

Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

February 2, 2025

The First Reading

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.

Psalms

Psalms 84

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!

The Second Reading

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.

The Gospel Reading

Luke 2:22-40

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.

Priest: The Gospel of the Lord.

People: Praise to you, Lord Christ.

Announcements

Birthdays this month

1st: Norah Lindsey
 4th: Carolyn Deakins
 6th: Robert Brown
 9th: Tommy Smith
 13th: Claire Renzetti
 21st: Rusty Akinson
 28th: Jonathan Roberts

This Week at SMAA

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

6:00 pm Dinner & fellowship

Sunday, February 9, 2025

9:00 am Bible Study

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

UPCOMING IN MARCH

Shrove Tuesday

March 4th at 6:00 PM. We need volunteers to help get ready for Shrove Tuesday. If you can be here between 4PM and 5PM, we should have enough time to accomplish everything.

Ash Wednesday Service

March 5th at 6:00pm

Bishop Doyle

The Bishop will be with us on **June 1st, 2025**. If you are interested being confirmed, please contact Mtr. Tracey.

THIS Sunday's Servers (02/02)

Acolytes: Amy Brown

Cameras & Streaming: Need a person

Danny's Team: Susan Kuhlman

Eucharistic Ministers: Diane Buffington

Greeter: Bryan White

Lector: Javier Glave

Nursery Helper: Carolyn Deakins

Ushers: Stan Williams, Joe Frank Brown

Vestry People: Roxanne Brink, Patti Maxwell

Worship Tech: Gianna Glave

Prayer Requests

Healing For:

- JoLee Ferguson
- Danny Carroll
- Sheila Carlisle's Family
- Tom Cobb
- Andrew McWhorter
- The Akinson & Brown Families
- Lorraine and Margie Litterski

Other Prayer Request:

- Jonathan secures employment, enabling the Bowman family to relocate to Longview.

To submit a prayer request, fill out the back of the information sheet in the pew and place it in the offering.

Or, send an email with your request to: prayer@smaalongview.org

**** Emailed prayer requests are received by all who've signed up for the SMAA prayer chain. This community of prayer is committed to holding up our needs and thanksgivings to God whenever they are shared. TO JOIN IN THIS IMPORTANT MINISTRY, JUST SEND A REQUEST TO SMAA@SMAALONGVIEW.ORG ASKING TO BE A PART OF THE PRAYER CHAIN. ****

Stewardship Update

DATE	GIVING	BUDGET	ABOVE/BELOW
01/05/25	\$10,508	\$3,431	\$7,077
01/12/25	\$884	\$3,431	-\$2,547
01/19/25	\$2,100	\$3,431	-\$1,331
01/26/25	\$2,626	\$3,431	-\$806
YTD TOTALS	\$16,118	\$13,724	\$2,394

NEXT Sunday's Servers (02/09)

Acolytes: Joe Frank Brown

Cameras & Streaming: Robert Brown

Danny's Team: Bryan White

Eucharistic Ministers: Sheila Thrash

Greeter: Catherine White

Lector: Diane Buffington

Nursery Helper: Susan Kuhlman, Carolyn Deakins

Ushers: Jerry Ritchie, Michael Greathouse

Vestry People: Roxanne Brink, Stan Williams

Worship Tech: Wayne Workman

St. Michael & All Angels' Episcopal Church

The Rev. Tracey F. Carroll

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