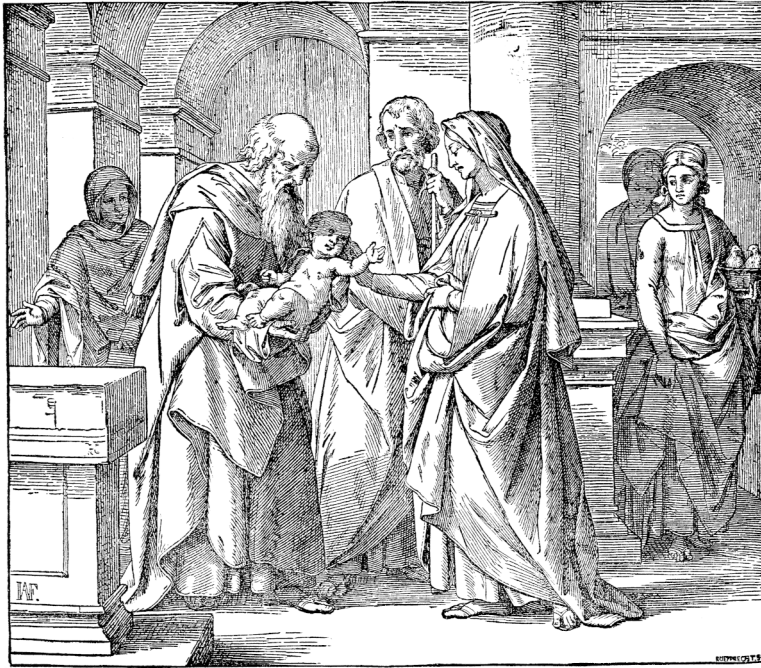


FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

FOUNDED JANUARY 15, 1837



THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD

February 2, 2025

8:30 & 11:00 AM

615 Grant Street, Pittsburgh Pennsylvania, 15219

Ph: 412-471-8125 ✕ Fax: 412-471-9521 ✕ flc@flcpittsburgh.org ✕ flcpittsburgh.org

PARDON OUR DUST

Reconstruction of our front sidewalks is now underway. The courtyard is now open. Entry to the church is now limited to the entrances off the new courtyard. Please note, then, that for now the safest way to enter will be from the direction of Sixth Avenue. Those parking in U.S. Steel should cross Grant Street at Sixth instead of Strawberry Way. Though the new ramp is now very gradual and ADA compliant, please be cautious, railings will be installed shortly.

We will keep you informed through the Parish News and bulletin as work progresses.

PARKING

Please be aware that the police have been more diligent in enforcing no-parking zones on Sundays, especially when there are sporting or other events downtown. Parking on our side of Grant Street is posted as permitted until 1:00 PM, but they sometimes ticket or even tow vehicles across the street.

We encourage parking in the U.S. Steel Tower garage, which we have made free on Sundays, though contributions toward our \$2.00 cost are welcome. Sometime during your visit at church, use your smartphone to scan one of the special QR codes that are posted around the building to take advantage of this arrangement with Metropolis. **Please note that the QR code must be scanned each time you park in the garage.** Full details on the program are available in the Parish News and posted around the building. There are two entrances to the garage: one is off of the Veterans Bridge/Bigelow Blvd ramp just before Sixth Ave; the other is on Bigelow Square, just off of Sixth Ave and in front of the DoubleTree Hotel's main entrance.



FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH WELCOMES YOU!

We extend a warm welcome to all who are visiting with us today and hope you will return to worship with our community of faith again. If you would like to know more about our ministry in downtown and metropolitan Pittsburgh, please speak to a pastor, any of our members, or visit www.flcpittsburgh.org.


Our liturgy incorporates historic practices of the Western Christian tradition, aspects of which may be unfamiliar to some. We hope this bulletin will serve to welcome our visitors and be an aid to those who seek to participate in our worship of God.

ACCESSIBILITY Accessible entrances to the nave are available using either door from the courtyard. An elevator is available in the Parish House to access other levels of the building. The parking spaces directly in front of the building have been designated for those with handicapped plates or placards for their vehicles.

ASSISTED LISTENING DEVICES are available at the ushers' table in the rear of the nave. Easy-to-use receivers with either an earpiece or a neck loop are available. Antiseptic wipes are available to clean assisted listening equipment before use.

YOUNG CHILDREN

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." The presence of children in worship, even when they are wiggly and noisy, is a gift to the Church and a reminder that our parish is growing. Children's worship boxes, with items to help engage our youngsters in worship, are available in the back of the nave. Please return them to an usher after worship. A family restroom with a changing table is available downstairs.



HOLY COMMUNION

Holy Communion is offered by invitation of the Lord himself. All baptized believers who trust that Christ is truly present in the Eucharist, regardless of denomination, are invited to receive the Blessed Sacrament. To receive the Sacrament, come to the altar rail by way of the center aisle. The pastor will place a wafer into your hand. Please indicate to the pastor if you need a gluten-free wafer. The wine may be received by drinking directly from the common cup or with an individual glass filled from a pouring chalice. Please pick up a glass from the tables at the head of the center aisle, and return your empty glass to the tables at the head of the side aisles. If you need to have communion brought to you in your seat, please let an usher know.

If you choose to receive the Sacrament under the form of bread alone for any reason, you may be assured that in so doing, you receive the whole Christ. If you choose not to receive communion, you may request a blessing instead. After receiving communion (or a blessing), you may return to your seat by the side aisles.

✠ ALTAR FLOWERS & LAMPS ✠

	THE CENTERPIECE	THE BAPTISTRY
FLOWERS	<i>is given in celebration of Fiona Marin Weimer's birthday, granddaughter of George & Beatrice Weimer, by Beatrice Weimer.</i>	<i>is given in gratitude to God for the privilege of seventy years serving as a church musician by Joyce Moon Strobel.</i>
	SANCTUARY	VOTIVE
LAMPS January 13-26	<i>is given in memory of Donald Taylor, by Gail & Dave Carl.</i>	<i>is given in memory of Dan Headrick by Nancy Headrick & family & Harry Obley.</i>

THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD

February 2, 2025—8:30 & 11:00 AM

*Thank you for silencing your electronic devices.
The people prepare for worship by silently praying the following prayer:*

✠ Jesus, Master, come and meet us while we walk in the way and long to reach the heavenly country, so that, following your light, we may keep the way of righteousness and justice and, while you, who are the Way, the Truth, and the Life are shining within us, may never wander away into the darkness of this world's night. Amen

Read Psalm 100 p. 263

THE PRELUDE

*Noël en Récit de Flûte
Noël Pour l'amour de Marie*

Jean-Jacques
Beauvarlet-Charpentier

The people stand and may turn in place to follow and bow as the cross passes.

THE ENTRANCE HYMN

In His Temple Now Behold Him

ELW 417

Printed on the following page.

THE ENTRANCE HYMN

In His Temple Now Behold Him

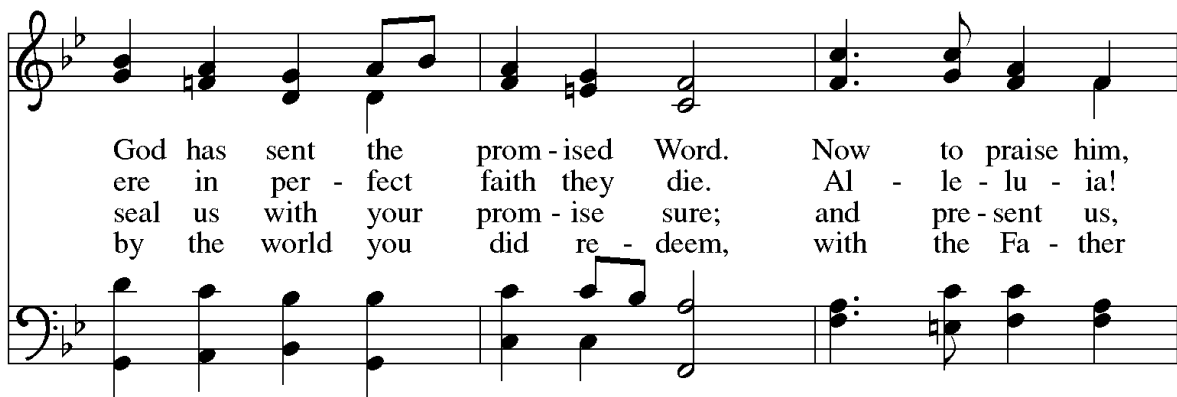
ELW 417



1 In his tem - ple now be - hold him, see the long - ex -
2 In the arms of her who bore him, vir - gin pure, be -
3 Je - sus, by your pre - sen - ta - tion, when they blessed you,
4 Prince and au - thor of sal - va - tion, be your bound - less



pect - ed Lord; an - cient proph - ets had fore - told him,
hold him lie, while his a - ged saints a - dore him,
weak and poor, make us see your great sal - va - tion,
love our theme! Je - sus, praise to you be giv - en



God has sent the prom - ised Word. Now to praise him,
ere in per - fect faith they die. Al - le - lu - ia!
seal us with your prom - ise sure; and pre - sent us,
by the world you did re - deem, with the Fa - ther

his re - deem - ed shall break forth with one ac - cord.
 Al - le - lu - ia! Lo, the in - car - nate God Most High!
 in your glo - ry, to your Fa - ther, cleansed and pure.
 and the Spir - it God of maj - es - ty su - preme!

Text: Henry J. Pye, 1825–1903, alt.
 Music: REGENT SQUARE, Henry T. Smart, 1813–1879

THE APOSTOLIC GREETING

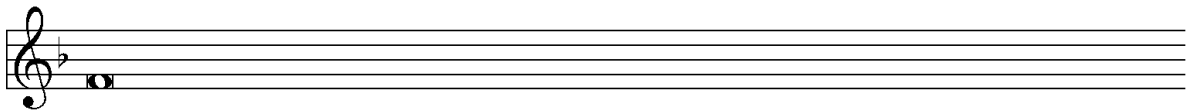
- P** The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God,
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
- C** **And also with you.**

KYRIE

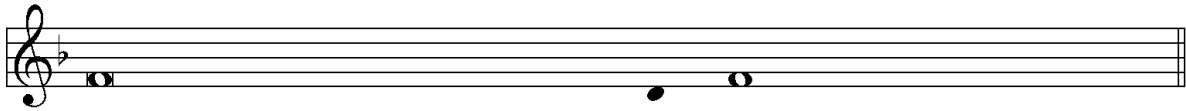
A In peace, let us pray to the Lord. **G** Lord, have mer - cy.

A For the peace from above, and for our salvation, let us pray to the Lord.

G Lord, have mer - cy.



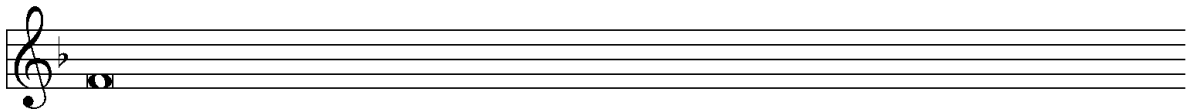
A For the peace of the whole world, for the well-being of the Church of God,



and for the unity of all, let us pray to the Lord.



C Lord, have mer - cy.



A For this holy house, and for all who offer here their worship and praise,



let us pray to the Lord.

C Lord, have mer - cy.



A Help, save, comfort, and defend us, gra - cious Lord. **C** A - men

THE CANTICLE OF PRAISE

Gloria in excelsis



A Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



C Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



Lord Je - sus Christ, on-ly Son of the Fa-ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer-cy on us.



You are seat-ed at the right hand of the Fa-ther; re-ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,

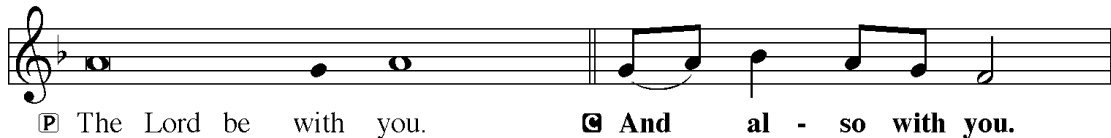


you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

THE PRAYER OF THE DAY



- P** Let us pray.
Blessed are you, O Lord our God, for you have sent us your salvation.
Inspire us by your Holy Spirit to see with our own eyes him who is
the glory of Israel and the light for all nations, your Son, Jesus Christ
our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
now and forever.
- C** **Amen** *(Sung on one tone.)*

The people are seated.

THE FIRST LESSON—Malachi 3:1-4

- L** A reading from Malachi.

¹ 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. ² 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; ³ 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. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

- L** The Word of the Lord.
C **Thanks be to God.**

8:30 AM

THE PSALMODY—Psalm 84

Quam dilecta!

LBW Tone 8

Sung responsively, Soloist / All



- 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 him- | self in Zion.**
- ⁷ LORD God of hosts, | hear my prayer;*
- hearken, O | God of Jacob.
- ⁸ **Behold our defend- | er, 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!

11:00 AM

THE PSALMODY—Psalm 84 *Quam dilecta!*

Plainsong Tone 8.1
Antiphon by John W. Becker

Sung by the Choir.

THE SECOND LESSON—Hebrews 2:14-18

L A reading from Hebrews.

¹⁴ 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, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ 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. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

L The Word of the Lord.

C Thanks be to God.

The people stand.

THE VERSE

C. Pock

*The Alleluia is intoned once by the Soloist/Choir, and repeated by **All**.*

Al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia!

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples.

THE HOLY GOSPEL—Saint Luke 2:22-40

P The Holy Gospel according to Saint Luke, the second chapter.



²² 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 ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ 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. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ 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, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

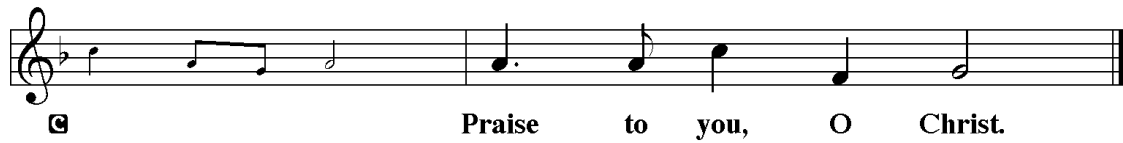
²⁹ “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation, ³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ 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 ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

³⁶ 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, ³⁷ 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. ³⁸ 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.

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

P The Gospel of the Lord.



The people are seated.

THE SERMON

The Rev. Brian A. Evans

The people stand for the Hymn of the Day

THE HYMN OF THE DAY*The People Who in Darkness Walked***H'82 126***St. 1—All • 2—Men • 3—Choir • 4—Women • 5—All*

The musical score consists of two systems of music. Each system has a vocal line (treble clef) and a bass line (bass clef). The key signature is two flats (B-flat and E-flat), and the time signature is common time (C). The first system contains five lines of lyrics, each starting with a red label: 'All', 'M', 'Choir', 'W', and 'All'. The second system contains five lines of lyrics, each starting with a number: '1', '2', '3', '4', and '5'. The music is written in a simple, homophonic style with block chords and moving bass lines.

All 1 The peo - ple who in dark - ness walked have seen a glo - rious light;
M 2 To hail thy ris - ing, Sun of life, the ga - thering na - tions come,
Choir 3 To us the prom-ised Child is born, to us the Son is given;
W 4 His name shall be the Prince of Peace for ev - er - more a - dored,
All 5 His power in - creas - ing still shall spread, his reign no end shall know;

1 on them broke forth the heav - en - ly dawn who dwelt in death and night.
 2 joy - ous as when the reap - ers bear their har - vest trea - sures home.
 3 him shall the tribes of earth o - bey, and all the hosts of heaven.
 4 the Won - der - ful, the Coun - sel - lor, the might - y God and Lord.
 5 jus - tice shall guard his throne a - bove, and peace a - bound be - low.

Text: John Morison (1749-1798), alt; para. Isaiah 9:2-7

Tune: DUNDEE, melody *The CL Psalmes of David*, 1615; harm. Thomas Ravenscroft (c. 1592-1635), alt.

THE NICENE CREED

C 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

A Let us kneel to pray for the whole people of God in Christ Jesus,
and for all people according to their needs.

The people kneel. A brief time for reflection is provided.

A ...Lord, in your mercy,
C hear our prayer.

P Into your hands, O Lord, we commend all for whom we pray,
trusting in your mercy; through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
C Amen

The people stand.

THE PEACE

P The peace of the Lord be with you always.
C And also with you.

*The people offer each other the sign of peace, saying "Peace be with you."
The people are seated as the gifts are prepared.*

THE OFFERING OF OUR GIFTS

MUSIC AT THE OFFERING

Nunc dimittis

setting by Ralph Vaughan Williams

The people stand.

THE OFFERTORY PRAYER

- A Let us pray.
Accept, we pray you, O Lord, the gifts offered to you this day
by a joyful Church, and grant that he who is the Light that enlightens
the nations may shine on us, even your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C **Amen**

SURSUM CORDA



P The Lord be with you. C And al - so with you.



P Lift up your hearts. C We lift them to the Lord.



P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.



C It is right to give him thanks and praise.

THE PREFACE

- P It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer
thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ our Lord.
Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love,
that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light.
And so, with the Church on earth and the hosts of heaven,
we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

SANCTUS



Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:
Heav-en and earth are full of your glo- ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.
Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who
comes in the name of the Lord. Ho- san - na in the high - est.

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

P You are indeed holy, O God. You surround us with your glory and mercy, and in the splendor of your heavenly light you lead us through the darkness of this world.

You led your people Israel by a pillar of fire, as you delivered them from bondage and brought them to the promised land. By the light of Bethlehem's star you led the sages to your beloved Son, revealing him to the nations as King of kings and Lord of lords. In words, signs and wonders your Son gave the light of hope to the hopeless and healing to the downcast.

Then, at the appointed time, he stretched out his hands on the cross, showing forth the brilliance of a life freely given, that all may have life in him.

In the night in which he was betrayed, took bread and gave thanks; broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:

Take and eat; this is my body, given for you.

Do this in remembrance of me.

P Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks,
and gave it for all to drink, saying:
*This cup is the new covenant in blood,
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.
Do this for the remembrance of me.*

With joy we proclaim the mystery of our faith:

C Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

P Gracious Father, we give you thanks for the light of our Lord's passion and his
victory over the grave. We rejoice that you have made us your people, by Christ's
redeeming love. We pray that by your Holy Spirit you will bless and sanctify this
Holy Communion, that we may be illumined in faith as we partake of Christ's
body and blood, renewed in the forgiveness of sins, and joyous in our hope for
your eternal kingdom.

C Amen. Come Holy Spirit.

P Join our prayers with those of your servants of every time and every place, and
unite them with the ceaseless petitions of our great high priest until he comes as
victorious Lord of all.



C Through him, with him, in him, in the u - ni - ty of the



Ho - ly Spir - it, all hon - or and glo - ry is yours, al -



might - y Fa - ther, now and for - ev - er. A - men

THE LORD'S PRAYER

P Let us pray with confidence to the Father in the words our Savior gave us.

**C 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 FRACTION

P When we eat this bread, we share the body of Christ.
When we drink this cup, we share the blood of Christ.

**C Reveal yourself to us, O Lord, in the breaking of bread,
as once you revealed yourself to your disciples.**

P The gifts of God for the people of God.
Taste and see that the Lord is good.

The people are seated.

AGNUS DEI

☪ Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the world; have
mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the sin of the
world; have mer - cy on us. Lamb of God, you take a - way the
sin of the world; grant us peace.

THE COMMUNION OF THE FAITHFUL

To receive the Sacrament, come to the altar rail by way of the center aisle. The pastor will place a wafer into your hand. Please indicate to the pastor if you need a gluten-free wafer. The wine may be received by drinking directly from the common cup or with an individual glass filled from a pouring chalice. Please pick up a glass from the tables at the head of the center aisle, and return your empty glass to the tables at the head of the side aisles. If you need to have communion brought to you in your seat, please let an usher know.

If you choose to receive the Sacrament under the form of bread alone for any reason, you may be assured that in so doing, you receive the whole Christ. If you choose not to receive communion, you may request a blessing instead. After receiving communion (or a blessing), you may return to your seat by the side aisles.

MUSIC AT THE DISTRIBUTION

CANTICLE

The People Who Walked in Darkness

LBW 8

Sung once by the Choir, then repeated by All

The peo - ple who walked in
dark - ness have seen a great light. Al - le - lu - ia.
The light has shined on the na - tions who live in the shad-ow of
death A - rise, be clothed in light. Your light has come.
Al - le - lu - ia. Though dark-ness cov - ers the earth, the
Lord will shine up - on you. Al - le - lu - ia, al - le -
lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia, al - le - lu - ia.

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HYMN

Of the Father's Love Begotten

ELW 295



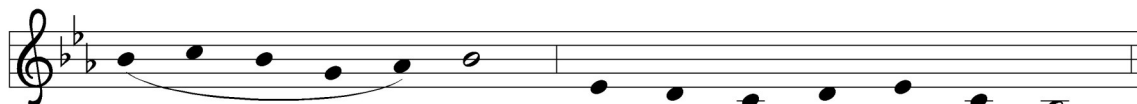
1 Of the Fa - ther's love be - got - ten ere the worlds be -
 2 Oh, that birth for - ev - er bless - ed, when the vir - gin,
 3 This is he whom seers in old time chant - ed of with
 4 Let the heights of heav'n a - dore him; an - gel hosts, his
 5 Christ, to thee, with God the Fa - ther, and, O Ho - ly



gan to be, he is Al - pha and O - me - ga,
 full of grace, by the Ho - ly Ghost con - ceiv - ing,
 one ac - cord, whom the voic - es of the proph - ets
 prais - es sing; pow'rs, do - min - ions, bow be - fore him
 Ghost, to thee, hymn and chant and high thanks - giv - ing



he the source, the end - ing he, of the things that are, that
 bore the Sav - ior of our race, and the babe, the world's re -
 prom - ised in their faith - ful word; now he shines, the long - ex -
 and ex - tol our God and King; let no tongue on earth be
 and un - wea - ried prais - es be: hon - or, glo - ry, and do -



have been, and that fu - ture years shall see,
 deem - er, first re - vealed his sa - cred face,
 pect - ed; let cre - a - tion praise its Lord
 si - lent, ev - 'ry voice in con - cert ring
 min - ion, and e - ter - nal vic - to - ry



ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more.
 ev - er - more and ev - er - more!

A - men.

Text: Marcus Aurelius Clemens Prudentius, 348–413; tr. composite
 Music: DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, plainsong mode V, 13th cent.

When all have communed, the people stand.

THE POST-COMMUNION BLESSING

P The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ
strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

C Amen

8:30 AM

THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE

Nunc dimittis



☩ Lord, now you let your ser-vant go in peace; your word has been ful-filled.



My own eyes have seen the sal - va - tion which you have pre-pared in the



sight of ev - 'ry peo - ple: A light to re-veal you to the



na - tions and the glo - ry of your peo-ple Is - ra - el.



Glo-ry to the Fa-ther, and to the Son, and to the Ho-ly Spir - it,



as it was in the be-gin - ning, is now, and will be for-ev-er. A - men

11:00 AM

THE POST-COMMUNION CANTICLE *Nunc dimittis*

Sir Joseph Barnby

Sung by the Choir

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

- A Let us pray.
Through this holy banquet, O God, make your grace perfect in us, and as you satisfied the longing of Simeon that he would not see death before he had welcomed the Messiah, grant that we, going forth to meet the Lord, may also embrace the gift of eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord.
- C Amen**

SOLEMN BLESSING *(Sung.)*

- A Let us bow our heads and pray for God's blessing.

Silence.

- P May God, who from darkness, called you to his wonderful light, pour out his blessing upon you that you be made firm in faith, in hope, and in love.

C Amen *(Sung on one tone.)*

- P May God make you witnesses of his truth, as true disciples of Christ, a light that shines in the darkness.

C Amen

- P As Simeon and Anna waited for and found Christ, the light of the world, so may you, at the end of your pilgrimage, find with immense joy, Christ, the light of the world.

C Amen

- P And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, rest upon you and remain with you forever.

C Amen

The people may turn in place to follow the cross and bow as we are sent forth to serve.

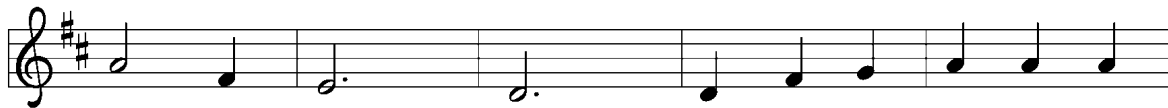
THE HYMN TO CLOSE

I Want to Walk as a Child of the Light

ELW 815



1 I want to walk as a child of the light. I want to
2 I want to see . . . the bright-ness of God. I want to
3 I'm look - ing for . . . the com - ing of Christ. I want to



fol - low Je - sus. God set the stars to give
look at Je - sus. Clear Sun of righ - teous-ness,
be with Je - sus. When we have run . . . with



light to the world. The star of my life is Je - sus.
shine on my path, and show me the way to the Fa - ther.
pa - tience the race, we shall know the joy of Je - sus.

Refrain



In him there is no dark-ness at all. The night and the



day are both a - like. The Lamb is the light of the



cit - y of God. Shine in my heart, Lord Je - sus.

Text: Kathleen Thomerson, b. 1934
Music: HOUSTON, Kathleen Thomerson
Text and music © 1970, 1975 Celebration

THE DISMISSAL

A Go in peace. Serve the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

THE POSTLUDE

8:30 AM *How Brightly Shines the Morning Star* Johann Christoph Bach

11:00 AM *Sortie Improvisé* Dr. Ann Labounsky

THIS MORNING AT FIRST LUTHERAN CHURCH

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 2: THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD

8:30 AM	Holy Communion	NAVE
9:30 AM	Bel Canto Youth Choir Rehearsal	CHOIR LOFT
9:45 AM	Sunday Church School Classes for All Ages	VARIOUS
10:00 AM	Parish Choir Rehearsal	CHOIR LOFT
11:00 AM	Holy Communion	NAVE
12:00 PM	Health Ministry Committee Meeting	HOLY CROSS HALL
12:15 PM	Cantate Children's Choir Rehearsal	CHOIR ROOM
4:00 PM	Small Group Bible Study	ZOOM

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

ACOLYTE TRAINING will take place **this morning**, after the 8:30 AM service. If you are interested in serving as an acolyte please meet in the Parish House at around 9:45 AM.

WELCOME NEW STAFF MEMBER AMY BILLS: We welcome to our parish staff beginning tomorrow, February 3, Amy Bills, our new Coordinator of Youth Ministry, Christian Education, and Fellowship, (CYM for short). Amy may be reached at our office telephone (ext. 220) or by email at cym@flcpittsburgh.org.

THIS MORNING'S MUSIC: We thank Dr. Ann Labounsky, Organ Artist-in-Residence for improvising upon today's hymntunes as the postlude at 11:00 AM. The music at offering, and post-communion canticle all quote the *Nunc dimittis* text, as first spoken by Simeon when he saw the infant Savior..."Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace..." We extend a warm welcome to Theresa Kesser, who joins Megan Wall as Section Leaders in the Soprano section of the Parish Choir!

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL The story of Joseph in the book of Genesis is well known and well loved. There is more biographical information about Joseph than any other figure in the Old Testament. But how well do we know his character? His faith? His relationships? From **January 5 to February 2**, Pastor and Amanda Murdy will lead us in an in-depth study of the story of Joseph. Join us as we open and explore this well-loved story from a devotional perspective.

UPCOMING ADULT ED: Next Sunday, February 9, our adult Sunday Church School will be led by Mrs. Anne Harmon for three weeks. She will lead us in a study of 1st and 2nd Peter and together we will explore the "Peter Principle." How did Peter go from an ordinary fisherman to the "Rock?" Join us as we look to Peter as a key to following Jesus.

CALL FOR COMMUNION ASSISTANTS/ASSISTING MINISTERS: Please consider serving as worship assistants on Sundays. Assisting Ministers serve as assistant to the presiding minister, leading prayers, preparing the altar for communion and administering the Cup. Communion Assistants administer the wine at communion and perform other small tasks at the altar. Time commitment is about one Sunday a month. Training is available. Please contact Christine Hoffman, who coordinates the assistants by calling 412-471-8125 or email cgh@flcpittsburgh.org. Thank you!

THE CARING AND HOSPITALITY TEAM are looking for more volunteers to provide meals to our fellow parish members during illness, recovery, or other circumstances. Please email Amy Mehta, Chair of the Care and Hospitality Team at amyandamish@aol.com or call/text her at 412-559-4963 if you can serve in this way. Thank you!

ST. OLAF CHOIR TO PERFORM IN PITTSBURGH The renowned St. Olaf Choir, conducted by Anton Armstrong, will perform at East Liberty Presbyterian Church on **Sunday, February 9, at 7:30 PM**. For more than a century, the St. Olaf Choir has set the gold standard for choral singing, performing for millions around the world. Composed of 75 mixed voices, the St. Olaf Choir is hailed as one of the nation's premier a cappella ensembles, renowned for its artistry and beauty of sound. Tickets are \$35 and \$10 for all students, available at stolaf.edu/tickets/choir or 800-363-5487.

ESTIMATES OF GIVING RECEIVED FOR 2025: We are deeply grateful to those who have pledged financial support for the ministry of First Church in 2025. If you have not as yet done so, you may still send in your support for our ministry in the coming year. Estimate of Giving forms are available on the table at the rear of the nave in the Parish House or by contacting Suanne O'Dell at sso@flcpittsburgh.org.

CHORAL COMPLINE is back for the semester! The Pittsburgh Compline Choir, directed by Douglas-Jayd Burn, sings Compline at Heinz Chapel on the campus of the University of Pittsburgh on **Sunday evenings at 8:00 PM**. First Church is a co-sponsor of the Pittsburgh Compline Choir.

SAVE THE DATE: THE SIXTEENTH ANNUAL MEN'S PRAYER BREAKFAST will be held **Saturday, March 1, at 9:00 AM** in Holy Cross Hall. Our guest speaker will be The Rev. Eric André from Trinity Lutheran in Oakland, who will speak on Dietrich Bonhoeffer, in light of the recent movie. Please sign up in the Parish House or contact the Church office at cgh@flcpittsburgh.org if you plan to attend.

2025 FLOWER and SANCTUARY/VOTIVE LAMP dedications are available for those who wish to make a donation. Floral arrangements and candles can be donated in honor of a living person or in memory of someone who has died, in celebration of an anniversary or other milestone, or in thanksgiving for friends or family, which is acknowledged in the bulletin. The cost for flowers is \$25 per arrangement. The cost for the 14 day candles used in the sanctuary/votive lamps is \$7.50. Please sign up in the notebooks on the reception desk in the Parish House, or contact Christine at cgh@flcpittsburgh.org or 412-471-8125.

TIME TO RESTOCK THE PANTRY! We could especially use: canned vegetables, canned fruits, jam and jelly, large boxes of saltines, pasta sauces, canned pasta meals (Chef Boy-Ar-Dee), and packages of snack crackers. Please donate easy-open pull-tab canned goods whenever possible. Thank you!

By visiting our Amazon wish list, First Lutheran Church - Walk in Ministry Food Pantry you will get an idea of the items that are needed, you have a few options: 1. You can make a monetary donation to the church (noting that the contribution should be directed to the food pantry) 2. You can order directly from the FLC Amazon wishlist, or 3. You can place an order for similar items on the list from your own Amazon account (changing brand or quantity to suit your giving choices.)

<http://tinyurl.com/flcWISHLIST>

ON DUTY THIS WEEK / PARTNER MINISTRY SERVICES:

This week, **Trinity Episcopal Cathedral** will be on duty Monday-Thursday, **February 3 - 6.**

The Red Door at St. Mary of Mercy Roman Catholic Church offers breakfast Monday - Saturday 9:00-10:30 AM; bag lunches Monday - Saturday, 10:30 - 11:30 AM, and dinners Monday - Friday, 5:00 - 5:30 PM. A midday meal is served on Sundays from 1:00-2:00 PM. Those seeking crisis counseling or services may be directed accordingly.

Our next week of service begins February 18.

ASH WEDNESDAY

MARCH 5, 2025

Imposition of Ashes

8:30 AM

Holy Communion

with Imposition of Ashes

12:00 PM & 7:00 PM

Join us as we begin our annual Lenten pilgrimage toward the cross of Christ.



HOW OUR PRAYER LIST WORKS: Prayer requests for individuals may be submitted to the church office by telephone or email, or by using the form on our website. Reasons for the request may be submitted with the request, but these will be kept confidential among the pastors and office staff unless permission is given to share them with others. Last names may be omitted. The full prayer list is sent to members and associate members each Friday unless the list is unchanged from the previous week. After persons are added, names will remain on the list through the following calendar month unless there is a request to keep them on. In this case, please alert the office when we may remove them from the list.

LITURGICAL CALENDARS are still available in the Parish House for \$2.00!

PLEASE CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE WHEN:

- A member of your family is admitted to the hospital, a member of your family is no longer physically able to attend worship, a member of your family leaves home for college, military service, or to establish a new residence, a member of your family changes their name and/or marital status
- A new baby arrives in your family
- Your address, phone number and/or email address has changed
- You feel the church can assist you in any way
- You would like to request a visit from the Pastor

Call 412-471-8125 or email Christine at cgh@flcpittsburgh.org

SERVING TODAY

	8:30 AM		11:00 AM
Presiding Minister	Pr. Evans		Pr. Murdy
Preacher		Pr. Evans	
Assisting Minister	Pr. Murdy		Frances Verschuure
Communion Assistants	Matthew Seeley Kathy Stefani		Pr. Evans Neal Venters
Lectors	Kathy Moncure		Neal Venters
Acolyte(s)	Will Schroeder	C	Grace Hall
		T	Zoe McCurry
		T	Gregory Schiavone
	Will Schroeder	A	Maryam Hall
	Vivian Evans	BB	Catherine Patton
Cantor	Sr. Cynthia A. Pock, OLF, AAGO		
Vocalists	Megan Wall, <i>Treble Section Leader</i>		The Parish Choir
Head Usher			Kurt Herbst
Usher(s)	Kurt Hansmann		Wes Nelson
Altar Guild	Janet King Nora Nealon		Janet Balas Mary Preuss
Coffee Hour Host			Wes Nelson

CALENDAR

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3 *Bishop Ansgar of Hamburg, Missionary*

12:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting HOLY CROSS HALL

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4

1:00 PM Staff Meeting MEZZANINE

6:00 PM Mutual Ministry Committee Meeting ZOOM

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5 *The Martyrs of Japan*

8:00 AM Meal Ministry Prep KITCHEN

12:10 PM Noonday Holy Communion NAVE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 6

10:00 AM Renovation Task Force MEZZANINE / ZOOM

6:30 PM Gloria Dei Ringers Rehearsal CHOIR LOFT

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 7

12:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting HOLY CROSS HALL

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 8

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY, FEBRUARY 9

8:30 AM Holy Communion NAVE

9:30 AM Bel Canto Youth Choir Rehearsal CHOIR LOFT

9:45 AM Sunday Church School Classes for All Ages VARIOUS

10:00 AM Parish Choir Rehearsal CHOIR LOFT

11:00 AM Holy Communion NAVE

12:00 PM Health Ministry Committee Meeting HOLY CROSS HALL

12:15 PM Cantate Children's Choir Rehearsal CHOIR ROOM

4:00 PM Small Group Bible Study ZOOM

7:30 PM Saint Olaf Choir Concert at East Liberty Presbyterian EAST LIBERTY

THE FIRST ENGLISH EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

has served downtown Pittsburgh since its founding in 1837 as the first English-speaking Lutheran Church west of the Alleghenies. Its members come from far and near to participate in its Christian witness in the heart of the city: a witness that is faithful to Holy Scripture and to the historic Lutheran Confessions. The Gospel of Jesus Christ is at the center of its life, providing direction, comfort, and hope. If you are seeking a church home in Pittsburgh, we invite you to become a part of our downtown ministry.

THE CHURCH IS OPEN DAILY FOR PRAYER

STAFF

The Rev. Brian A. Evans, *Senior Pastor*
The Rev. Joseph G. Murdy, OLF, *Associate Pastor*
The Rev. Daniel E. Hall, MD, *Assisting Episcopal Priest*
Sr. Cynthia A. Pock, OLF, AAGO, *Cantor*
Ms. Amy Bills, *Christian Ed., Youth Ministry, & Fellowship*
Mrs. Suanne O'Dell, *Financial Secretary*
Ms. Christine G. Hoffman, *Admin. Assistant to Pastoral Staff*
Mr. Jeremy Caywood, *Building Manager*
Mr. Nicholas Sharer, *Communications Coordinator*
Mr. Benjamin Sommer, *Organ & Sacred Music Scholar*

PASTORS-IN-RESIDENCE

The Rev. Brian O. Bennett, *Lutheran University Center*
The Rev. Erin E. Evans, *St. Paul, Zeli. / Zion, Harmony*
The Rev. Canon Natalie G. Hall, *Church of the Redeemer*
The Rev. S. Cyril Hurnyak
The Rev. Leonard J. Larsen
The Rev. Jennifer Peters McCurry, *Carnegie Mellon Univ.*
The Rev. Caroline Mendis
The Rev. Martin M. Roth

MISSIONARIES

The Rev. Dr. Sarah Hinlicky Wilson
& Dr. Andrew L. Wilson, *Japan*

ORGAN ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE

Dr. Ann Labounsky Steele

COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE

Joyce Moon Strobel



Assisted listening devices are available. Inquire with an usher.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE

Sunday Worship

8:30 AM Holy Communion
9:45 AM Sunday Church School
(Classes for all ages during school year)
11:00 AM Holy Communion

Midweek Noonday Worship

12:10 PM Holy Communion, Wednesdays
(Holy Communion for Healing on the first Wednesday of each month)

SUNDAY PARKING

Accessible parking is available on Grant Street in front of the church. Free parking is available in the US Steel Tower garage. Reduced rate parking is available at the Mellon Square and Smithfield/Liberty garages for \$1.00. See an usher or the attendant at the reception desk for validation. Street parking is free on Sundays until 1:00 PM.

If you have a pastoral concern outside of normal office hours, please call our emergency line: **412-471-6507** and the pastoral staff member on duty will return your call as soon as possible.

Visit us online at
flcpittsburgh.org

