

Welcome to Good Shepherd Lutheran Church

Building up God's people through His word for His world

Presentation of Our Lord **February 2, 2025**

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.

We especially welcome our guests who are worshipping here today. What a privilege to greet you! If you have no church home in the area, we invite you to participate in the life and ministry of Good Shepherd. For information about our congregation, visit gslcva.org. Also, please fill out a Welcome card, which you'll find near the hymnals, and place it in the offering plate.

Our worship reflects the liturgical tradition of the Christian church. Holy Communion is celebrated on the first, third, and fifth Sundays at 8:00 and 11:00 a.m. Our informal worship service features contemporary music and is held in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 a.m. on the second and fourth Sundays of the month, with communion celebrated on fourth Sundays.

To all worshippers: The presence of children in worship is a gift to the Body of Christ and a reminder that our congregation is growing. Remember that Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me." Please welcome our young ones and give their parents a smile of encouragement or a helping hand, if needed.

To the parents of young ones, here are a few suggestions for worshipping with your children: Relax! God put the wiggles and giggles in kids; don't feel that you have to suppress them in His house. All are welcome! Sit toward the front, where it is easier to see and hear what's going on. Quietly explain the parts of the worship service and actions of the pastor, ushers, communion assistants, etc. Sing the hymns and songs, pray, and voice the responses aloud. Children learn worshipful behavior by copying you. If you have to leave the worship service with your child or stand up and walk around the back of the sanctuary, feel free to do so, but please come back! And finally, if you so choose, . . .

You are welcome to use our nursery, as well as our parents' room next to the nursery, if your young ones need a break from the service. The Parents' Room is also a comfortable place where mothers may nurse their babies. The worship service is livestreamed to a monitor in the Parents' Room.

We offer Sunday School and a variety of Bible studies and spiritual growth opportunities for children, youth, and adults on Sunday mornings. All Sunday School classes meet at 9:30 a.m. See News and Announcements for class information.

Flowers and plants in our worship areas are supported by financial donations to the Flower Fund. These floral offerings beautify the church, uplift service participants, and remind us of God's good creation. You can find information about being a flower sponsor on the bulletin board near the Fellowship Hall and at gslcva.org (enter "flowers" in the search area on the homepage). Today's flowers are sponsored by Regina and Philip Benjamin in memory of Fannie Norcum Grayson.

Prelude "Air" from Suite No. 3. Bach/arr. Gordon Philips

Welcome Pastor James

Please stand

Opening Hymn "As with Gladness Men of Old" **Hymn No. 397**
Verses 1-4

Invocation, Confession, and Forgiveness

The sign of the cross + may be made by all in remembrance of their baptism.

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 for reflection on God's word and for self-examination. You may kneel or remain standing.

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.

Please stand

SERVICE OF THE WORD

Kyrie [Lord, have mercy] **Music in hymnal, pages 152-53**

Hymn of Praise "This Is the Feast" **Music in hymnal, page 155**

Salutation and Prayer of the Day **Music in hymnal, page 156**

P: The Lord be with you.

C: And also with you.

P: Let us pray.

Almighty and ever-living God, 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.

C: Amen.

Please sit

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.

L: 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: This is the Word of the Lord.

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.

L: 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: This is the Word of the Lord.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Please stand

Alleluia

Music in hymnal, page 156

Holy Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

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

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

Music in hymnal, page 157

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: 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.

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

P: This is the Gospel of the Lord.

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

Music in hymnal, page 157

Please sit

Hymn of the Day

“In His Temple Now Behold Him”

Hymn No. 519

If you think your child might be unable to sit through the entire service, this would be an appropriate time to take him/her to the nursery.

Message

“The Wait”

Pastor Johann

Musical Reflection

Please stand

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.

Please sit

Reception of New Members

*All members-to-be and their families gather near the altar when the pastor calls for them. They will
bring with them the bulletin insert “Liturgy for the Reception of New Members.”
The congregation will refer to this insert as well.*

Announcements

Pastor James

Please fill out a Welcome card and place it in the offering plate.

Anthem (8:00) “Et Misericordia” from *Magnificat*, BWV 243 J. S. Bach
 Roxy Kennedy, soprano; Richard Jacobson, tenor

Et misericordia a progenie in progenies.

[*And His mercy is on those who fear Him, from generation to generation.*]

Anthem (11:00) “In the Bleak Midwinter” Holst/arr. Albin C. Whitworth
 Kathy Otterbacher, mezzo soprano; Sanctuary Choir

In the bleak midwinter	In the bleak midwinter
Frosty wind made moan	A stable place sufficed
Earth stood hard as iron	The Lord God Almighty
Water like a stone	Jesus, Jesus Christ
Snow had fallen, snow on snow	
Snow on snow	What can I give him, poor as I am
In the bleak midwinter	If I were a shepherd I would bring a lamb
Long ago	If I were a wise man I would do my part
	What I can I give him:
Our God, heav’n cannot hold him	Give him my heart
Nor earth sustain	What I can I give him:
Heav’n and earth shall flee away	Give him my heart
When he comes to reign	

Please stand

Offertory Prayer

C: God of grace, 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.

Prayer of the Church

At the end of each petition, the prayer leader will say, “God of grace ...”

The congregation responds, “hear our prayer.”

Please see the News and Announcements sheet for a listing of intercessions.

SERVICE OF THE SACRAMENT

Preface and Proper Preface **Music in hymnal, page 160**

Sanctus [Holy, Holy, Holy] **Music in hymnal, page 161**

Lord’s Prayer

**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 Words of Our Lord

Pax Domini [The peace of the Lord]

P: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

C: **And also with you.**

Agnus Dei [Lamb of God]

Music in hymnal, page 163

Please sit

Distribution

We believe that Christ is truly present in the bread and wine, according to His Word: “This is My Body . . . this is My blood” (Matthew 26:26-27), and that in this sacrament our Lord gives us forgiveness of our sins, unity with God, and strength for a life of service.

We invite all baptized Christians who have made their First Communion, examined themselves, discern the body and blood of Christ in the sacrament for the forgiveness of their sins, and sincerely seek to amend their lives to join us at His Table.

Distribution procedure: Please come forward by the center aisle or as instructed by the usher. Fill the rail, beginning at the end near the wall. Kneel. Cup your hands to receive the bread. Then, take an individual cup from the tray as it is passed. **Cups in the innermost circle of the communion tray contain juice** for those who do not wish to drink wine. **For those who need gluten-free wafers:** Bring with you one of the brightly colored pieces of paper from the pews and hand it to the communion assistant who is distributing the wafers. That person will bring a gluten-free wafer to you.

Return to your seat via the aisle next to the windows. Place your empty communion cup in the bowl near the end of the rail. If you are unable to walk to the communion rail, please speak to an usher, and we will bring the sacrament to you.

Music during Distribution

Anthem (11:00) “The Call” from *Five Mystical Songs*
Adam Cioffari, bass-baritone

R. Vaughn Williams

Come, my Way, my Truth, my Life
Such a Way, as gives us breath
Such a Truth, as ends all strife
Such a Life, as killeth death

Such a Feast, as mends in length
Such a Strength, as makes his guest

Come, My Light, my Feast, my Strength
Such a Light, as shows a feast

Come, my Joy, my Love, my Heart
Such a Joy, as none can move
Such a Love, as none can part
Such a Heart, as joys in love

Hymns “At the Lamb’s High Feast We Sing”
“Soul, Adorn Yourself with Gladness”

Hymn No. 633
Hymn No. 636

Please stand

Prayer after Communion

P: Nourishing God, 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.

C: **Amen.**

Blessing

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

C: **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

“The People That in Darkness Sat”

Hymn No. 412

Verses 1-4, 6

Dismissal

P: Go in peace. Live in hope.

C: **Thanks be to God.**

Postlude

Variation on “St. Anne”

Roger C. Wilson

As your schedule permits, please be seated during the postlude for a time of prayer and reflection.

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Please join us for coffee and conversation in the Fellowship Hall following the service.

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We hope you will continue to connect with us by liking our Facebook page and following us on Instagram. Find them by searching @gslcva on those platforms. We also encourage you to subscribe to our YouTube channel and follow us on Vimeo so that you don't miss any of our virtual services, kids' messages, and more. Questions? Contact Communications Director Jeff Donahue, jeff@gslcva.org

Serving Today

	8:00	11:00
Worship Leader	Pastor James	Pastor James
Preacher	Pastor Johann	Pastor Johann
Crucifer	Xavier Raye	EJ Hoplin
Acolyte	Cadence Raye	Thatcher Hoplin
Scripture Reader	Walt Peter	Jerry Johnson
Prayer Leader	Henry Eickelberg	Andrew Otterbacher
Cantor	Richard Jacobson	Adam Cioffari
Communion Assistants	Pastor Johann (host) Pastor James (host) Paul Kasulis (tray) Jamie Ellor (tray)	Pastor Johann (host) Pastor James (host) John Purtilo (tray) Jeff Peterson (tray)
Ushers	Jim Smith (lead) Ric Nickerson Gary Budzier Dean Thorsell	Ron Voigt (lead) Rob Fekete Rob Devine *
Choir Director		Anne Lee
Organist	Anne Lee	Anne Lee
Altar Guild	Diane Ellor	Linda Fekete
Projectionist	Jeff Donahue	Jeff Donahue
Audio Engineer	Matt Hardy	Adam Sherman
Livestream Manager		Matt Hardy
Greeter	Janet Lillestolen (door) June McGurn (welcome center)	Don Kidwell (door) Daren Kidwell (welcome center)
Guest Welcome	Donna Harper	Heidi Cooper
Engagement	Heidi Cooper	Heidi Cooper
Opener	Jim Smith	
Closer		Martin Farley
Coffee Setup	Wenda Smith	
Kitchen Cleanup		Mia Millman

* = unfilled as of January 29

Board of Servant Leaders

Laura Blackburn, chair
Rob Fekete, vice-chair
Drew Lipman, secretary

Larry Austin
Paul Kasulis
Jennifer Pelletier
Deanine Thrash

Core Ministry Areas

Worship

Team Leaders: Georgia Thorstenson and Julie Schorfheide; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

The Worship Team encompasses music, seasonal celebrations, arts, worship schedule, Sanctuary Choir (Anne Lee), Handbell Choir (Anne Lee), traditional worship, and contemporary worship (Matt Hardy), the worship spaces, and support personnel (e.g., ushers, greeters, acolytes).

Discipleship

Team Leader: Pastor James

The Discipleship Team oversees adult education, Sunday school, Vacation Bible School, children's ministry (Michelle Tenhaeff), and youth ministry (Holly Vanderhoof).

Parish Life

Team Leader: Brian Cors; Staff Liaison: Heidi Cooper

The Parish Life Team helps foster our community through Life Groups, member engagement, fellowship events, new member inclusion, concerts, public events, picnics, and intergenerational events, and reaches out to guests who worship at Good Shepherd.

Mission

Team Leader: Pastor Johann

Through this core ministry area, Good Shepherd supports a variety of mission efforts: financial and prayerful partnering with missionaries, worldwide and local (Bill and Lisa Schuler); synod/district, social ministry, and community service (Holly Vanderhoof); evangelism, publicity, media, and social media (Jeff Donahue).

Congregational Care and Nurture

Team Leader: June McGurn; Staff Liaison: Pastor Johann

The Congregational Care and Nurture Team helps support the mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual health of the congregation through literature, programs, and opportunities to serve others at Good Shepherd. This ministry's volunteers help in many ways: at memorial services and receptions; through member care visits and transportation; by sending cards for life events; and by arranging meals ("Take Them a Meal" team) for the sick and infirm, for their families, and for families with newborns.

Administration

Team Leader: Pastor Johann

This team is in charge of property and contracts (Roger Thorstenson), financing the mission (Mike DeWan), stewardship (Don Kidwell), human resources/personnel (Matt Frankner), communications (Jeff Donahue), and technology (Gary Budzier).

Good Shepherd's Staff

Jotham Johann, Senior Pastor

Room 201; pastorjo@gslcva.org; 703-439-2754

Gary James, Assisting Pastor

Room 209; pastorgary@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020

Sarah Brazell, Preschool Director

Room 101; preschool@gslcva.org; 703-437-4511

Georgia Thorstenson, Business Manager

Room 212; georgia@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020 x803

Jeff Donahue, Communications Director

Room 209; jeff@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020 x811

Heidi Cooper, Director of Engagement

heidi@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020

Anne Lee, Organist & Director of Choirs

Room 215; anne@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020 x807

Michele Clair, Administrative Assistant

Room 210; michele@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020 x806

Holly Vanderhoof, Community Service Coordinator & Youth Ministry Director

Room 208; holly@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020 x213

Matt Hardy, Praise Band Director & Video Production Specialist

matt@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020

Michelle Tenhaeff, Children's Ministry Coordinator

childministry@gslcva.org; 703-437-5020

Reid Otterbacher, Communications Assistant

commassist@gslcva.org

Chloe Vanderhoof, Social Media Assistant

chloe@gslcva.org

Please note that the church office is closed on Mondays.

Good Shepherd is a member congregation of the Southeastern District
of the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod