

# *Presentation of Our Lord*

## *February 2, 2025*

WELCOME TO EMANUEL

**Whoever you are, wherever you are from,  
we're glad you're here!**



- If you are here for the first time, please make a **nametag** for yourself in the Welcome Area (located outside the entrance to the worship space) so we can greet you by name. Please provide your **contact information**, either in our guestbook on the desk in the Welcome Area or by using this QR code, so that we can keep in communication with you.
- **Restrooms** are located downstairs outside our fellowship space, Luther Hall. You can use the elevator or the stairs to get to the lower level. Please join us for **refreshments** in Luther Hall following the service.
- **Hearing assistance devices** and **pew cushions** are available in the Welcome Area.
- **Children are always welcome at worship at Emanuel! Children's bulletins** and **activity bags** are available in the Welcome Area. If you need more space for your child to move about, feel free to bring them into the Welcome Area to give them room to be active. If you prefer, **supervised childcare** for children ages 6 months to 4 years is provided in our Nursery downstairs in Luther Hall.
- **Sunday School** for children in kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade takes place during worship, September through May, and your child is welcome to participate. Sunday School teachers and students depart downstairs for class after the Prayer of the Day and return to worship in time for Holy Communion.
- All are welcome to receive **Holy Communion**. Gluten free wafers are available as an option on the small silver tray held by the assistant in the center of the aisle. Red wine



*If you have any questions or need any assistance, please ask an usher.*

**ALL ARE WELCOME AT EMANUEL**

Recognizing that we live in a broken world, Christ calls us to reconciliation and wholeness. As members of Emanuel Lutheran Church and children of a loving and merciful God, we acknowledge that this reconciliation extends to people of any gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, age, race, culture, physical or mental ability, economic circumstances, relationship status, or any person that has ever experienced pain or oppression. Because members of different communities may have been excluded from the Church in the past, we wish to make explicit our welcome to all. It is for this purpose that we affirm that ALL people are welcome here, just as they are, contributing their individuality to the wholeness of the Body of Christ.



**SERVING TODAY**

Presiding Minister ..... Pastor Mark Olsen  
Assisting Minister..... Maureen Leyes  
Reader..... Nancy Gray  
Communion Preparers..... Yvonne Gardner  
Director of Music ..... Jonathan Reuning-Scherer

**EMANUEL MUSICIANS**

Rebekka Almond, David Altschuler, Sarah Asmar, Andy Foreman, Trey Hazard, Morgan Hunt, Kathryn Lees, Dan Luddy, Honoka Masuyama, Hannah Maynard, Andy Nagle, Kari Olsen, Morgan Pope, Joel Reuning-Scherer, Jane Roets, Jeff Roets, Austin Tewksbury, Anna VanDeBerg, Pastor Nancy Wright

**AV TECHNICIANS**

Paul Christianson, David Counterman, Baker Wainscoat

**ALTAR FLOWERS**

Given to the glory of God

*Though not expected, when it happens, applause is a spontaneous expression of our thanksgiving to God for the gifts of music and of musicians that enrich our lives and enhance our worship.*

***Soli deo gloria – Glory to God alone***

## INTRODUCTION

*The Presentation of Our Lord is referred to in some corners of the church as Candlemas because of an ancient tradition of blessing all the candles to be used in the church in the coming year at the mass celebrated on that day. It was a way of underscoring the truth of Simeon's confession that this baby Jesus was "a light for revelation to the Gentiles" and a light for glory to Israel. Let the light of every candle in church be a little epiphany of the love of God for all people in the person of God's son, Jesus, the light of the world.*

## PRELUDE

## WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

### \*CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, † one God, our creator, our protector, our wellspring of life.

C: **Amen.**

P: Trusting that God receives our words and the meditations of our hearts, let us confess our sin.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

P: Merciful God,

C: **you speak blessing and compassion into the world. Forgive us for the ways we act with judgment, cruelty, or indifference. We ignore the needs of our neighbors; we resist your call to oppose injustice; we give in to scarcity and fear; we assume the worst about one another. Cleanse us from our faults and release us from their grasp. Show us your lovingkindness. Restore our hearts and repair your world, that we may live in Christ's ways. Amen.**

P: God proclaims these words of assurance: "Do not fear, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name. You are mine." In † Christ, you are forgiven. In the Spirit, you are made free. Refreshed by the waters of mercy, live anew as beloved children of God.

C: **Amen.**



1 Hail to the Lord's a - noint - ed, great Da - vid's great - er Son!  
 2 You come with res - cue speed - y to those who suf - fer wrong,  
 3 You shall come down like show - ers up - on the fruit - ful earth;  
 4 Kings shall fall down be - fore you, and gold and in - cense bring;



Hail, in the time ap - point - ed, your reign on earth be - gun!  
 to help the poor and need - y, and bid the weak be strong;  
 love, joy, and hope, like flow - ers, spring in your path to birth.  
 all na - tions shall a - dore you, your praise all peo - ple sing.



You come to break op - pres - sion, to set the cap - tive  
 to give them songs for sigh - ing, their dark - ness turn to  
 Be - fore you on the moun - tains shall peace, the her - ald,  
 To you shall prayer un - ceas - ing and dai - ly vows as -



free, to take a - way trans - gres - sion and  
 light, whose souls, con - demned and dy - ing, are  
 go; and righ - teous - ness in foun - tains from  
 cend; your king - dom still in - creas - ing, a



rule in eq - ui - ty.  
 pre - cious in your sight.  
 hill to val - ley flow.  
 king - dom with - out end.

Text: James Montgomery, 1771–1854, alt.  
 Music: FREUT EUCH, IHR LIEBEN, Leonhart Schröter, 1540–1602

**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

Hear our prayer, Lord Je - sus, Hear our prayer, — Might-y God,  
— Hear our prayer, — Ho-ly Spir - it, Hear our Prayer, —  
— sweet Lord in your mer - cy, cy, Hear our Prayer.

## \*PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: Almighty and ever-living God,

C: **your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple. May we be presented to you with clean and pure hearts by the same Jesus Christ, our great high priest, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever. Amen.**

*The children are now dismissed for Sunday School.*

## FIRST READING: MALACHI 3:1-4

*This reading concludes a larger section (2:17—3:5) in which the prophet speaks of the coming of the God of justice. Malachi looks for that day when the wondrous power of God will purify the priestly descendants of Levi who minister in the temple at Jerusalem.*

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

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

## SECOND READING: HEBREWS 2:14-18


*Jesus shared human nature fully so that his death might be for all humans a liberation from slavery to death's power. Here the writer uses the image of priestly service in the temple as a way of describing the life and saving death of the Lord Jesus. He is the high priest who offers his life on behalf of his brothers and sisters.*

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

R: Word of God, Word of Life.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

### \*GOSPEL ACCLAMATION



Al-le-lu - ia! Al-le-lu - ia! Lord to whom shall we go?  
You have the words of e-ter - nal life, Al-le-lu - ia!

### \*GOSPEL: LUKE 2:22-40

*This story is a study in contrasts: the infant Jesus with the aged prophets; the joy of birth with the ominous words of Simeon to Mary; the faithful fulfilling of the law with the presentation of the one who will release its hold over us. Through it all, we see the light of God's salvation revealed to the world.*

P: The holy gospel according to Luke.

C: **Glory to you, O Lord.**

<sup>22</sup> 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 <sup>23</sup> (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), <sup>24</sup> and they offered

a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

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

<sup>29</sup> “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,  
according to your word;

<sup>30</sup> for my eyes have seen your salvation,

<sup>31</sup> which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

<sup>32</sup> a light for revelation to the Gentiles  
and for glory to your people Israel.”

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

<sup>36</sup> 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, <sup>37</sup> 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. <sup>38</sup> 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.

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

P: The gospel of the Lord.

C: **Praise to you, O Christ.**

**SERMON**

**Pastor Mark Olsen**

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



## **\*APOSTLES' CREED**

A: Let us join together in professing our faith using the words of the Apostles' Creed.

**C: I believe in God, the Father almighty,  
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord,  
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,  
born of the virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, died, and was buried;  
he descended to the dead.  
On the third day he rose again;  
he ascended into heaven,  
he is seated at the right hand of the Father,  
and he will come to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,  
The holy catholic church, the communion of saints,  
the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

## **PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

*The congregation is invited to be seated for the prayers. After each petition:*

A: God of grace,

**C: hear our prayer.**

## **\*PEACE**

P: The peace of Christ be with you always.

**C: And also with you.**

*We offer each other a sign of God's peace.*

## **OFFERING MUSIC**

*When to the Temple Mary Went*  
Emanuel Choir

Johann Eccard

## **PRESENTATION OF THE GIFTS**



*We offer our gifts – our time, our talent, and our treasure - to God,  
in thanksgiving for all that God has given us.  
To make your gift online, scan the code using your  
phone's camera or QR scanner app.*

## \*OFFERING PRAYER

A: God of grace,

C: **your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas.**

**Bless what we offer to your service: our gifts, our abilities, and our hearts. Let us overflow with gratitude and generosity, now and always. Amen.**

## \*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

P: The Lord be with you.

C: **And also 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 our thanks and praise.**

P: It is indeed right, our duty and our joy...we praise your name and join their unending hymn:

## \*HOLY, HOLY, HOLY



Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly are you, God of pow - er and might;



Heav - en and earth are filled with your glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the



high - est! Bless - ed is the One who comes in your name. Ho -



san - na in the high - est, ho - san - na in the high - est!

**\*EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER**

**\*LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray:

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.**

**\*INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

**All Are Welcome at the Table!**

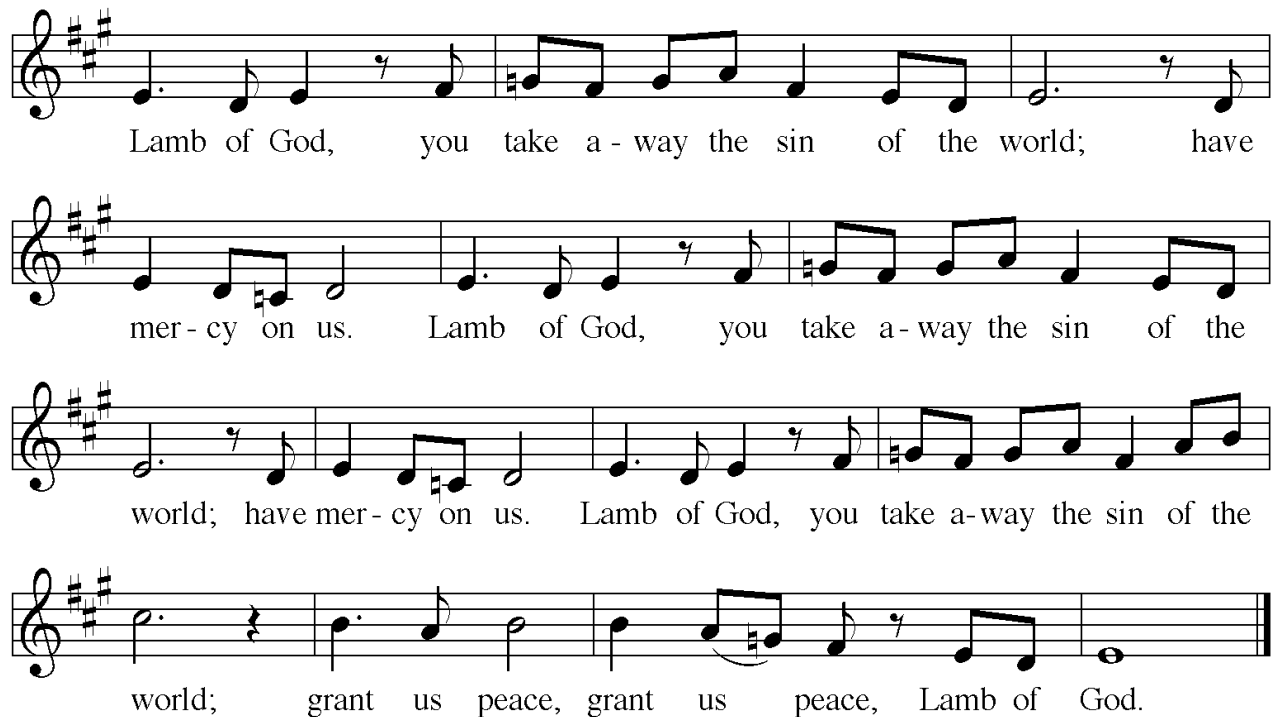
P: The joy of the Lord is our strength. Come, eat this meal of gladness.

***This is the Lord's Table and all are welcome to receive the bread & wine of communion.***

*Gluten-free wafers are served by the communion assistant in the middle  
and white grape juice is available in each communion tray, as needed.*

*The ushers will guide you out of your pew down the center aisle to the front of the church. Once  
you receive communion, please return to your seat by the side aisles. If you would like to  
receive communion at your seat, please let an usher know. If, for any reason, you choose not to  
receive the bread and wine, we invite you to come forward for a blessing.*

## \*LAMB OF GOD



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, grant us peace, Lamb of God.

## COMMUNION MUSIC Three Settings of 'Mit Fried Und Freud'

1. J.S. Bach (1685-1750)
2. Max Reger (1873-1916)
3. Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)

## \*POST COMMUNION BLESSING

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

C: Amen.

## \*PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

A: Nourishing God,

C: **at this table you have refreshed us with holy gifts of food and drink. Strengthen us for service, and send us out to embody your good news of liberation and healing for the sake of the world. In the name of Christ we pray, Amen.**

**\*BLESSING**

P: The Spirit of the triune God ☩ bless you with joy, anoint you with compassion, and send you in love.

C: Amen.

**SENDING HYMN**

**We've Come This Far By Faith**

**ELW 633**

*Refrain - All*

We've come this far by faith, lean-ing on the Lord;

trust-ing in his ho-ly word, he's nev-er failed us yet.

Oh, can't turn a-round, we've come this

far by faith. We've come this far by faith.

**\*DISMISSAL**

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: Thanks be to God.

## LIVING OUT OUR DISCIPLESHIP – WAYS TO HELP AND SERVE



**The Emanuel Food Pantry** serves hundreds of meals each month and helps to support our neighbors with basic needs. Thank you to all who have donated to help this cause! Your continued support is needed and appreciated.

For January, we are asking for rice and pasta.

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### BE PART OF EMANUEL'S WORSHIP LEADERSHIP

There are many ways to serve in worship and all are welcome to volunteer! Please use the corresponding QR codes to sign up for a service. For assistance signing up, please contact Morgan in the church office. 860-525-0894 | [adminassist@emanuelhartford.org](mailto:adminassist@emanuelhartford.org)



**Serve as Assisting Minister**  
Coordinator: Maureen Leyes  
(860) 212-5492



**Assist with Communion**  
Coordinator: Valerie McDonald  
[valeriexyz@cox.net](mailto:valeriexyz@cox.net)  
(860) 965-6936



**Participate in Music**  
Contact Jonathan Reuning-Scherer  
Scan QR for more information

**Read the Lessons**  
Contact Lynn Sherman  
[lynnsherman480@gmail.com](mailto:lynnsherman480@gmail.com)  
(860) 550-0518

Parishoners of all ages are welcome!

### FELLOWSHIP OPPORTUNITIES



**Host Coffee Hour**  
Individuals, ministry teams, or other organizations are invited to sponsor our after-service coffee hour. Contact Monique Jennings at [moniquegray400@gmail.com](mailto:moniquegray400@gmail.com).



**Sponsor Altar Flowers** in memory or honor of someone. Your donation of \$75 will cover the cost of the flowers.

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**Prayer Shawls** are available in a basket in the Narthex for anyone to take for themselves or to give away to someone needing to know we care. Baby blankets and a larger supply of shawls are available in the lounge of the Parish Building. Please be in touch with a member of the Prayer Shawl Ministry Team (Bobbee Canfield, Lynne Strecker, and Lynn Sherman) with questions.

*Please remember the following individuals in your prayers.*

† Connor Mansbach † Jason Gray † Christopher Favreau †  
Myrtle Bloomquist † David Stetson

*Homebound:* Elaine Wilson † Joan Johnson † Anna-Lisa Johnson † Peggy Zachariasen

**Emanuel Lutheran Church**

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[www.emanuelhartford.org](http://www.emanuelhartford.org) | [www.facebook.com/emanuelhartford](https://www.facebook.com/emanuelhartford)



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**Rachel Blank, Natalie Fulmer, and  
Maeghan O’Laughlin**

Nursery Staff

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**Rachid Chelali**

Sexton

**Naomi Ngoma**

Community Life & Outreach—extension 3

[Naomi.Ngoma@emanuelhartford.org](mailto:Naomi.Ngoma@emanuelhartford.org)

**Mazmur Sihite and Iman Quansah**

HIU Interns 2024-2025