

# THE CATHEDRAL CHURCH OF ST. PAUL

Detroit, Michigan

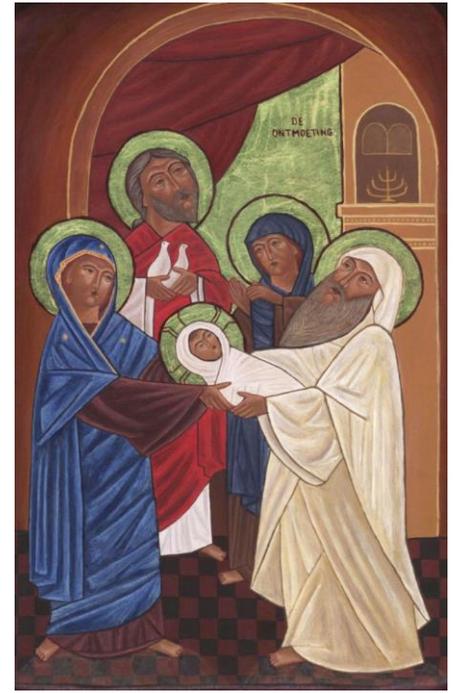
The Very Reverend Joseph Caldwell Alsay  
*Dean-Elect*

The Reverend Dr. Bonnie A. Perry  
*Eleventh Bishop of the Diocese of Michigan*

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February 1, 2026

The Presentation of Our Lord Jesus Christ  
Choral Evensong with Candlemas Procession, 4:00 p.m.  
*with the Schola Cantorum*



The **Feast of Presentation** is a Holy Day commemorating the presentation of Jesus at the Temple, based upon the account in the Gospel of Luke 2:22–40, which includes the canticle of Simeon, the *Nunc Dimittis*, praising Christ as a “light to lighten the nations.” This feast is also known as Candlemas, as it became custom for candles to be blessed at this service, these serving as a symbol of Jesus Christ, the Light of the World. The usual Invitatory at Evensong today is replaced by a Candlemas Procession, really a Service of Light.

**Choral Evensong** is an offering in song to God, the giver of all beauty and goodness. Based on services held daily in the medieval Church, Evensong as arranged in the Book of Common Prayer of the Anglican Church has been sung regularly since the sixteenth century, with only a few breaks (during the Commonwealth in the seventeenth century). This atmospheric and deeply personal form of worship appeals to persons of many faiths and has been adopted as an American tradition in many parishes and cathedrals of the Episcopal Church. In this service most of the music is sung by the Choir, and the Congregation participates by listening to, and meditating on the praises, prayers and petitions offered. All join the Choir in singing the Creed, the Lord’s Prayer, and heartily in singing the hymns.

After the introduction to the service (the Hymn and Preces), the Choir sings the appointed psalms. A lesson usually from the Old Testament (except of Saints days and in Easter season) follows. The Choir then sings the first of the traditional Evening Canticles, *Magnificat*, the song of the Blessed Virgin Mary when the promises of the Old Testament came true (Luke 1). A lesson from the New Testament proclaims the good news of Jesus Christ, and this is followed by the *Nunc Dimittis*, the song of the aged Simeon when he had seen our Lord in the Temple at Jerusalem (Luke 2). *Nunc Dimittis* is a particularly appropriate text at the end of one’s day.

All then sing the Apostles’ Creed, an expression of faith of those who, generation by generation in the Christian Church, respond to the Gospel of Jesus Christ, crucified and alive. Prayers are sung, ending with the Collects which collect our thoughts.

The timeless and simple liturgy of Evensong readily embraces musical expressions from many centuries. In Choral Evensong, the responses are drawn from the 1928 Book of Common Prayer, which remains the standard form of text for almost all musical settings of this liturgy owing to the unique beauty of its cadences and imagery.

**Next Sunday, February 8**

**Cathedral Evensong**

*sung by cantors and congregation*

Guest Preacher: The Very Rev’d Kathie Churchwell  
Dean, St. Paul’s Cathedral, Oklahoma City

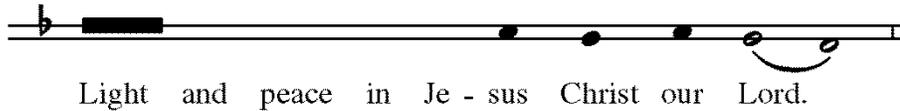
# CHORAL EVENSONG WITH CANDLEMAS PROCESSION

Organ

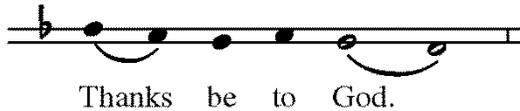
Tierce en taille (*from* Messe pour les paroisses)

François Couperin  
(1668-1733)

*The congregation gathers in the Nave with unlit tapers. The Officiant then begins*



*People*



*Light is then shared. The following antiphon is sung in alternation with the Cantor, as indicated.*

*Antiphon*



**L**ORD, you now have set your servant free to go in peace as you have promised. *Antiphon*  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, whom you have prepared for all the world to see. *Antiphon*

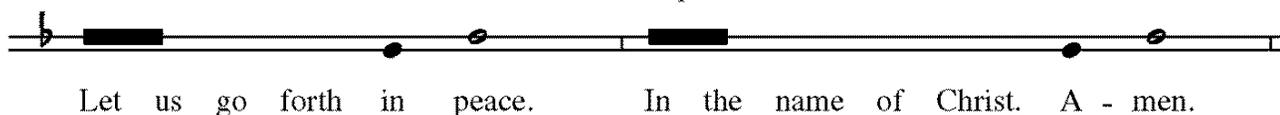
*The Officiant continues with the following prayer.*

Let us pray.

**O** God, the Creator, source of all light, today you revealed to the aged Simeon your light which enlightens the nations. Fill our hearts with the light of faith, that we who bear these candles may walk in the path of goodness, and come to the Light that shines for ever, through your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The Officiant continues*

*People*



As the Procession moves to the Great Choir, the following portion of Psalm 48 is sung, the Congregation singing the antiphon as indicated.

*Antiphon*

We have wait - ed on your lov - ing kind - ness,  
O Lord, in the midst of your tem - ple.

**G**REAT is the Lord, and highly to be praised; \* in the city of our God is his holy hill.  
2 Beautiful and lofty, the joy of all the earth, is the hill of Zion, \* the very center of the world and the city of the great King. *Antiphon*

10 Let Mount Zion be glad and cities of Judah rejoice, \* because of your judgements.

11 Make the circuit of Zion; walk round about her; \* count the number of her towers. *Antiphon*

12 Consider well her bulwarks; examine her strongholds; \* that you may tell those who come after.

13 This God is our God for ever and ever; \* he shall be our guide for evermore. *Antiphon*

*Officiant*

**A**LMIGHTY and everlasting God, who by Thy servant Moses didst command the purest oil to be prepared for lamps to burn continuously before Thee: vouchsafe to pour forth the grace of Thy blessing upon these candles: that they may so afford us light outwardly that by Thy gift, the gift of Thy Spirit may never be wanting inwardly to our minds, through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

*The Officiant continues*

**B**LESSED are you, O Lord our God, to you be praise and glory for ever. You are our light and our salvation, and we your children wait for your loving kindness in the midst of your temple. In your Christ, born of Mary, there has sprung up a light for the righteous, and joyful gladness for those who are faithful. As we, like Simeon and Anna, welcome him with joy, presented before us as light for all the world, may we be filled with his Spirit and made a living temple to the praise and glory of your holy Name. And, as we join our praises with theirs, grant us a quiet night and a perfect end. *Amen.*

*The Office lights and other candles are now lit and all sing*

**Phos hilaron**

*Morristown*

1 Light of the world, in grace and beau - ty, mir - ror of  
2 Now, as we see the lights of eve - ning, we raise our  
God's e - ter - nal face, trans - par - ent flame of love's free  
voice in hymns of praise; worth - y are you of end - less  
du - ty, you bring sal - va - tion to our race.  
bless - ing, sun of our night, lamp of our days.

*Words* paraphrase of *Phos hilaron*, Paul Gibson (b. 1952)

*Music* *Morristown*, George Emblom (b. 1962)

LIFT up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; \* and the King of glory shall come in.  
8 “Who is this King of glory?” \* “The LORD, strong and mighty, the LORD, mighty in battle.”  
9 Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; \* and the King of glory shall come in.  
10 “Who is he, this King of glory?” \* “The LORD of hosts, he is the King of glory.”

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.

*The People extinguish their candles and are seated.*

**The First Lesson**

Malachi 3:1-4

THUS says the Lord, 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. 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; 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. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days of old and as in former years.

*The Choir then sings*  
**Magnificat**

*Third Service, Philip Moore (b. 1943)*

MY SOUL doth magnify the Lord,  
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.  
For he hath regarded  
the lowliness of his handmaiden.  
For behold from henceforth  
all generations shall call me blessed.  
For he that is mighty hath magnified me,  
and holy is his Name.  
And his mercy is on them that fear him  
throughout all generations.  
He hath showed strength with his arm;  
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.  
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,  
and hath exalted the humble and meek.  
He hath filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he hath sent empty away.  
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,  
as he promised to our forefathers,  
Abraham and his seed for ever.

*Those who are able, please stand.*

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.

*Please be seated.*

The Second Lesson

Saint Luke 2:22-40

WHEN the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.” 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. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. 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, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 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 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” 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, 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. 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. When they had finished everything required by 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.

*The Choir then sings*

Nunc dimittis

*Third Service, Moore*

L ORD, 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,  
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles,  
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

*Those who are able, please stand.*

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.

*All sing together on one note*

The Apostles’ Creed

I BELIEVE in God, the Father almighty,  
maker of heaven and earth.  
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;  
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,  
born of the Virgin Mary,  
suffered under Pontius Pilate,  
was crucified, dead, and buried.  
He descended into hell.  
The third day he rose again from the dead  
He ascended into heaven,  
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.  
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.  
I believe in the Holy Ghost,  
the holy catholic Church,  
the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,  
the resurrection of the body,  
and the life everlasting. Amen.

*The Choir sings*

The Lesser Litany

*William Smith of Durham (c.1603-1645)*

V The Lord be with you.  
R And with thy spirit.  
V Let us pray.  
R Lord, have mercy upon us.  
Christ, have mercy upon us.  
Lord, have mercy upon us.

*All sing on one note*

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. Amen.

*The Choir sings*

The Responses

*Smith*

V O Lord, shew thy mercy upon us;  
R And grant us thy salvation.  
V O Lord, save the State;  
R And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.  
V Endue thy ministers with righteousness;  
R And make thy chosen people joyful.  
V O Lord, save thy people;  
R And bless thine inheritance.  
V Give peace in our time, O Lord;  
R Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.  
V O God, make clean our hearts within us;  
R And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

The Collects

*The Collect of the Day*

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, we humbly beseech thee that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts by the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

GOD, who in the work of creation didst command the light to shine out of darkness: we pray that the light of the glorious gospel of Christ may shine into the hearts of all thy people, dispelling the darkness of ignorance and hatred, and revealing to them the knowledge of thy glory in the face of Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

KEEP watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep this night, and give thine angels charge over those who sleep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for thy love's sake. *Amen.*

All sing  
Hymn 259

Hail to the Lord who comes

Old 120<sup>th</sup>

Please be seated.  
The Homily

The Very Reverend Joseph C. Alsay

The Choir sings  
Anthem

William Harris (1883-1973)

**B**EHOLD the tabernacle of God is with men, and the Spirit of God dwelleth within you, for the temple of God is holy. Which temple ye are, for the love of whom ye do this day celebrate the joys of the temple with a season of festivity. Alleluia.

Sarum antiphon

Please stand.

Officiant Let us bless the living God.

V He was born of the Virgin Mary,  
R **Revealed in his glory.**  
V Worshipped by angels,  
R **Proclaimed among the nations,**  
V Believed in throughout the world,  
R **Exalted to the highest heavens.**  
V Blessed be God, our strength and our salvation,  
R **Now and for ever. Amen.**

Please remain standing as the Procession leaves the Cathedral.

Organ

Herr Gott, nun schleuss den Himmel auf, BWV 617  
*Lord God, now unlock Your heaven*

J.S. Bach (1685-1750)

## IN THIS EVENING'S LITURGY

Officiant

The Very Reverend Joseph C. Alsay

Acolyte and Lector

Paula Styer

Technology

Alan Cooper

The Schola Cantorum is under the direction of Canon Jeremy David Tarrant, Organist and Choirmaster, and Edward Poston, Associate Organist and Communications Coordinator.

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You are cordially invited to the  
Celebration of New Ministry and Seating of  
The Reverend Joseph C. Alsay  
as the XI Dean of the Cathedral Church of St. Paul

**Saturday, the Seventh of February  
Two thousand and twenty-six  
Eleven o'clock**

The Cathedral Church of St. Paul  
4800 Woodward Avenue  
Detroit, Michigan

The Right Reverend Dr. Bonnie A. Perry, presiding

Gala reception immediately following the service.

Clergy to vest in alb and red stole

*Parking available in Cathedral Parking Lot on Cathedral Lane.  
Additional Parking Lot available on corner of Hancock St. and John R.*

**Diverse people    Daily relevance    Inspiring space**

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