

## THE PURIFICATION OF MARY AND THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD (FEBRUARY 2)

The Lord opened the barren womb of Hannah and gave her the gift of the son for whom she prayed, and in grateful response she presented and gave the child, Samuel, to the Lord's service. *"As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD"* (1 Sam. 2:28). So, too, did Mary and Joseph present the Child promised from the fall, born of a virgin's womb. The true offering wasn't the turtledoves or young pigeons. It was the Child they carried. This Child has come to *"destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery"* (Heb. 2:14b-15). Set free by His advent in our flesh and the promise of what He would do *"in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people"* (Heb. 2:17b), Simeon and Anna rejoiced, and we with them, for we know that we, too, can face death unafraid and *"depart in peace"* (Luke 2:29) when our time comes.

**Introit** (Psalm 48:1-3, 8; antiphon Psalm 48:9)

Pastor: We have thought on your steadfast love, O God,

**Congregation: In the midst of your temple.**

P: Great is the LORD and greatly to be praised in the city of our God!

**C: His holy mountain, beautiful in elevation, is the joy of all the earth,  
Mount Zion, in the far north, the city of the great King.**

P: Within her citadels God has made himself known as a fortress.

**C: As we have heard, so have we seen in the city of the LORD of hosts,  
in the city of our God, which God will establish forever.**

**All: Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning, is now, and will be forever. Amen.**

Pastor: We have thought on your steadfast love, O God,

**C: In the midst of your temple.**

### Collect of The Day

Almighty and ever-living God, as Your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in the substance of our flesh, grant that we may be presented to You with pure and clean hearts; through Jesus Christ, our Lord, who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

+ 1 Samuel 1:21-28+

(21) The man Elkanah and all his house went up to offer to the LORD the yearly sacrifice and to pay his vow.

(22) But Hannah did not go up, for she said to her husband, "As soon as the child is weaned, I will bring him, so that he may appear in the presence of the LORD and dwell there forever." (23) Elkanah her husband said to her, "Do what seems best to you; wait until you have weaned him; only, may the LORD establish his word." So the woman remained and nursed her son until she weaned him. (24) And when she had weaned him, she took him up with her, along with a three-year-old bull, an ephah of flour, and a skin of wine, and she brought him to the house of the LORD at Shiloh. And the child was young. (25) Then they slaughtered the bull, and they brought the child to Eli. (26) And she said, "Oh, my lord! As you live, my lord, I am the woman who was standing here in your presence, praying to the LORD. (27) For this child I prayed, and the LORD has granted me my petition that I made to him. (28) Therefore I have lent him to the LORD. As long as he lives, he is lent to the LORD." And he worshiped the LORD there.

**Gradual** (Psalm 48:1,8a,9)

Great is the LORD and greatly | to be praised\*

in the city of our God! His holy | mountain,

As we have heard, so | have we seen\*

in the city of the | LORD of hosts.

We have thought on your steadfast | love, O God,\*

in the midst of your | temple.

+ Hebrews 2:14-18+

(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.

**The Lutheran Confessions Reading:** The Formula of Concord, Epitome(1577) Art.VIII

P: *What is the pure teaching of the Christian Church about the Person of Christ?*

**C: 1. The divine and human natures in Christ are personally united. So there are not two Christs, one the Son of God and the other the Son of Man. But one and the same person is the Son of God and Son of Man** (Luke 1:35; Romans 9:5).

P: *2. We believe, teach, and confess that the divine and human natures are not mingled into one substance, nor is one changed into the other. Each keeps its own essential properties, which can never become the properties of the other nature.*

**C: 7. So we believe, teach, and confess that Mary conceived and bore not merely a man and no more, but God's true Son. Therefore, she also is rightly called and truly is "the mother of God."**

P: *8. We also believe, teach, and confess that it was not a mere man who suffered, died, was buried, descended to hell, rose from the dead, ascended into heaven, and was raised to God's majesty and almighty power for us. But it was a man whose human nature has such a profound <close>, indescribable union and communion with God's Son that it is one person with Him.9. God's Son truly suffered for us. However, He did so according to the attributes of the human nature, which He received into the unity of His divine person and made His own.*

**Verse (Luke 2:34b)**

P: Alleluia. Alleluia.

**C: Behold, this Child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel. Alleluia.**

+ Luke 2:22-40+

(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.