**Worship Plan for Sunday, February 2, 2020, Presentation of our Lord (4th Sunday after Epiphany)**

**SHARING OF CONCERNS AND CELEBRATIONS**

**CONFESSION & FORGIVENESS**

Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God,   
the eternal voice from heaven, the anointed and beloved one, the Spirit moving over the waters.  
**Amen.**

As we approach the mystery of God, let us come in confession, trusting the love of Christ crucified and risen.

*Silence is kept for reflection.*

God who searches and knows us,  
**you have shown us what is good, but we have looked to other lights to find our way.  
we have not been just in our dealings with others. We have chosen revenge over mercy. We have promoted ourselves instead of walking humbly with you. With what shall we come before you? Forgive us our sin, and show us your salvation   
in the face of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.**

Beloved of God,  
you have not received the spirit of the world, but the Sprit that is from God,  
poured out for you in the faithfulness of Jesus Christ.   
Receive the promise of baptism: You are God’s child; + your sins are forgiven.   
Rejoice and be glad, for your is the kingdom of God.  
**Amen.**

**GATHERING SONG** *O Morning Star, How Fair and Bright (ELW 308)*

**GREETING**

The grace of our Lord, Jesus Christ, the love of God,  
 and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all  
 **And also with you.**

**PRAYER OF THE DAY**

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. **Amen.**

**CHOIR ANTHEM** *Let the Praise Go Round*

*(The reading is read by the lay assistant)*

**The first lesson Malachi 3:1-4**

*A reading from the Malachi.*

3See, 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. 2But 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; 3he 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. 4Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

*The reading may be concluded:*Word of God, word of life.**Thanks be to God.**

**The second lesson 1 Corinthians 1:18-31**

*A reading from First Corinthians*

18For the message about the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. 19For it is written, “I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and the discernment of the discerning I will thwart.” 20Where is the one who is wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God made foolish the wisdom of the world? 21For since, in the wisdom of God, the world did not know God through wisdom, God decided, through the foolishness of our proclamation, to save those who believe. 22For Jews demand signs and Greeks desire wisdom, 23but we proclaim Christ crucified, a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. 25For God’s foolishness is wiser than human wisdom, and God’s weakness is stronger than human strength. 26Consider your own call, brothers and sisters: not many of you were wise by human standards, not many were powerful, not many were of noble birth. 27But God chose what is foolish in the world to shame the wise; God chose what is weak in the world to shame the strong; 28God chose what is low and despised in the world, things that are not, to reduce to nothing things that are, 29so that no one might boast in the presence of God. 30He is the source of your life in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God, and righteousness and sanctification and redemption, 31in order that, as it is written, “Let the one who boasts, boast in the Lord.”

*The reading may be concluded:*Word of God, word of life.**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand to welcome the Gospel.*

**GOSPEL ACCLAMATION** *Alleluia (ELW p. 171)*

*(The gospel is read by the pastor)***THE GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40**

The holy gospel according to St. Luke  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

22When 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 firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), 24and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

25Now 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. 26It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. 27Guided 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, 28Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 29“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; 30for my eyes have seen your salvation, 31which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” 33And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 34Then 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 35so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” 36There 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, 37then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. 38At 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. 39When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

*The gospel concludes:*The gospel of the Lord.**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**CHILDEN’S MESSAGE**

**SERMON**

**HYMN OF THE DAY** *O Lord, Now Let Your Servant (ELW 313)*

*(The pastor reads the introduction and the ending,   
the lay assistant reads the indented petitions.)*

**PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION**

Called together through water and the Word, we boldly pray for the church, the world, and all who long to hear God’s voice.

*A brief silence.*

Almighty God, you grant wisdom to our elders in every land and generation. Give senior citizens boldness to share the faith and a spirit of curiosity and joy to continue learning as your disciples.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Everlasting God, you provide beauty and warmth in sun, moon, stars, and fire, and you give us abundant gifts of water, land, and air. Break our patterns of overusing resources across the world so that all experience your beautiful creation.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Creating God, thank you for your daily presence in our community and throughout the world. Inspire leaders with your strength and wisdom, that all communities may be safe places for children, adults, seniors, infants, and youth.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Incarnate God, thank you for being born among us and experiencing human pain and sorrow. Bring wholeness to all who live with chronic illness, and rest your Spirit on those who are near to death. Strengthen the sick, *especially….* We also pray for those who care for them, and for those we now name aloud or in our hearts *(brief pause).*

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

Merciful God, you encourage us through strong communities of faith. Open our hearts and minds to new people and ideas. Bless our vibrant traditions that bring life and hope.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

God of hope, thank you for the saints who have gone before us. Keep us faithful in service to you until we are one with all the faithful departed.

Lord, in your mercy, **Hear our prayer.**

We place our prayers before you, God, united in your Spirit; through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.   
**Amen.**

**PEACE**

The peace of Christ be with you always.  
 **And also with you.**

**HYMN OF PRAISE P. 169 – ELW**

**(This is the Feast)**

**THANKSGIVING AT THE TABLE**

On the night he was betrayed,   
Our Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks, broke it, and gave it to his disciples, saying:  
Take and eat, this is my body, given for you.  
Do this in remembrance of me.

Again, after supper, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it for all to drink, saying;  
This cup is the new covenant in my blood,   
shed for you and for all people for the forgiveness of sin.   
Do this in remembrance of me.

**LORD’S PRAYER**

Gathered as one by the Holy Spirit, we pray as Jesus taught us.

**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**

Come. Be filled with the light and life of Jesus, our Lord.  
 **Thanks be to God.**

**COMMUNION**

Distribution Songs

*Lamb of God (ELW p. 174)  
 What Child is This (ELW 296)  
 Let Our Gladness Have No End (ELW 291)*

*(The prayer after communion is read by the lay assistant)***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

O Morning Star, fair and bright,  
You have refreshed us again with heavenly food. You are our dearest treasure.   
Go with us now – today, tomorrow, every day – that we tell the story of your never-ending love and sing your praise both now and forever.  
**Amen.**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS & OFFERING**

**Blessing**

The Lord bless you and keep you  
The Lord shine on you with grace and mercy  
The Lord look upon you with favor and + give you peace.  
**Amen.**

Please turn to your neighbor and share this blessing with him or her:

May the Light of Christ….

Shine through us!

(those 2 lines are displayed on the screen to remind people)

**Sending Song** *Savior, Again to Your Dear Name (ELW 234)*

*(The dismissal is given by the lay assistant)*

**DISMISSAL**Go in peace. Be light for the world.  
**Thanks be to God!**