

**St. Mark's Lutheran Church
The Presentation of Our Lord
February 2, 2025**

142 Market Street, Williamsport, PA 17701
stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org
Office (570-323-4619) Fax (570-323-2452)
Rev. Brian D. Vasey, Pastor
bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org



**Holy Communion (Setting One, LBW)
8 am and 10:30 am**

Please Note:

Hand sanitizer is available for your use. Offerings may be received by way of offering plates as you enter or leave.

Bold print indicates Congregation.

A GUIDE TO HYMNAL USE: Hymns are printed in the back of your bulletin and also in LBW, Green Book; WOV, Blue Book

****Please stand as you are able.***

INTRODUCTION TO TODAY'S WORSHIP

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. 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 the Son, Jesus, the light of the world.

PRELUDE

WELCOME/ANNOUNCING THE DAY/ANNOUNCEMENTS

***THANKSGIVING FOR BAPTISM**

All may make the sign of the cross, the sign that is marked at baptism.

In the name of the Father,
and of the † Son,

and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

Joined to Christ in the waters of holy baptism,
we are clothed with God's mercy and forgiveness.

Let us give thanks for the gift of baptism.

Water is poured into the font at this time

We give you thanks, O God,
for in the beginning your Spirit moved over the waters
and by your Word you created the world,
calling forth life in which you took delight.

Through the waters of the flood you delivered Noah and his family.
Through the sea you led your people from slavery into freedom.
At the river your Son was baptized by John and anointed with the Holy Spirit.
By water and your Word you claim us as daughters and sons,
making us heirs of your promise and servants of all.

We praise you for the gift of water that sustains life,
and above all we praise you for the gift of new life in Jesus Christ.
Shower us with your Spirit,
and renew our lives with your forgiveness, grace and love.

To you be given honor and praise
through Jesus Christ our Lord
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
now and forever.

Amen.

***HYMN God, Whose Almighty Word**

LBW, "Green", 400

***THE GREETING**

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

And also with you.

*HYMN OF PRAISE



♩ Glory to God in the highest, and peace to his peo - ple on earth.



♩ Lord God, heav - en - ly king, al - might - y God and Fa - ther:



We wor-ship you, we give you thanks, we praise you for your glo - ry.



Lord Je - sus Christ, on - ly Son of the Fa - ther, Lord God, Lamb of God:



You take a - way the sin of the world; have mer - cy on us.



You are seat - ed at the right hand of the Fa - ther; re - ceive our prayer.



For you a - lone are the Ho - ly One, you a - lone are the Lord,



you a - lone are the Most High, Je - sus Christ, with the Ho - ly Spir - it,



in the glo - ry of God the Fa - ther. A - men

*THE PRAYER OF THE DAY

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Let us pray. 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.**

THE FIRST READING.....Malachi 3:1-4

1 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. 2 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; 3 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. 4 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 word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM 84

1 How dear to me | is your dwelling,

O | LORD of hosts!

**2 My soul has a desire and longing for the courts | of the LORD;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the | living God.**

3 Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may | lay her young,

by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts, my king | and my God.

4 Happy are they who dwell | in your house!

They will always be | praising you.

5 Happy are the people whose strength | is in you,

whose hearts are set on the | pilgrims' way.

**6 Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a | place of springs,
for the early rains have covered it with | pools of water.**

7 They will climb from | height to height,

and the God of gods will be | seen in Zion.

8 LORD God of hosts, | hear my prayer;

give ear, O | God of Jacob.

9 Behold our defend- | er, O God;

and look upon the face of | your anointed.

10 For one day in your courts is better than a | thousand elsewhere.

**I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than dwell
in the tents | of the wicked.**

11 For the LORD God is both sun and shield, bestowing | grace and glory;
no good thing will the LORD withhold from those who walk | with integrity.

**12 O | LORD of hosts,
happy are they who put their | trust in you!**

THE SECOND READING.....Hebrews 2:14-18

14 Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. 16 For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. 17 Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. 18 Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

***THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION**

Al - le - lu - ia. Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the
words of e - ter - nal life. Al - le - lu - ia. Al - le - lu - ia.

***THE GOSPEL.....Luke 2:22-40**

Holy Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ according to St. Luke, the 2nd chapter.

Glo - ry to you, O Lord.

22 When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] 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”), 24 and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated 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; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. 27 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, 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

29 “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;

30 for my eyes have seen your salvation,

31 which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles

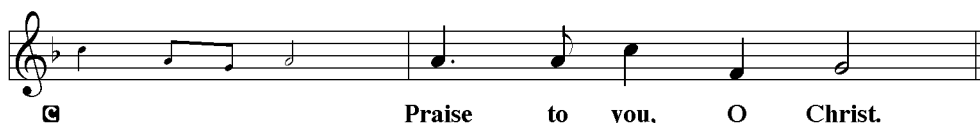
and for glory to your people Israel.”

33 And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 34 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 35 so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

36 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, 37 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. 38 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.

39 When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40 The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

The gospel of the Lord.



THE SERMON

*HYMN **How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds** **LBW, “Green”, 345**

THE BLESSING OF KEYS (10:30 AM)

Introduction (*Asking Levi Gair and family to come forward*)

Prayer

Litany

In the rapid succession of the changes in you, we see the emerging of the adult God created you to be. We rejoice in your courage and growth that brings you to possess a driver's license. Will you remember society's trust in you and use your license for the good of all?

Levi: I will, with God's help

Will you enjoy your freedom as a good gift of God through the community?

Levi: I will, with God's help.

Mom and dad, will you entrust anew Levi recognizing that with all new ventures there is risk and error in judgment?

Brenda and Ed: We will, with God's help.

Will you negotiate fair and appropriate boundaries in arranging for use of vehicles?

Levi and Parents: We will, with God's help.

Will you strive to glorify God in all “corners and turns of the road ahead”?

Levi and Parents: We will, with God's help.

Blessing (*The keys are presented to the pastor*)

Bless O Lord these keys that he who uses them will do so ever striving to do your will and secure the common good; through Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord.

ALL: AMEN.

Presenting the Keys

Parents: Levi, with great pleasure and pride we present you with these keys.

Dismissal

Go forth in peace. Christ is with you.

***THE APOSTLES' CREED**

Living together in trust and hope, we confess our faith.

**I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the virgin Mary.**

**He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.**

He descended into hell.

On the third day he rose again.

**He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.**

He will come again to judge the living and the dead.

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen**

***THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION:** *After each petition, “God of
grace/Receive our prayer”.*

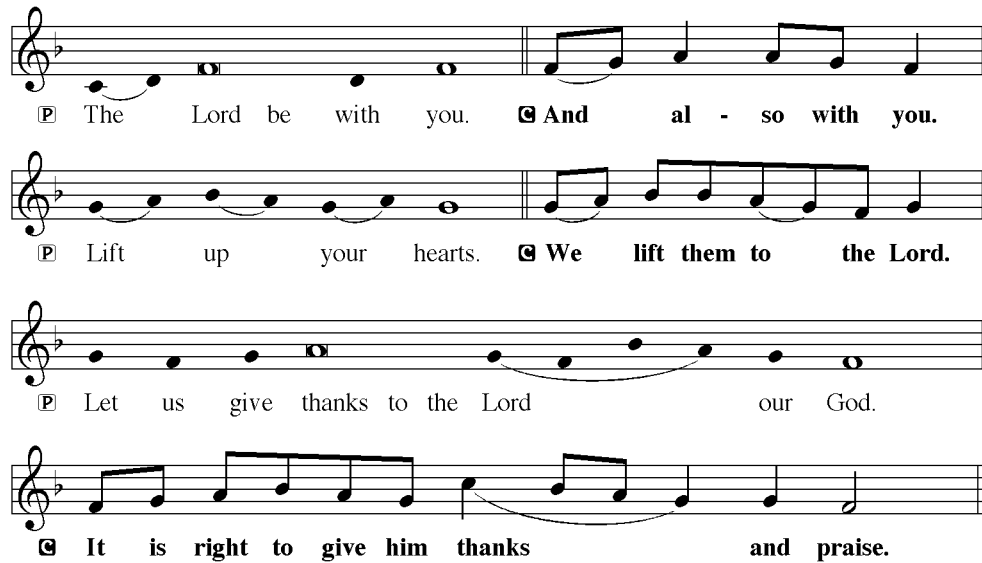
***THE PEACE**

The peace of the Lord be with you always.

And also with you.

All may greet one another with these or similar words and/or gestures of peace.

*THE GREAT THANKSGIVING



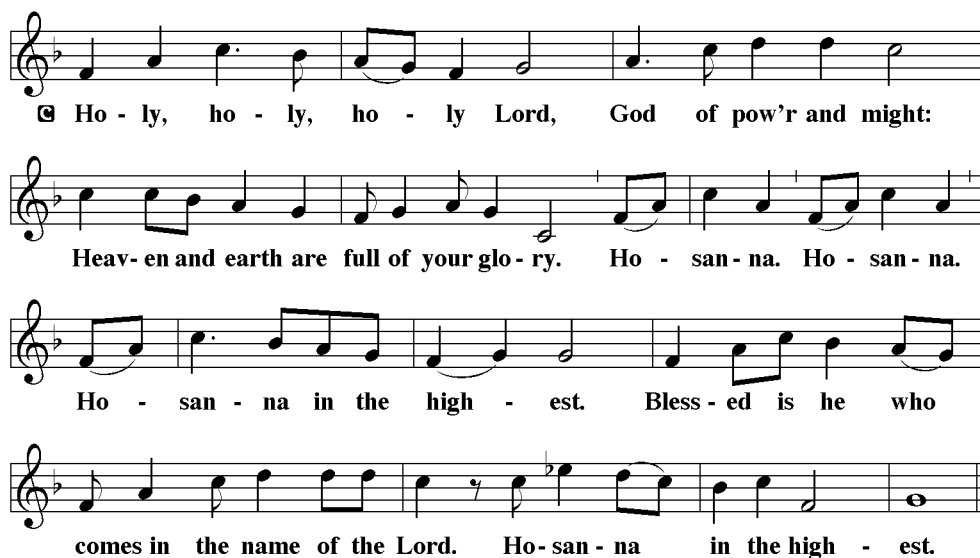
♩ The Lord be with you. ♪ And al - so with you.

♩ Lift up your hearts. ♪ We lift them to the Lord.

♩ Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

♪ It is right to give him thanks and praise.

It is indeed right and salutary that we should at all times and in all places offer thanks and praise to you, O Lord, holy Father, through Christ or Lord. Sharing our life, he lived among us to reveal your glory and love, that our darkness should give way to his own brilliant light. And so, with the church on earth and the hosts of heaven, we praise your name and join their unending hymn:



♪ Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow'r and might:

Heav-en and earth are full of your glo-ry. Ho - san - na. Ho - san - na.

Ho - san - na in the high - est. Bless - ed is he who

comes in the name of the Lord. Ho - san - na in the high - est.

Holy are you and blessed is your Son, Jesus Christ,
in whom you have revealed yourself, our light and our salvation.

In the night in which 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 for the 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 for the remembrance of me.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:
Christ has died. Christ is risen. Christ will come again.

With this bread and cup
We remember your Word
dwelling among us
full of grace and truth.
We remember our new birth
in his death and resurrection.
We look with hope for his coming.
Come, Lord Jesus.

Holy God,
we long for your Spirit.
Come among us.
Bless this meal.
May your Word take flesh in us.
Awaken your people.
Fill us with your light.
Bring the gift of peace on earth.
Come, Holy Spirit.

All praise and glory are yours,
Holy One of Israel,
Word of God incarnate,
Power of the Most High,
one God, now and forever.
Amen.

***OUR LORD'S PRAYER**

Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray,
Our Father, who are 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.

***LAMB OF GOD**

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

***INVITATION**

The joy of the Lord is our strength! Come and feast in the meal of gladness!
Thanks be to God!

All are welcome at the Lord's Table. Use the center aisle, pick up a small glass on the way. Receive the bread and then proceed to receive the wine by way of a pouring chalice. After communing return to your pew using a side aisle. Those not communing may come forward for a blessing.

Know that the crucified and risen Christ gives himself to you in his supper. If you cannot eat bread, drink only the wine. If you cannot drink wine, eat only the bread

***AFTER COMMUNION**

The body and blood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.

Amen.

***PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

Nourishing God,
at this table you have refreshed us
with holy gifts of food and drink.
Strengthen us for service,
and send us out to embody your good news
of liberation and healing for the sake of the world.
In the name of Christ we pray.

Amen.

***BLESSING**

The God of love,
Father, † Son, and Holy Spirit,
lavish you with grace,
illumine your path,
and increase your joy,
today and always.

Amen.

***HYMN My Master, See, the Time Has Come (Back of Bulletin)**

***DISMISSAL**

Go in peace. The Word of God dwells in you richly.

Thanks be to God.

THE POSTLUDE

+++++

OUR PRAYER LIST

Liz Ruesskamp, Grace Arner, Vanessa Morgan, Gary Clark, Charles Miller, Jerry Miller, Richard Ritter, Ashton Ott, Lucille Sider, Gary Cable, Elsie Sechler, Virginia Pulaskie, Bunny Ditchfield, Judy Fortin, Ezra Buckman, Sheila Brassard, Kevin Rosini, Kathy Eshelman, Micah, Deb Buckman, Linda Rosini, Walt Haussmann, Kristin Rehm, Yvonne and Gerry Myers, Ariel, John Bower, John Tartline, Carl Hieber, Donna Baker, Tom Waffenschmidt, George Poliska, California Wild Fire Victims and First Responders.

OUR STEWARDSHIP for January 26

Regular Offering	\$2,866.00
Plate Offerings	20.00
World Hunger	50.00
Food Pantry	50.00
Global Mission	50.00
Disaster Relief	100.00
Capital Fund	50.00
Flower Memorials/Tributes	106.00
Grand Total	\$3,292.00

ALTAR FLOWERS are given to the glory of God and in loving memory of Harold D. Hershberger, Jr., by the Jensen family; and in honor of our St. Mark’s Family.

WORSHIP LEADERS

February 2, 2025

Lector	8 am	Brian Jackson
	10:30 am	Karen Mariano
Communion Assistants	8 am	Drew Haussmann
	10:30 am	Matt and Wanda Fortin

given to the United Churches Food Pantry to help stock their shelves. Monetary donations (please mark checks with Souper Bowl) will be used to purchase grocery store gift cards.

Be part of this movement that is sharing God’s love with those in need. Please give generously on Super Bowl Sunday. A gift in any amount is greatly appreciated and truly makes a difference!

AN IDEA FOR A BIBLE STUDY:

Dear People of St. Mark's,

Many of you have expressed an interest in a bible study of the Book of Revelation. It would seem logical to undertake such a study during Advent, Lent or perhaps in Ordinary Time (late September/early October). However, the time period of those seasons would be so brief I don't think we could give to the Book of Revelation the serious study it deserves. Therefore, I am proposing the following. Would there be interest in setting aside a study of this New Testament Book of Prophecy during our Sunday School time (9:30 am, Sunday mornings) beginning March 2? Would “you” be interested? Would “you” attend? Please indicate your preference below and place it in the offering plate with your offering by Sunday, February 23.

+ Yours in Christ, Pastor Vasey

Name	Yes/No	I would attend

LOST & FOUND

We occasionally recover items lost or left behind in the church. There is now a lost & found box in the church office for you to retrieve any lost items. Please call the church office if you’re looking for something. 570-323-4619. Please leave a message if we aren’t available to answer your call.

PLEASE NOTE:

+When you or a family member are ill, have a crisis of faith, or have a personal concern of which you wish to make the pastor aware, please contact him directly by church office telephone (570-323-4619) email (bvasey@stmarkswilliamsport.org) or his cell phone (272-788-0161). Do not assume the pastor will know of your need any other way.

+ When you or a loved one has a change of address, telephone number or email, please contact the church office at 570-323-4619 or stmarks@stmarkswilliamsport.org. Please direct your intentions whether or not to share this information with our church family.

To keep members of the church update on new address, phone number, change in marital status or anything else that needs updated, you will see in the weekly bulletin and the “Lion”, updates on the information. If you have any information that needs to be updated, please send an email to jbaur@stmarkswilliamsport.org or call the church office at 570-323-4619, Tuesday through Friday 9 a.m.- 1 p.m. The office is working on an updated Church directory so please update any information ASAP to insure the directory is up to date.

COMMEMORATIONS

Presentation of Our Lord

Today, Sunday, February 2, 2025

Forty days after the birth of Jesus we mark the day Mary and Joseph presented him in the temple in accordance with Jewish law. There they were greeted by Simeon, an aged temple priest who offered the song "Lord, now you let your servant depart in peace," as well as by the prophet Anna, who spoke of the redemption of Israel.



Ansgar, Bishop of Hamburg, missionary to Denmark and Sweden, died 865

Monday, February 3, 2025

A monk who helped bring Christianity to Scandinavia, Ansgar returned to Germany where he was named Bishop of Hamburg. He is remembered for his love for poor people.

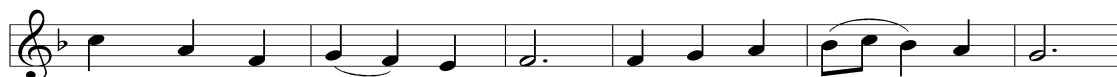
The Martyrs of Japan, died 1597

Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Christianity was brought to Japan in the sixteenth century by Jesuit and Franciscan missionaries. The religion was suppressed, however, and in 1597 twenty-six missionaries and converts were crucified. Nevertheless, Christianity survived and later prospered.



God, Whose Almighty Word



1 God, whose al - might - y word cha - os and dark - ness heard
2 Lord, who once came to bring, on your re - deem - ing wing,
3 Spir - it of truth and love, life - giv - ing, ho - ly dove,
4 Ho - ly and bless - ed three, glo - ri - ous Trin - i - ty,



and took their flight: hear us, we hum - bly pray, and where the
heal - ing and sight, health to the sick in mind, sight to the
speed forth your flight; move on the wa - ter's face bear - ing the
wis - dom, love, might! Bound - less as o - cean's tide, roll - ing in



gos - pel day sheds not its glo - rious ray,
in - ly blind: oh, now to hu - man - kind let there be light!
lamp of grace, and in earth's dark - est place
full - est pride, through the earth, far and wide,

Text: John Marriott, 1780–1825, alt.
Music: ITALIAN HYMN, Felice de Gardini, 1716–1796

How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds



1 How sweet the name of Je - sus sounds in
 2 It makes the wound - ed spir - it whole and
 3 Dear name! The rock on which I build, my
 4 By thee my prayers ac - cep - tance gain al -



a be - liev - er's ear! It soothes our sor - rows,
 calms the heart's un - rest; 'tis man - na to the
 shield and hid - ing place; my nev - er - fail - ing
 though with sin de - filed. The dev - il charg - es



heals our wounds, and drives a - way all fear.
 hun - gry soul and to the wea - ry, rest.
 trea - sury, filled with bound - less stores of grace.
 me in vain, and I am owned a child.

5 O Jesus, shepherd, guardian, friend,
 my prophet, priest, and king,
 my Lord, my life, my way, my end,
 accept the praise I bring.

6 How weak the effort of my heart,
 how cold my warmest thought;
 but when I see thee as thou art,
 I'll praise thee as I ought.

7 Till then I would thy love proclaim
 with every fleeting breath;
 and may the music of thy name
 refresh my soul in death!

Text: John Newton, 1725–1807, alt.

Music: ST. PETER, Alexander R. Reinagle, 1799–1877

Duplication in any form prohibited without permission or valid license from copyright administrator

My Master, See, the Time Has Come

My Master see the time has come to give your servant leave
to go in peace long waited for, your promise now fulfilled.

For I have seen salvation Lord. Now let the whole world see
that light which is your Israel's boast enlightening every land.

Tune: MORNING STAR CM

Words: Luke 2:29-32 (paraphrased)

++++
++++

Portions of this service are reprinted with permission from...
Lutheran Book of Worship (copyright, 1978)
Augsburg-Fortress Publishers (#2562-L).
Evangelical Lutheran Worship (copyright 2006)
Augsburg-Fortress Publishers, under license #2562-L.
sundayandseasons.com (copyright 2019), Augsburg-Fortress.
All rights reserved.
Augsburg-Fortress Liturgies Annual License #SB144818.
“One License” A-738528

++++