The Fourth Sunday of Epiphany: The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple Holy Baptism

Opening Hymn "O Worship the King"

Johann Michael Haydn, Robert Grant

O worship the King all glorious above And gratefully sing His wonderful love Our Shield and Defender, the Ancient of Days Pavilioned in splendor and girded with praise

O tell of His might and sing of His grace Whose robe is the light, whose canopy space His chariots of wrath the deep thunderclouds form And dark is His path on the wings of the storm

Frail children of dust, and feeble as frail In Thee do we trust nor find Thee to fail Thy mercies how tender, how firm to the end Our Maker, Defender, Redeemer and Friend

Celebrant Blessed be God: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen

Celebrant There is one Body and one Spirit;
People There is one hope in God's call to us;

Celebrant One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;

People One God and Father of all.

Celebrant The Lord be with you. People And with your spirit.

Celebrant Let us pray.

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 in the substance of our flesh, 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*.

The First Lesson is from the book of the prophet Malachi, chapter 3, beginning to read at verse 1

3 "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; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, 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 sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the LORD. 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. (ESV)

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.
People Alleluia! Thanks be to God.

Psalm 84 Let us read this Psalm responsively by half verse.

- 1 How lovely are your dwellings, * *O Lord God of hosts!*
- 2 My soul has a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the Lord; *

 my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
- Indeed, the sparrow has found her a house, and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young, *

even your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

- 4 Blessed are they who dwell in your house; * they will be always praising you.
- 5 Blessed is the one whose strength is in you, * in whose heart are your ways,
- Who going through the valley of misery uses it for a well; * indeed, the early rains fill the pools with water.
- 7 They will go from strength to strength, *

 and the God of gods shall be seen by them in Zion.
- 8 O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; * hearken, O God of Jacob.
- 9 Behold, O God, our defender, *

 and look upon the face of your Anointed.
- 10 For one day in your courts *

 is better than a thousand;

- I would rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God * than dwell in the tents of ungodliness.
- 12 For the Lord God is a light and defense; *

 the Lord will give grace and honor, and no good thing shall he withhold

 from those who live a godly life.
- O Lord God of hosts, *

 blessed is the one who puts his trust in you.

Psalmist This is the Word of the Lord.
People Alleluia! Thanks be to God.

The second lesson is from the Letter to the Hebrews, chapter 2, beginning to read at verse 14.

¹⁴ Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. ¹⁶ For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted. (ESV)

Reader This is the Word of the Lord.
People Alleluia! Thanks be to God.

Sequence Song, "Ancient Words"

Lynn De Shazo

Ancient words, ever true, changing me, changing you; we have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart. (2x)

Celebrant The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke, Chapter 2, beginning to read at verse 22.

People Glory to You, Lord Christ.

²² And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said 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, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ 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. ²⁷ And he came in 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, 28 he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, ²⁹ "Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹ that 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 his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed 35 (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed." ³⁶ And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem. 39 And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favor of God was upon him. (ESV)

Celebrant This is the Gospel of the Lord.

People Alleluia! Praise to You, Lord Christ.

Sequence Song, "Ancient Words"

Lynn DeShazo

Ancient words, ever true, changing me, changing you; we have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart. Ancient words, ever true, changing me, changing you; we have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart. We have come with open hearts, O let the ancient words impart.

Sermon

The Rev. Dr. Chuck Thebeau

THE EXHORTATION

Celebrant Dearly beloved, Scripture teaches that we were all dead in our sins and trespasses, but by grace we may be saved through faith. Our Savior Jesus Christ said, "Unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God"; and he commissioned the Church to "make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit." Here we ask our heavenly Father that these Candidates, being baptized with water, may be filled with the Holy Spirit, born again, and received into the Church as living members of Christ's body. Therefore, I urge you to call upon God the Father, through our Lord Jesus Christ, that of his abundant mercy he will grant to these Candidates that which by nature they cannot have.

THE PRESENTATION

Celebrant The Candidates for Holy Baptism will now be presented.

ADULTS AND OLDER CHILDREN

The Candidates who are able to answer for themselves are presented individually by their Sponsors, using full names as follows

I present NN to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Tina Beck Josh Lugo

The Celebrant asks the Candidate the following

Celebrant Have you already been baptized?

Candidate No.

Celebrant Do you desire to be baptized?

Candidate I do.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

The Celebrant then examines the Candidates who can speak for themselves, and the Godparents and Sponsoring Parents who will speak on behalf of infants or young children, saying

Question Do you renounce the devil and all the spiritual forces of wickedness that

rebel against God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the empty promises and deadly deceits of this world that

corrupt and destroy the creatures of God?

Answer I renounce them.

Question Do you renounce the sinful desires of the flesh that draw you from the love

of God?

Answer I renounce them.

The Celebrant prays over the Candidates and may anoint each Candidate with the Oil of Exorcism, saying

Almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness and evil, and lead you into the light and obedience of the kingdom of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

The Celebrant continues

Question Do you turn to Jesus Christ and confess him as your Lord and Savior?

Answer I do.

Question Do you joyfully receive the Christian Faith, as revealed in the Holy

Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments?

Answer I do.

Question Will you obediently keep God's holy will and commandments, and walk in

them all the days of your life?

Answer I will, the Lord being my helper.

The Celebrant then addresses the Congregation, first inviting them to stand.

Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support *these persons* in *their* life in Christ?

The Congregation responds We will.

The Celebrant then says Let us join with these Candidates to proclaim our faith in the words of the ancient baptismal confession, the Apostles' Creed.

Celebrant Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

People I do.

I believe in God, the Father almighty,

creator of heaven and earth

Celebrant Do you believe and trust in Jesus Christ?

People I do.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.

He was conceived by the Holy Spirit

and born of the Virgin Mary. He 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,

and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

Celebrant Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

People I do.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body

the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

LITANY FOR THE CANDIDATES

Celebrant Let us now pray for these Candidates who are to receive the Sacrament of Baptism.

Psalmist That *these Candidates* may continue in the apostles' teaching and the fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers.

We beseech you to hear us, Good Lord.

Psalmist That they may walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which they have been called, ever growing in faith and all heavenly virtues.

We beseech you to hear us, Good Lord.

Psalmist That they may persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever they fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord.

We beseech you to hear us, Good Lord.

Psalmist That they may proclaim by word and deed the Good News of God in Christ Jesus to a lost and broken world.

We beseech you to hear us, Good Lord.

Psalmist That as *living members* of the Body of Christ, *they* may grow up in every way into him who is the head.

We beseech you to hear us, Good Lord.

Psalmist That, looking to Jesus, they may run with endurance the race set before them, and at the last receive the unfading crown of glory.

We beseech you to hear us, Good Lord.

Other petitions may be added.

PRAYER FOR THE CANDIDATES

Celebrant Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting Father, in your great mercy you saved Noah and his family in the Ark from the destruction of the flood, prefiguring the Sacrament of Holy Baptism. Look mercifully upon *these* your *servants*. Wash and sanctify *them* through your Holy Spirit, that *they* may be delivered from destruction and received into the Ark of Christ's Church; and being steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in love, *they* may pass through the turbulent floods of this troublesome world and come into the land of everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

THANKSGIVING OVER THE WATER

The Deacon, or the Celebrant, pours the water for Baptism.

CelebrantThe Lord be with you.PeopleAnd with your spirit.CelebrantLift up your hearts.

People We lift them up to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

The Celebrant continues

We thank you, Almighty God, for the gift of water. Over it the Holy Spirit moved in the beginning of creation. Through it you led the children of Israel out of their bondage in Egypt into the land of promise. In it your Son Jesus received the baptism of John in the River Jordan when the Holy Spirit descended upon him as a dove.

We thank you, Father, for the water of Baptism. In it we are buried with Christ in his death. By it we share in his resurrection. Through it we are made regenerate by the Holy Spirit. Therefore in joyful obedience to your Son, we bring into his fellowship those who come to him in faith, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

Here the Celebrant touches the water and says

Now, Father, sanctify this water by the power of your Holy Spirit. May all who are baptized here be cleansed from sin, be born again, and continue for ever faithful in the risen life of Jesus Christ our Savior. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be all honor and glory, now and for ever. *Amen*.

THE BAPTISM

The Celebrant may say to the Sponsors

Name this *Candidate*.

Then the Celebrant immerses the Candidate or pours water upon the Candidate three times, saying

N. (Tina, Josh), I baptize you in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Celebrant makes the sign of the Cross upon the forehead of the newly baptized (and may use the Oil of Chrism to do so), saying

N. (*Tina*, *Josh*), receive the sign of the Cross as a token of your new life in Christ, in which you shall not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, to fight bravely under his banner against the world, the flesh, and the devil, and to continue as his faithful soldier and servant to the end of your days. *Amen*.

or this

N. (Tina, Josh), you are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ's own for ever. Amen.

If garments or candles are presented, they are given here.

When all have been baptized and signed the Celebrant says

Heavenly Father, we thank you that by water and the Holy Spirit you have bestowed upon *these* your *servants* the forgiveness of sin, received *them* as your own *children* by adoption, made *them members* of your holy Church, and raised *them* to the new life of grace. Sustain *them*, O Lord, in your Holy Spirit, that *they* may enjoy everlasting salvation through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen*.

The Celebrant continues

Let us welcome the newly baptized.

Celebrant and People

We receive you into the fellowship of the Church. Confess the faith of Christ crucified, proclaim his resurrection, and share with us in the royal priesthood of all his people.

The Peace

Celebrant The Peace of the Lord be always with you.

People And also with you.

Offertory Song "Holy Song"

Brian Johnson, Brooke Ligertwood, Daniel Bashta, Jason Ingram

What joy to know You Lord to walk within Your ways To live beneath the shadow of Your wing Faithful You will lead me and I won't fear a thing You alone my song will always be

Chorus: Holy holy is the Lord God Almighty Worthy worthy worthy all of the earth is full of Your glory

What mercy to me Lord to choose me for Your own That You would make my heart Your dwelling place And when I stand in glory and we are face to face Surely then my song will be the same (*Chorus*)

Bridge: Worthy now to receive power and wisdom and majesty Unto You Christ our King splendor and honor eternally Yours forever, Yours forever (Chorus)

What beauty to behold there before the throne As all of earth and heaven the King The Lion and the Lamb our God the Great I Am To You alone our song forever be To You alone our song forever be (Chorus)

Doxology

Praise God from whom all blessings flow, praise Him all creatures here below, praise Him above ye heavenly host, praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.

Celebrant Yours, O LORD, is the greatness, and the power, and the glory, and the victory, and the majesty: for everything in heaven and on earth is yours; yours is the Kingdom, O LORD, and you are exalted as Head above all. All things come from you, O LORD,

People And of your own have we given you. 1 CHRONICLES 29:11, 14

The Sursum Corda

Celebrant The Lord be with you.People And also with you.Celebrant Lift up your hearts.

People We lift them up to the Lord.

Celebrant Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.People It is right to give him thanks and praise.

Celebrant It is right, our duty and our joy, always and everywhere to give thanks to You, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your Son 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:

The Sanctus

"Sanctus"

"Sanctus" Holy, holy Lord, God of power of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory. (2x)

Men sing: Holy, Holy, Holy...

Ladies sing: Hosanna in the highest, blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. (2x)

All: Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power of power and might, heaven and earth are full of Your glory.

The Prayer of Consecration

The Celebrant continues

Holy and gracious Father: In your infinite love you made us for yourself; and when we had sinned against you and become subject to evil and death, you, in your mercy, sent your only Son Jesus Christ into the world for our salvation. By the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary he became flesh and dwelt among us. In obedience to your will, he stretched out his arms upon the Cross and offered himself once for all, that by his suffering and death we might be saved. By his resurrection he broke the bonds of death, trampling Hell and Satan under his feet. As our great high priest, he ascended to your right hand in glory, that we might come with confidence before the throne of grace.

On the night that he was betrayed, our Lord Jesus Christ took bread; and when he had given thanks, he broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take, eat; this is my Body, which is given for you: Do this in remembrance of me."

Likewise, after supper, Jesus took the cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink this, all of you; for 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 in remembrance of me."

Therefore we proclaim the mystery of faith:

Celebrant and People

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

Celebrant We celebrate the memorial of our redemption, O Father, in this sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, and we offer you these gifts.

Sanctify them by your Word and Holy Spirit to be for your people the Body and Blood of your Son Jesus Christ. Sanctify us also, that we may worthily receive this holy Sacrament, and be made one body with him, that he may dwell in us and we in him. In the fullness of time, put all things in subjection under your Christ, and bring us with all your saints into the joy of your heavenly kingdom, where we shall see our Lord face to face.

All this we ask through your Son Jesus Christ: 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.*

Celebrant And now as our Savior Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray:

All 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 for ever and ever. Amen.

The Fraction

Celebrant Alleluia. Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us.

People Therefore let us keep the feast. Alleluia.

The Angus Dei

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

People have mercy on us.

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

People have mercy on us.

Celebrant Lamb of God, you take away the sin of the world;

People grant us your peace.

The Ministration of Communion

The gifts of God for the people of God. Take them in remembrance that Christ died for you and feed on him in your hearts by faith, with thanksgiving.

"O Come to the Altar"

Steven Furtick, Chris Brown, Wade Joye, Mack Brock

Are you hurting and broken within overwhelmed by the weight of your sin, Jesus is calling. Have you come to the end of yourself? Do you thirst for a drink from the well, Jesus is calling.

Chorus: O come to the altar, The Father's arms are open wide. Forgiveness was bought with the precious blood of Jesus Christ.

Leave behind your regrets and mistakes. Come today there's no reason to wait, Jesus is calling. Bring your sorrows and trade them for joy. From the ashes a new life is born, Jesus is calling. (*Chorus x2*)

Communion Songs "Holy Spirit Living Breath of God" Keith Getty, Stuart Townend

Holy Spirit, living breath of God, breathe new life into my willing soul Let the presence of the risen Lord come renew my heart and make me whole cause Your Word to come alive in me, give me faith for what I cannot see Give me passion for Your purity, Holy Spirit breathe new life in me

Holy Spirit come abide within, may Your joy be seen in all I do
Love enough to cover every sin, in each thought and deed and attitude
Kindness to the greatest and the least
gentleness that sows the path of peace
Turn my strivings into works of grace, breath of God show Christ in all I do

Holy Spirit from creation's birth, giving life to all that God has made Show Your power once again on earth cause Your church to hunger for Your ways Let the fragrance of our prayers arise, lead us on the road of sacrifice That in unity the face of Christ, may be clear for all the world to see

"Yet Not I But Christ Through Me" Jonny Robinson, Michael Farren, Rich Thompson

What gift of grace is Jesus my Redeemer There is no more for Heaven now to give He is my joy my righteousness and freedom My steadfast love my deep and boundless peace

To this I hold my hope is only Jesus For my life is wholly bound to His Oh how strange and divine I can sing all is mine Yet not I but through Christ in me

The night is dark but I am not forsaken For by my side the Savior He will stay I labor on in weakness and rejoicing For in my need His power is displayed

To this I hold my Shepherd will defend me Through the deepest valley He will lead Oh the night has been won and I shall overcome Yet not I but through Christ in me No fate I dread I know I am forgiven The future sure the price it has been paid For Jesus bled and suffered for my pardon And He was raised to overthrow the grave

To this I hold my sin has been defeated Jesus now and ever is my plea Oh the chains are released I can sing I am free Yet not I but through Christ in me

With every breath I long to follow Jesus For He has said that He will bring me home And day by day I know He will renew me Until I stand with joy before the throne

To this I hold my hope is only Jesus All the glory evermore to Him When the race is complete still my lips shall repeat Yet not I but through Christ in me

"Days Of Elijah"

Robin Mark

Chorus: Behold He comes riding on the clouds Shining like the sun at the trumpet call Lift your voice it's the year of Jubilee And out of Zion's hills salvation comes

These are the days of Elijah declaring the word of the Lord And these are the days of Your servant Moses Righteousness being restored And though these are days of great trials Of famine and darkness and sword Still we are the voice in the desert crying Prepare ye the way of the Lord (Chorus)

These are the days of Ezekiel
The dry bones becoming as flesh
And these are the days of Your servant David
Rebuilding a temple of praise
And these are the days of the harvest
The fields are as white in Your world
And we are the laborers in Your vineyard
Declaring the Word of the Lord (Chorus)

Bridge: There's no God like Jehovah (x15)

Post Communion Prayer

Celebrant Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food of the most precious Body and Blood of your Son our Savior Jesus Christ; and for assuring us in these holy mysteries that we are living members of the body of your Son, and heirs of your eternal Kingdom. And now, Father, send us out to do the work you have given us to do, to love and serve you as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord. To him, to you, and to the Holy Spirit, be honor and glory, now and for ever. Amen.

Birthday and Anniversary Prayers

The Blessing

Closing Hymn "Praise to The Lord The Almighty" Joachim Neander, William S. Bennett

Praise to the Lord the Almighty the King of creation O my soul praise Him for He is thy health and salvation All ye who hear now to His temple draw near Praise Him in glad adoration

Praise to the Lord who o'er all things so wondrously reigneth Shelters thee under His wings, yea so gently sustaineth Hast thou not seen how thy desires e'er have been Granted in what He ordaineth

Praise to the Lord, O let all that is in me adore Him All that hath life and breath come now with praises before Him Let the Amen sound from His people again Gladly for aye we adore Him

Words of Dismissal

People Thanks be to God. Alleluia, alleluia.

CCLI #303740