

*... for my
eyes have
seen your
salvation,...*

Luke 2:30, NRSV



February 2, 2025

Holy Trinity Lutheran Church
38801 Blacow Road
Fremont, Ca 94536
Church: (510) 793-6285

February 2, 2025
9:30 AM Service – Presentation of Our Lord
Ministers: The People of HTLC
Web Site: holytrinityfremont.org

If you're looking for a community that seeks to follow God's star, there is a place for you here. Trust that the mystery of God has brought you this far on your journey and will guide your future steps. All of who you are is welcome here.

Our worship services are livestreamed on our YouTube channel and website. If you do not wish to be filmed, please do not sit in the first four pews or the last pew. Children's Time and communion distribution are not filmed.

All invitations to stand or kneel are for those who are able.

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.

GATHERING

SINGING BOWL

During the ringing of the bowl, you are encouraged to center your thoughts on God the Creator, Christ the Redeemer, and the Holy Spirit our Comforter.

PRELUDE: “*Open up the Heavens*”

Verse 1:

We've waited for this day
We're gathered in Your name
Calling out to You
Your glory like a fire
Awakening desire
Will burn our hearts with truth
You're the reason we're here
You're the reason we're singing

Chorus:

Open up the Heavens
We want to see You
Open up the floodgates
A mighty river
Flowing from Your heart
Filling every part of our praise

Verse 2:

Your presence in this place
Your glory on our face
We're looking to the sky
Descending like a cloud
You're standing with us now
Lord unveil our eyes
You're the reason we're here
You're the reason we're singing

Chorus

Show us, show us Your glory
Show us, show us Your power
Show us, show us Your glory, Lord
(Repeat)

Chorus 4x

WELCOME

SHARING OF THE PEACE

P: Peace is a gift of God's love.

All: Let God bless us and give us strength, as we share signs of this peace!

P: The peace of Christ is with you.

All: And also with you.

Please share the peace with each other.

Please Stand

THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM

P: In the name of the Creator, and of the Redeemer, and the Sanctifier, whose voice reverberated in blazing bush, and whose image reflects our sacred belonging and purpose.

All: Amen.

P: Joined to Christ in the waters of baptism; we are held so close by God's endless compassion and transformation, which flow like an unfailing stream.

All: God's generous gift of water is for all God's beloveds.

P: While remembering that water is restorative, that precious resource as it is, water is used for healing, washing, playing, nurturing, cleansing, and in many traditions and communities water is used in spiritual practices, let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

All: We give thanks for the breath that hovered over resounding waters and spoke life into being.

P: For the great flood that proclaimed God's promise through rainbow-colored brilliance.

All: For the sea that split open our thirst for power, control, and dominance.

P: We give thanks for the One who transformed water into wine and then yearned to share it with the disenfranchised. We give thanks for the gift of baptism

which proclaims that you, me, WE ALL are beloved children of God, and nothing can separate us from that love of God made known through Jesus.

All: Cleanse our fears. Drown our divisions. Let us die to a life that pulls us from your relentless love and let us rise to a life that says yes.

P: To you be given honor and praise through Jesus Christ, our living water, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, now and forever. And may all God's people say,

All: Amen!

HYMN OF THE DAY: "I'll Fly Away"

Verse 1:

Some glad morning when this life is o'er
I'll fly away
To a home on God's celestial shore
I'll fly away

Chorus:

I'll fly away O glory, I'll fly away
When I die hallelujah by and by
I'll fly away

Verse 2:

When the shadows of this life have grown
I'll fly away
Like a bird from prison bars has flown
I'll fly away

Chorus

Verse 3:

Just a few more weary days and then
I'll fly away
To a land where joys shall never end
I'll fly away

Chorus

When I die hallelujah by and by
I'll fly away

INVOCATION

P: The grace of our Living Redeemer Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit is with you all.

All: And also with you.

LITANY

L: God of love and life, speak to our hearts this day.

All: Speak words of wisdom and faith.

L: Open our hearts and minds to perceive your message of love,

All: even when it's hard to hear.

L: Strengthen our faith to answer your call,

All: even when we don't feel confident or capable.

L: Be our wisdom, our strength, and our love,

All: that we may bring your wisdom, strength, and love to the world. Amen.

PRAYER OF THE DAY

L: Almighty and ever-living God, your only-begotten Son was presented this day in the temple.

All: 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.

Be Seated



PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

R: Holy God, you speak to us in Scripture and in prayers, in sunrises and sunsets, in friends and in strangers, in dreams and in songs.

All: You are speaking all the time, and how often do we miss it?

R: Still our minds so that we can listen with a depth that we have not heard before.

All: Still our hearts so that we can receive with open arms what it is you are offering us today.

R: We know you are speaking,

All: so we are listening.

R: The first reading is from First Corinthians, chapter thirteen, beginning with the first verse.

READING: *I Corinthians 13:1-13*

Even if I can speak in all the tongues of earth—and those of the angels too—but do not have love, I am just a noisy gong, a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy such that I can comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge, or if I have faith great enough to move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own to feed those poorer than I, then hand over my body to be burned, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient; love is kind. Love is not jealous, it does not put on airs, and it is not snobbish; it is never rude or self-seeking; it is not prone to anger, nor does it brood over injuries. Love doesn't rejoice in what is wrong, but rejoices in the truth. There is no limit to love's forbearance, to its trust, its hope, its power to endure.

Love never fails. Prophecies will cease; tongues will be silent; knowledge will pass away. Our knowledge is imperfect, and our prophesying is imperfect. When the perfect comes, the imperfect will pass away. When I was a child,

I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child. But when I became an adult, I put childish ways aside. Now we see indistinctly, as in a mirror; then we will see face to face. My knowledge is imperfect now; then I will know even as I am known.

“There are, in the end, three things that last: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.

R: Word of God, word of light.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please Stand

P: The holy Gospel according to Luke.

All: Glory to you, O God.

GOSPEL: *Luke 2:22-40*

When the day came for them to be purified, as laid down by the Law of Moses, the couple took Jesus up to Jerusalem and presented him to God. For it's written in the Law of our God, “Every firstborn heir is to be consecrated to God.” They likewise came to offer in sacrifice “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons,” in accord with the dictate of the Law of our God.

Now there lived in Jerusalem a man named Simeon. He was devout and just, anticipating the consolation of Israel, and he was filled with the Holy Spirit. She had revealed to Simeon that he wouldn't see death until he had seen the Messiah of God. Prompted by her, Simeon came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child to perform the customary rituals of the Law, he took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Now, O God, you can dismiss your servant in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the peoples to see—a light of revelation to the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel.”

As the child's mother and father stood there marveling at the things that were being said, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, the mother, "This child is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that is rejected, so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare. And a sword will pierce your heart as well."

There was a woman named Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher, who was also a prophet. She had lived a long life, seven years with her husband, and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple, worshiping day and night, fasting and praying. Coming up at that moment, she gave thanks to God and talked about the child to all who anticipated the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When the couple had fulfilled all the prescriptions of the Law of God, they returned to Galilee and their own town of Nazareth. The child grew in size and strength. He was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was with him.

P: The Gospel of our Messiah.

All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Be Seated

CHILDREN'S TIME – Pastor Tim

Please Stand

PRE-MESSAGE SONG: *"I Can Only Imagine"*

I can only imagine
What it will be like
When I walk by Your side
I can only imagine
What my eyes will see
When Your face is before me
I can only imagine

Chorus:

Surrounded by Your glory
What will my heart feel
Will I dance for You Jesus
Or in awe of You be still
Will I stand in Your presence
Or to my knees will I fall
Will I sing hallelujah
Will I be able to speak at all
I can only imagine
I can only imagine
I can only imagine
When that day comes
And I find myself standing in the Son
I can only imagine
When all I will do
Is forever, forever worship You
I can only imagine
I can only imagine

Chorus:

Surrounded by Your glory
What will my heart feel
Will I dance for You Jesus
Or in awe of You be still
Will I stand in Your presence
Or to my knees will I fall
Will I sing hallelujah
Will I be able to speak at all
I can only imagine
I can only imagine

Repeat Chorus

I can only imagine
I can only imagine

I can only imagine

I can only imagine

I can only imagine

When all I can do

Is forever, forever worship you

I can only imagine

Be Seated

MESSAGE – *Pastor Tim*

MEAL

INVITATION TO THE OFFERING

L: Come into Christ's light with your gifts. They need not be gold or precious oil.

All: **Gifts of love and compassion are the greatest treasures of all.**

OFFERING

OFFERING SONG: "*We Fall Down*"

We Fall Down, we lay our crowns

At the feet of Jesus,

The greatness of His mercy and love

At the feet of Jesus.

And we cry holy, holy, holy

And we cry holy, holy, holy

And we cry holy, holy, holy is the Lamb

Repeat

Please Stand

OFFERING PRAYER

L: God of grace, your love reaches to the heavens, and your abundance to the depths of the seas.

All: 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

L: With the Spirit of Christ shining upon us, let us boldly pray for the church, the world, and all of creation. God of generations, you instilled in Anna and Simeon faith, dreams, and the welcome of a child. Bless elders who embody faith and hope; bless the newly baptized. Energize us to share faith from generation to generation. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: God of the nations, strengthen our resolve to care for all children and strive for peace among nations. Refine our nation where we have failed to root out racism and guide us in truth-telling and reconciliation. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: God of hope, many long to see your presence revealed amid challenging circumstances. We hold in prayer all longing for sustainable housing, secure employment, access to medical care, and health and wellness. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: God of life, we thank you for Jesus' life and for his death that has destroyed death. We remember the dearly departed, as they dwell with you in your holy courts now and forever. God of grace,

All: hear our prayer.

L: Hear now the prayers of our hearts said silently or aloud.

Here other prayers may be offered.

L: God of grace,

All: hear our prayers.

L: We entrust our prayers to you, O God, in the sure and certain hope that your promise is revealed among the people.

All: Amen.

GREAT THANKSGIVING

L: May God be with you.

All: And also with you.

L: Lift up your hearts.

All: We lift them to our Redeemer.

L: Let us give thanks to our Creator, in whose image we are made.

All: To the Creator of all, we give thanks and praise.

THE EUCHARIST

P: It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, God almighty, creator of heaven and earth.

All: You created us, unique, human creatures, created to love and be loved, created to seek relationship with you and each other.

P: Holy are you, and blessed is your Son Jesus the Christ. Through him, you showed us a new way to be in relationship with you and with each other, to care for one another and the stranger, and to see you in different ways.

All: Through him, you showed us a new level of acceptance and new ways to worship you.

P: By the baptism of his suffering, death, and resurrection you gave birth to your church,

All: delivered us from slavery to sin and death, and made with us a new covenant by water and the Spirit.

P: Through this community which you have called together through our concern, our passion, and our seeking to

know you, we learn more about you, your sustaining love, and your own passion for justice and liberation for all.

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, Jesus took bread, gave thanks to you, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks to you, gave it to his disciples, and said: "Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me."

And so, in remembrance of these your mighty acts in Jesus Christ, we offer ourselves in praise and thanksgiving as a holy and living sacrifice, in union with Christ's offering for us, as we proclaim the mystery of faith.

All: Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again.

P: Pour out your Holy Spirit on us gathered here, and on these gifts of bread and wine. Make them be for us the body and blood of Christ, that we may be for the world the body of Christ, redeemed by his blood.

All: Strengthen us for our witness and our service in your name. Increase in us our courage and wisdom as we live and work for your realm.

P: By your Spirit make us one with Christ, one with each other, and one in ministry to all the world, until Christ comes in final victory, and we feast at the heavenly banquet. Through your Son Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit in your holy church, all honor and glory is yours, almighty Creator, now and forever.

All: Amen.



THE LORD'S PRAYER

P: Gathered into one by the Holy Spirit, let us pray as Jesus taught us, using the language or translation of our hearts.

All: Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven. Give us today our daily bread. Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us. Save us from the time of trial and deliver us from evil. For the kingdom, the power, and the glory are yours, now and forever. Amen.

FRACTION RITE

P: We who are many are one body, for we all partake of the one bread. Come. Be filled with light and life.

All: For this meal we give thanks!

Be Seated

Holy Communion is open to all.

Let an usher know if you need communion brought to you.

Please come forward after the Lamb of God is sung

For walking communion:

You may come down the center aisle. Hold out your hand for the pastor to drop the host into, then take a cup of wine (red), grape juice (yellow), or water (clear, center) from the assistant's tray, then return to your seat via the side aisles, depositing your empty cup in the provided bowls. You may walk behind the Praise Band.



LAMB OF GOD

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

COMMUNION HYMN – The Tongan Wesleyan Church Choir

COMMUNION HYMN: “*Eat this Bread*”

Eat this bread, drink this cup
Come to me and never be hungry
Eat this bread, drink this cup
Trust in me and you will not thirst
(Repeat as needed)

COMMUNION HYMN: “*Ubi Caritas*”

Ubi caritas et amor,
Ubi caritas, Deus ibi est.

SINGING BOWL

Please Stand

POST COMMUNION BLESSING

P: Loving God, we thank you that you fed us in this Sacrament. Help us remember that the Eucharist is not a passive activity. Gather us to be reminded and restored, so that we may scatter to be the body of Christ for the world.

All: Be with us as you take us places that, on our own, we would not go. Help us make the real power of love in the world. Amen.

POST COMMUNION PRAYER

L: O Morning Star, fair and bright, you have refreshed us again with heavenly food. Go with us now—today, tomorrow, every day.

All: As we, like the shepherds, return on our way, may we proclaim all we have heard and seen, praising you in word and loving deed for the gift of Jesus, our Savior Amen.

Be Seated

SENDING

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please Stand

WORDS FOR THE JOURNEY

P: As God has called us to worship, God now sends us to serve.

All: We will listen to the Spirit's call, for God sends us forth as light to the world.

P: Help others come and see for themselves that Christ is the light of the world.

All: We go invite others to see the light and love that God shines into our world.

SENDING HYMN: “Big House”

Verse 1:

I don't know where you lay your head,
Or where you call your home
I don't know where you eat your meals or
where you talk on the phone
I don't know if you have cook, a butler, or a maid
I don't know if you've got a yard with a hammock in the shade

Verse 2:

I don't know if you got some shelter, say a place to hide
I don't know if you live with friends in whom you can confide
I don't know if you got a fam'ly say a mom or dad
I don't know if you feel love at all but I bet you wish you had

Chorus:

Come and go with me to my Father's house
Come and go with me to my Father's house
It's a big, big house with lots and lots of room
A big, big table with lots and lots of food
A big, big yard where we can play football
A big, big house...it's my Father's house

Verse 3:

All I know is a big ol' house with room for ev'ry one
All I know is a-lots of land where we can play and run
All I know is that you need love and I've got a family
All I know is you're still alone, so why not come along with me?

Chorus (clap)

Repeat Chorus

SENDING

L: Go in peace. Live in hope.

All: **Thanks be to God.**

POSTLUDE

