st mary's catholic charch greenville, south carolina



the presentation of the loro 2 february 2025



Except at the 7.30 am Mass, please rise and face the baptismal font when the bell rings.

Entrance Antiphon

Psalm 48.10-11

(9.00 & 11.00 am Masses)

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

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

Priest

Dear brethren, forty days have passed since we celebrated the joyful feast of the Nativity of the Lord. Today is the blessed day when Jesus was presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph. Outwardly he was fulfilling the Law, but in reality he was coming to meet his believing people. Prompted by the Holy Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the Temple. Enlightened by the same Spirit, they recognized the Lord and confessed him with exultation.

So let us also, gathered together by the Holy Spirit, proceed to the house of God to encounter Christ. There we shall find him and recognize him in the breaking of the bread, until he comes again, revealed in glory.

Let us pray.

O God, source and origin of all light, who on this day showed to the just man Simeon the Light for revelation to the Gentiles, we humbly ask that, in answer to your people's prayers, you may be pleased to sanctify with your blessing \(\mathbf{T}\) these candles, which we are eager to carry in praise of your name, so that, treading the path of virtue, we may reach that light which never fails.

Through Christ our Lord.

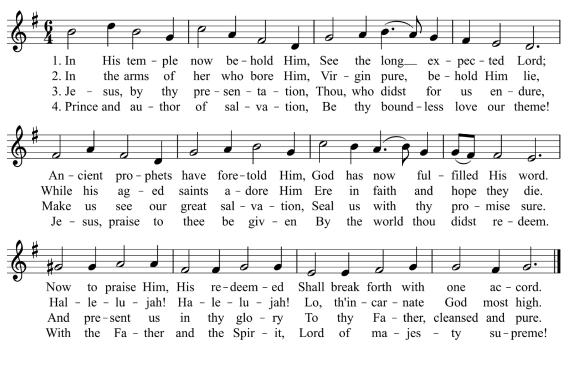
People Amen.

Priest Let us go forth in peace.

People In the name of Christ. Amen.

In His Temple Now Behold Him

Entrance Hymn



Text: Verses 1-3 Henry J. Pye (1825-1903); verse 4 William Cooke (1821-1894) Tune: WESTMINSTER ABBEY, Henry Purcell (d. 1695)



Penitential Act

Confiteor

I confess to almighty God and to you, my brothers and sisters, that I have greatly sinned, in my thoughts and in my words, in what I have done and in what I have failed to do,

All strike their breast, saying:

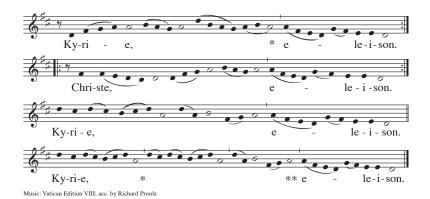
through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault;

therefore I ask blessed Mary ever-Virgin, all the Angels and Saints, and you, my brothers and sisters, to pray for me to the Lord our God.

Priest May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

People Amen.

Kyrie





Gloria



First Reading

Malachi 3.1-4

Thus says the Lord God: Lo, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me; And suddenly there will come to the temple the Lord whom you seek, And the messenger of the covenant whom you desire. Yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who will endure the day of his coming? And who can stand when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire, or like the fuller's lye. He will sit refining and purifying silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi, Refining them like gold or like silver that they may offer due sacrifice to the Lord. Then the sacrifice of Judah and Jerusalem will please the Lord, as in the days of old, as in years gone by.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 24.7, 8, 9, 10



Lift up, O gates, your lintels; reach up, you ancient portals, that the king of glory may come in!

Who is this king of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle.

Lift up, O gates, your lintels; reach up, you ancient portals, that the king of glory may come in!

Who is this king of glory?
The Lord of hosts; he is the king of glory.

Second Reading

Hebrews 2.14-18

Since the children share in blood and flesh, Jesus likewise shared in them, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the Devil, and free those who through fear of death had been subject to slavery all their life. Surely he did not help angels but rather the descendants of Abraham; therefore, he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every way, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest before God to expiate the sins of the people. Because he himself was tested through what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Lector: The Word of the Lord. **People: Thanks be to God.**



Gospel Acclamation



A light of revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel. *Response*.

Gospel Luke 2.22-40

Deacon: The Lord be with you. **People: And with your spirit.**

Deacon: A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

People: Glory to you, O Lord.

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord,* and to offer the sacrifice of a *pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons*, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying:

"Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted — and you yourself a sword will pierce — so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of 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.

Deacon: The Gospel of the Lord. **People: Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

Homily



Profession of Faith (spoken slowly and reverently)

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven,

Bow profoundly during these two lines:

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day 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.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Bidding Prayers

The Collection

The offering is for the support of the parish.

Please Click Here to Make a Donation to Saint Mary's Church.

Grace is poured out upon your lips; therefore God has blessed you forever and ever.

Offertory Hymn

Joy to the World



Offertory Anthem

Jesus, Sun of Life, My Splendor

GF Handel; arr. Bunjes

Jesus, Sun of Life, my Splendor, Jesus, Thou my Friend most tender, Jesus, Joy of my desiring, Fount of life, my soul inspiring: at Thy feet I cry, my Maker, let me be a fit partaker of this blessed Food from heaven, for our good, thy glory, given. Jesus, Bread of Life, I pray Thee, let me gladly here obey Thee. By Thy love I am invited, be Thy love with love requited; from this Supper let me measure, Lord, how vast and deep love's treasure. Through the gifts Thou here dost give me as Thy guest in heav'n receive me.



Priest Pray, brethren,

that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the Almighty Father.

People May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands

for the praise and glory of his name,

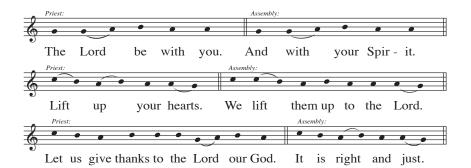
for our good

and the good of all his holy Church.

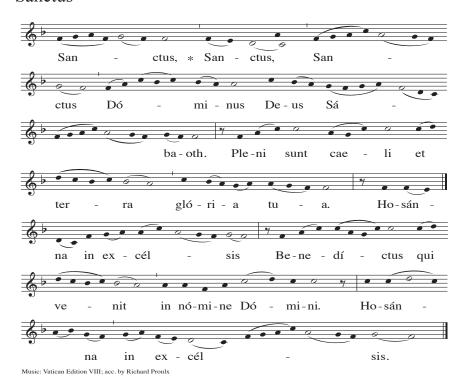
Prayer Over the Offerings

Eucharistic Prayer

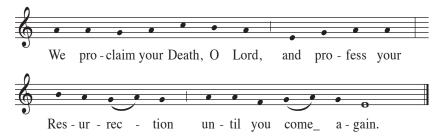
Preface Dialogue



Sanctus

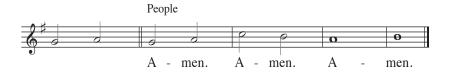


Mystérium Fídei (The Mystery of Faith)



The Great Amen

arr. by Judy Franzen





Communion Rite

Priest At the Savior's command and formed by divine teaching, we dare to say:

People 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.

Priest Deliver us, Lord, we pray, from every evil,

graciously grant peace in our days, that, by the help of your mercy, we may be always free from sin and safe from all distress, as we await the blessed hope and the coming of our Savior, Jesus Christ.

People For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and for ever.

Priest Lord Jesus Christ,

who said to your Apostles:

Peace I leave you, my peace I give you,

look not on our sins,

but on the faith of your Church,

and graciously grant her peace and unity

in accordance with your will.

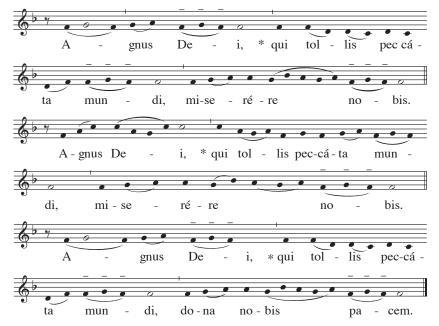
Who live and reign for ever and ever.

People Amen.

Priest The peace of the Lord be with you always.

People And with your spirit.

Agnus Dei



Music: Vatican Edition XVIII; acc. by Richard Proulx



Priest Behold the Lamb of God, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

People Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.



AN ACT OF SPIRITUAL COMMUNION

Lord Jesus, I love you above all things.

How I long to receive you with my brothers

and sisters at the table you have prepared.

But since I cannot at this moment receive you in

the holy sacrament of your Body and Blood,

I ask you to feed me with the manna of your Holy Spirit

and nourish me with your holy presence.

I unite myself completely to you;

never permit me to be separated from your love.

Amen.

Communion Motets

Chorale from Cantata 1

JS Bach

How full I am therefore of heartfelt joy that my treasure is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End; to His reward He will take me up to paradise, and so I clap my hands Amen! Amen! Come, you sweet crown of joy, do not long delay, I wait for you with longing.

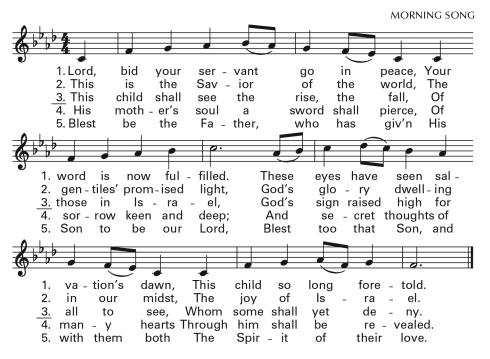
Nunc Dimittis Adam Pajan

O Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace according to thy word. For mine eyes have seen thy salvation; which thou hast prepared before the face of all people. Glory be to the Father and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost; as it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be; world without end. Amen.



Communion Hymn

Lord, Bid Your Servant Go in Peace



Text: CM; based on Luke 2:29–32, 34–35; *Nunc dimittis*; James Quinn, SJ, alt., © 1969, 1989, James Quinn, SJ. Published by OCP. All rights reserved. Music: *Sixteen Tune Settings*, Philadelphia, 1812; *Kentucky Harmony*, 1816.





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

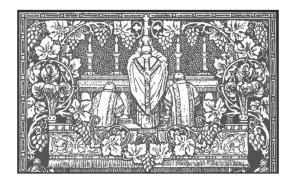
Priest May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

People Amen.

Deacon Go in peace.

People Thanks be to God.

During Mass at St Mary's, the priest and people face the same direction at the altar, a custom that was once universal in the Catholic Church but is now rare in the celebration of the modern liturgy. For an explanation of this practice, please visit our parish website, smcgvl.org, and look in the section called *Parish Links* for the essay entitled *Facing East to Pray*.



Page one: Franz Mayer of Munich. St Mary's Catholic Church, Greenville, SC. (1904).

Page three: Tissot. *The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple*. (19th century).

Page eight: Fra Angelico. San Domenico, Fiesole, Prado. (c. 1430).

Page seventeen: Royal Bavarian Stained Glass Works for Glasgow Cathedral. (c. 1860).

Page eighteen: Jan Van't Hoff. Simeon and Anna. (21st century).

from the office of readings for the presentation of the lord

In honor of the divine mystery that we celebrate today, let us all hasten to meet Christ. Everyone should be eager to join the procession and to carry a light.

Our lighted candles are a sign of the divine splendor of the one who comes to expel the dark shadows of evil and to make the whole universe radiant with the brilliance of his eternal light. Our candles also show how bright our souls should be when we go to meet Christ.

The Mother of God, the most pure Virgin, carried the true light in her arms and brought him to those who lay in darkness. We too should carry a light for all to see and reflect the radiance of the true light as we hasten to meet him.

The light has come and has shone upon a world enveloped in shadows; the Dayspring from on high has visited us and given light to those who lived in darkness. This, then, is our feast, and we join in procession with lighted candles to reveal the light that has shone upon us and the glory that is yet to come to us through him. So let us hasten all together to meet our God.

The true light has come, the light that enlightens every man who is born into this world. Let all of us, my brethren, be enlightened and made radiant by this light. Let all of us share in its splendor, and be so filled with it that no one remains in the darkness. Let us be shining ourselves as we go together to meet and to receive with the aged Simeon the light whose brilliance is eternal. Rejoicing with Simeon, let us sing a hymn of thanksgiving to God, the Father of the light, who sent the true light to dispel the darkness and to give us all a share in his splendor.

Through Simeon's eyes we too have seen the salvation of God which he prepared for all the nations and revealed as the glory of the new Israel, which is ourselves. As Simeon was released from the bonds of this life when he had seen Christ, so we too were at once freed from our old state of sinfulness.

By faith we too embraced Christ, the salvation of God the Father, as he came to us from Bethlehem. Gentiles before, we have now become the people of God. Our eyes have seen God incarnate, and because we have seen him present among us and have mentally received him into our arms, we are called the new Israel. Never shall we forget this presence; every year we keep a feast in his honor.

- From a sermon by Saint Sophronius, bishop (b. 560 AD; d. 11 March 638 AD)

from the pastor

Dear Friends in Christ,

According to Chapter 12 of Leviticus, every Jewish woman who gave birth required a ritual purification from her flow of blood, and a sacrifice was to be offered to mark the new mother's return to the regular practice of prayer, commonly forty days after her child's birth. Saint Luke tells us in Chapter 2 of his Gospel that Joseph and Mary went to the Temple in Jerusalem to fulfill this precept of the Law, and there they encountered two faithful children of Israel who were always there in prayer, awaiting the arrival of the Messiah. And since the fourth century, the Presentation of the Lord has been celebrated on 2 February, forty days after Christmas.

Simeon and Anna stand for all who will accept Christ Jesus as Lord and Savior and acclaim him "a light for revelation to the Gentiles and glory for your people Israel." Simeon also foretells the share that Mary will have in the suffering of her Son, and so the mysteries of Christ's birth and death are joined together in the Temple - the dwelling place of God on earth and the privileged place of sacrifice for the forgiveness of sins. Thus is the New Covenant hidden in the Old and the Old Covenant revealed in the New. And the place where the Old Covenant is fulfilled and the New Covenant is begun is none other than the heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church.

Also on the Feast of the Presentation, candles are blessed for use at the altar because Christ is "a light for revelation to the Gentiles," and from the connection between the Presentation and the blessing of candles, this feast in the sacred liturgy is also called Candlemas. On this day we pray that the brightness of the candles we use in divine worship will awaken in our hearts love for the uncreated brilliance of Christ's perpetual light so that all people will see the unbounded light of His glory reflected in the holiness of His Church. All of these dimensions of this great feast are gathered together every time we pray the Fourth Joyful Mystery of the Holy Rosary: the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

Finally, in 1997 Pope Saint John Paul the Great began a yearly World Day for Consecrated Life which he attached to the Feast of the Presentation. By living the grace of their Baptism in the most radical way, Christian men and women who profess the Evangelical Counsels of poverty, chastity and obedience are imitating Simeon and Anna and following the example of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who placed her entire life at the service of the Lord and His holy Word. We are blessed at Saint Mary's to have the splendid witness of the Nashville Dominican Sisters, who remind us of the need of all Christians to surrender our entire lives in the obedience of faith to Christ the Lord. And each Wednesday afternoon during the Holy Hour, we pray for vocations for the priesthood and the consecrated life, asking the Lord of mercies to call young men and women from this parish to give themselves without reservation or compromise to the proclamation of the Gospel.

Father Newman