


THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY FAMILY
Mills River, North Carolina
**The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the
Temple**
February 2, 2025

Sacred Place +++ Sacred Space
Please observe silence after the altar candles are



PRELUDE *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence*
A bell rings three times; the people stand.

Mark Hayes

Hymns and service music are found in the blue 1982 Hymnals (H) and the purple Glory to God hymnals (GTG) They are in the racks under the chairs.

PRESENTATION OF THE WORD

ENTRANCE HYMN *H# 410 Praise, my soul, the King of heaven*
Praise, my soul, the King of heaven;
to his feet thy tribute bring;
ransomed, healed, restored, forgiven,
evermore his praises sing:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise the everlasting King.

Praise him for his grace and favor
to his people in distress;
praise him still the same as ever,
slow to chide, and swift to bless:
Alleluia, alleluia!
Glorious in this faithfulness.

Father-like he tends and spares us;
well our feeble frame he knows;
in his hand he gently bears us,
rescues us from all our foes.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Widely yet his mercy flows.

Angels, help us to adore him;
ye behold him face to face;
sun and moon, bow down before him,
dwellers all in time and space.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Praise with us the God of grace.

OPENING ACCLAMATION

Celebrant Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.
People And blessed be God's kingdom, now and for
ever. Amen.

COLLECT FOR PURITY

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.**

SONG OF PRAISE GTG #614 Great are you Lord
Great are you, Lord: you are holy and just;
by your power we trust in your love.
Great are you, Lord: you are faithful and true;
by your mercy you prove you are love.
Great are you, Lord, and worthy of glory! Great are you, Lord,
and worthy of praise.
Great are you, Lord. We lift up our voice; we lift up our voice:
Great are you, Lord! Great are you Lord!

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Celebrant The Lord be with you.
People And also with you.
Celebrant 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.*

FIRST READING: Malachi 3:1-4

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.

Reader The Word of the Lord.

People **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM 84

¹How 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.

³Happy 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.

⁵Those 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.

⁷LORD 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.

⁹For 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;**

¹¹No 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!**

SECOND READING: Hebrews 2:14-18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

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, 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.

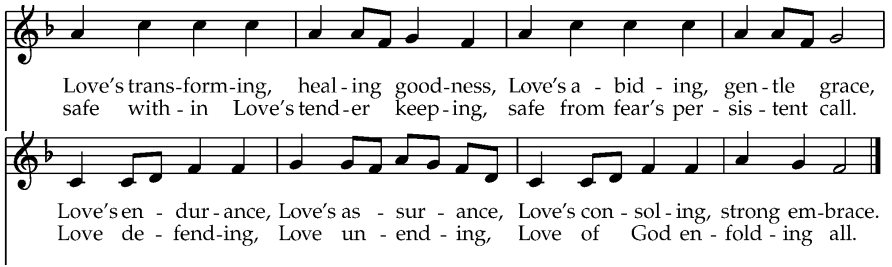
Reader The Word of the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

SEQUENCE HYMN

VF#143 Love astounding

1 Love a - stound-ing, Love con - found-ing lim-its fear - ful minds im-pose.
2 Love re - ceiv - ing, Love be - liev - ing, we re - joice with thanks and song,
Love re - new-ing, Love pur - su - ing ev - ery heart un - til it knows
faith re - gain-ing, hope pro - claim-ing; Love has taught us, we be - long



Love's trans-form-ing, heal-ing good-ness, Love's a - bid - ing, gen-tle grace,
safe with - in Love's tend-er keep-ing, safe from fear's per - sis - tent call.

Love's en - dur - ance, Love's as - sur - ance, Love's con - sol - ing, strong em-brace.
Love de - fend-ing, Love un - end - ing, Love of God en - fold - ing all.

GOSPEL: Luke 2:22-40

Deacon **The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.**

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

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 (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.

Deacon The Gospel of the Lord.

People Praise to you, Lord Christ.

THE SERMON Rev. Tammy Bales

THE NICENE CREED

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.

THE PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Leader Happy are they who walk in the law of the Lord! So let us come before the Lord, saying, "Righteous God; ... **Direct our ways.**"

Celebrant Thanksgiving, blessing and praise be yours, God of the Incarnation; because you care for us and for our prayer. May our love for you and our likeness to you be strengthened every time we pray. **Amen.**

CONFESSION OF SIN

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.

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

Celebrant The peace of the Lord be always with you.
People And also with you.

GATHERING

GTG# 507 Come to the Table of Grace

Come to the table of grace. Come to the table of grace,
This is God's table; it's not your or mine, Come to the table of grace.

Come to the table of peace. Come to the table of peace,
This is God's table; it's not your or mine, Come to the table of peace.

Come to the table of love. Come to the table of love,
This is God's table; it's not your or mine, Come to the table of love.

Come to the table of hope. Come to the table of hope,
This is God's table; it's not your or mine, Come to the table of hope.

Come to the table of joy. Come to the table of joy,
This is God's table; it's not your or mine, Come to the table of joy.

THE HOLY COMMUNION

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself for us, an offering and sacrifice to God. *Ephesians 5:2*

OFFERTORY *Of the Father's Love Begotten*

Mark Hayes

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

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.

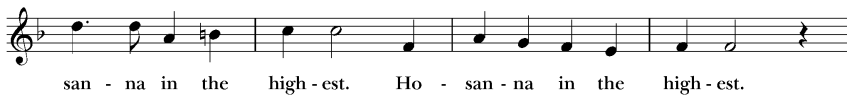
People **It is right to give God thanks and praise.**

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

For you are the source of light and life; you made us in your image, and called us to new life in 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:

SANCTUS S 125 *Holy, holy, holy*



We give thanks to you, O God, for the goodness and love which you have made known to us in creation; in the calling of Israel to be your people; in your Word spoken through the prophets; and above all in the Word made flesh, Jesus, your Son. For in these last days you sent him to be incarnate from the Virgin Mary, to be the Savior and Redeemer of the world. In him, you have delivered us from evil, and

made us worthy to stand before you. In him, you have brought us out of error into truth, out of sin into righteousness, out of death into life.

On the night before he died for us, 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, according to his command, O Father,

We remember his death,

We proclaim his resurrection,

We await his coming in glory;

And we offer our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving to you, O Lord of all; presenting to you, from your creation, this bread and this wine.

We pray you, gracious God, to send your Holy Spirit upon these gifts that they may be the Sacrament of the Body of Christ and his Blood of the new Covenant. Unite us to your Son in his sacrifice, that we may be acceptable through him, being sanctified by the Holy Spirit. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us to that heavenly country where, with all your saints, we may enter the everlasting heritage of your sons and daughters; through Jesus Christ our Lord, the firstborn of all creation, the head of the Church, and the author of our salvation.

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.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

And now, as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to say,

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.

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

FRACTION ANTHEM S 154 Christ our Passover

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.
Christ our Pass - o - ver is sac - ri - ficed for us;
there - fore let us keep the feast.
Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

COMMUNION INVITATION

The Gifts of God for the People of God.

(The bread and wine are given to the people. Please indicate that you would prefer a gluten-free wafer by placing your hands with palms together when you come up to receive Communion.)

COMMUNION HYMN GTG #722 Lord Speak to Me that I May Speak

Lord, speak to me that I may speak in living echoes of your tone.

As you have sought, so let me seek your erring children, lost and lone.

O lead me, Lord, that I may lead the wandering and the wavering feet.

O feed me, Lord, that I may feed your hungering ones with manna sweet.

O teach me, Lord, that I may teach the precious truths which you impart. And wing my words that they may reach the hidden depths of many a heart.

O fill me with your fullness, Lord, until my very heart o'er flow in kindling thought and glowing word, your love to tell, your praise to show.

O use me, Lord, use even me, just as you will, and when, and where until your blessed face I see, your rest, your joy, your glory share.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

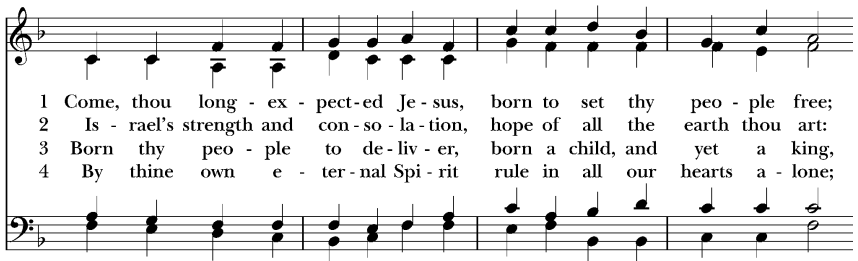
Let us pray.

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.

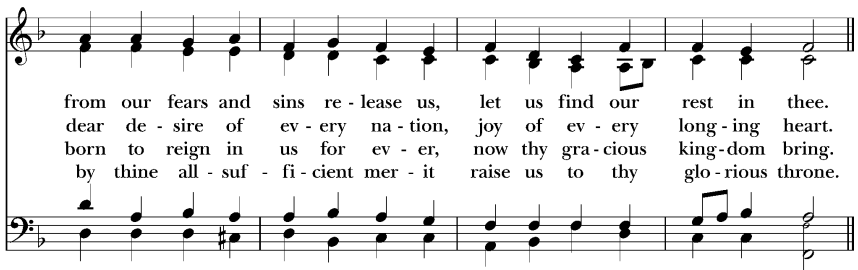
BLESSING

RECESSIONAL HYMN

H# 66 Come, thou long-expected Jesus



1 Come, thou long - ex - spect-ed Je - sus, born to set thy peo - ple free;
2 Is - rael's strength and con - so - la - tion, hope of all the earth thou art:
3 Born thy peo - ple to de - liv - er, born a child, and yet a king,
4 By thine own e - ter - nal Spi - rit rule in all our hearts a - lone;



from our fears and sins re - lease us, let us find our rest in thee.
dear de - sire of ev - ery na - tion, joy of ev - ery long - ing heart.
born to reign in us for ev - er, now thy gra - cious king - dom bring,
by thine all - suf - fi - cient mer - it raise us to thy glo - rious throne.

DISMISSAL/COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Women's Group, Sat. Feb. 8th, 10:00 am

Vestry Leadership Day, Sat. Feb. 15th

Vestry Meeting, Sun. Feb 16th, 12:15 pm

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