and the Gloria in Excelsis, holding back on some of the joy as we prepare to begin our Lenten journey of faith together.

## **Pledge of Allegiance to the Flags**

### **American**

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### **Christian**

I pledge allegiance to the Christian flag and to the Savior for whose kingdom it stands, one fellowship under the saving grace of God, united in the service and love of all.

## **A Scout's Law Prayer**

Our Father, make us Trustworthy, for there are those who trust us.

Make us Loyal, for through loyalty we reach our highest ideals.

Teach us to be Helpful, for through helpfulness do we forget our selfishness.

Make us Friendly, for there are so many who need a friend.

Train us in Courtesy, for courtesy is the carpet on life's floor.

Make us Kind for kindness is the oil in the cogs of life's machinery.

Insist upon our Obedience, for victory comes only to him who obeys.

Make us Cheerful, for cheerfulness is the green grass among the rocks in the path of life.

Train us in Thrift, for thrifty habits brighten our future.

Make us Brave; brave in the dark and brave in the light; but save us from becoming fakers in bravery.

Help us to be Clean – clean in thoughts, in speech, and in deed. And may we remember that our bodies are Thy holy temples, and that any abuse thereof is to tamper with Thy Great Plans.

Above all, O God, help us to be Reverent toward all things which Thou hast made for our enjoyment when we are in Thy great out-of-doors, among the trees, along the streams, and on the Hillsides. May we know it was Thee who made the waters to flow, the trees to reach heavenward, the mountains to endure to all ages.

In all these things we ask that Thou wilt help us. And may we never forget the Scout Oath to which we all have pledged ourselves, so that through Thy help we may live these points of our Scout Law.

Amen

### *God Gives the Gift of a Child to Destroy Death*

The Lord opened the barren womb of Hannah and gave her the gift of the son for whom she prayed, and in grateful response she presented and gave the child, Samuel, to the Lord's service. "As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD" (1 Sam. 1:28). So, too, did Mary and Joseph present the Child promised from the fall, born of a virgin's womb. The true offering wasn't the turtledoves or young pigeons. It was the Child they carried. This Child has come to "destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery" (Heb. 2:14b-15). Set free by His advent in our flesh and the promise of what He would do "in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people" (Heb. 2:17b), Simeon and Anna rejoiced. We also rejoice, for we, too, can face death unafraid and "depart in peace" (Luke 2:29) when our time comes.