

# ST. THOMAS' EPISCOPAL CHURCH

ST. PETERSBURG, FL



## THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE

ALSO CALLED

THE PURIFICATION OF SAINT MARY THE VIRGIN

(COMMONLY CALLED CANDLEMAS)

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Holy Eucharist, Rite II

February 2, 2025

10:00 am

*“Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation...”*

~Luke 2: 29-30~

VOLUNTARY

“Cameo”

Samuel Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912)

### THE BLESSING OF THE CANDLES

*This ancient blessing, symbolic of Christ the True Light of the world, should take place immediately before the principal Mass on the Feast of the Purification. In many places it is customary to bless the year’s supply of candles together with the candles which are to be given to the people at this service.*

*Priest*            The Lord be with you.

*People*            **And also with you.**

*Priest*            Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who as on this day presented your only-begotten Son in your holy temple to be received in the arms of blessed Simeon: we humbly entreat your mercy, that you would vouchsafe to +bless, +hallow, and kindle with the light of you heavenly benediction these candles which we your servants desire to receive and to carry, lighted in honor of your holy Name. By offering them to you our Lord and God, may we be inflamed with the fire of thy love, and made worthy to be presented in the holy temple of your glory. Through the same Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns God, world without end. **Amen.**

*Then the celebrant, putting incense into the thurible and blessing it, will thrice sprinkle the candles with holy water saying once only,*

*Priest*            You shall purge me with hyssop, O Lord, and I shall be clean: you shall wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

*Then the celebrant censes the candles thrice. After which the congregational candles are lit and the following canticle is sung by the choir.*

NUNC DIMITTIS

“Nunc dimittis in D Minor”

Thomas Attwood Walmisley  
(1814-1856)

*Priest*            Let us pray.

We ask you, O Lord, mercifully to hear the prayers of your people: and grant that by this service which year by year we offer to you, we may attain in the light of your grace to the hidden things of your glory. Through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

**Welcome to St. Thomas'!**

*The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) is the red book. The Hymnal 1982 is the blue book.*

**THE GATHERING OF THE LORD'S PEOPLE**

*Coming together at the beginning of our week to celebrate this Feast Day,  
we ready ourselves to give thanks that our Lord Jesus Christ came among us as one of us.*

**HYMN 437**

"Tell out, my soul"

*Birmingham*

OPENING ACCLAMATION

**BCP 413**

*The People standing, the Bishop says*

*People* Blessed be God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.  
And blessed be his kingdom, now and for ever. Amen.

*Bishop* There is one Body and one Spirit;  
*People* There is one hope in God's call to us;  
*Bishop* One Lord, one Faith, one Baptism;  
*People* One God and Father of all.

*Bishop* The Lord be with you.  
*People* And also with you.  
*Bishop* Let us pray.

*The Bishop continues*

Dear friends, forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, as we now come to him for cleansing. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognized him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. In this Eucharist, we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching judgment, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion.

THE GLORIA

**S-280**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

*Bishop* The Lord be with you.  
*People* **And also with you.**  
*Bishop* Let us pray that we may know and share the light of Christ.

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty, whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh: grant that we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts, by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

## THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

*The Lord speaks to us in Scripture about how Jesus was brought to the Temple in Jerusalem to be dedicated to God and how the prophets Simeon and Anna received Him. We respond by affirming our faith in our Lord and by praying for ourselves and others.*

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF MALACHI

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.

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

PSALM 84 *Quam dilecta!*

C.H.H. Parry (1848-1918)



O how amiable | are thy | dwellings, \*  
thou | **LORD** | of | hosts!

My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the | courts • of the | LORD; \*  
my heart and my flesh re | joice • in the | living | God.

Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house \*  
and the swallow a nest where | she may • lay her | young; \*  
even thy altars, O LORD of hosts \* my | **King** | and my | God.

Blessed are they that | dwell in • thy | house; \*  
they will be | alway | praising | thee.

Blessed is the man whose | strength is • in | thee; \*  
in whose | **heart** | are thy | ways.

Who going through the vale of misery | use it • for a | well; \*  
and the | pools are | filled with | water.

They will go from | strength to | strength, \*  
and unto the God of gods appeareth every | one of | them in | Sion.

O LORD God of hosts | hear my | prayer; \*  
hearken, O | **God** | of | Jacob.

Behold, O | God • our de | fender, \*

and look upon the | face of | thine a | nointed.  
 For one | day in • thy | courts \*  
 is | better | than a | thousand.  
 I had rather be a door-keeper in the | house of • my | God, \*  
 than to dwell in the | **tents** | of un | godli-ness.  
 For the LORD God is a | light • and de | fence; \*  
 the LORD will give grace and worship;  
 and no good thing shall he withhold from them that | live a | godly | life.  
 O LORD | God of | hosts, \*  
 blessed is the man that | putteth • his | trust in | thee.

A READING FROM THE LETTER TO THE HEBREWS

Hebrews 2: 14-18

Since God's 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, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. 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. Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

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

**HYMN 435**

“At the name of Jesus every knee shall bow”

*King's Weston*

*The Bishop and People stand and herald the proclamation of the Gospel.*

*Deacon*           Today the Lord is presented in the Temple in substance of our mortal nature.  
*People*            **Alleluia!**

*Deacon*           Today the Blessed Virgin comes to be purified in accordance with the law.  
*People*            **Alleluia!**

*Deacon*           Today old Simeon proclaims Christ as the light of the nations and the glory of Israel.

*People*            **Alleluia!**

*Deacon*           The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to St. Luke.  
*People*            **Glory to you, Lord Christ.**

THE GOSPEL

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.

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

THE SERMON

The Right Rev. Douglas F. Scharf, D.D.

PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF THE CANDIDATES

**BCP 415**

The Candidates will now be presented.

*Presenters*        We present \_\_\_\_\_ for Confirmation.  
                          We present \_\_\_\_\_ to be received into this Communion.

*Bishop*            Do you reaffirm your renunciation of evil?

*Candidate*        **I do.**

*Bishop*            Do you renew your commitment to Jesus Christ?

*Candidate*        **I do, and with God's grace I will follow him as my Savior and Lord.**

*Bishop*            Will you who witness these vows do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ?

*People*            **We Will.**

*Bishop*            Let us join with those who are committing themselves to Christ and renew our own baptismal covenant.

THE BAPTISMAL COVENANT

*Please stand.*

*Bishop* Do you believe in God the Father?

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

*Bishop* Do you believe in Jesus Christ, the Son of God?

*People* **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 to the dead. 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.**

*Bishop* Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

*People* **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.**

*Bishop* Will you continue in the apostles' teaching and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in the prayers?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Bishop* Will you persevere in resisting evil, and, whenever you fall into sin, repent and return to the Lord?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Bishop* Will you proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Bishop* Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

*People* **I will, with God's help.**

*Bishop* Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

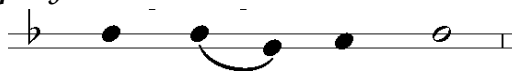
*People* **I will, with God's help.**

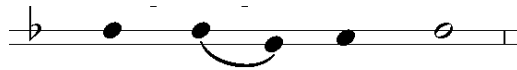
THE PRAYERS FOR THE CANDIDATES

*Bishop* Let us now pray for these persons who have renewed their commitment to Christ.

*Cantor* Deliver them, O Lord, from the way of sin and death.

*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**





*Cantor* Open their hearts to your grace and truth.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Cantor* Fill them with your holy and life-giving Spirit.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Cantor* Keep them in the faith and communion of your holy Church.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Cantor* Teach them to love others in the power of the Spirit.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Cantor* Send them into the world in witness to your love.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Cantor* Bring them to the fullness of your peace and glory.  
*People* **Lord, hear our prayer.**

*Bishop* Almighty God, we thank you that by the death and resurrection of your son Jesus Christ you have overcome sin and brought us to yourself, and that by the sealing of your Holy Spirit you have bound us to your service. Renew in these your servants the covenant you made with them at their Baptism. Send them forth in the power of the Spirit to perform the service you set before them; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

#### FOR CONFIRMATION

*Bishop* Defend, O Lord, your servant N. with your heavenly grace, that they may continue yours forever, and daily increase in your Holy Spirit more and more, until they come to your everlasting kingdom.

#### FOR RECEPTION

*Bishop* N., we recognize you as a member of the one holy catholic and apostolic Church, and we receive you into the fellowship of this Communion, God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, bless preserve, and keep you Amen.

*The Bishop concludes with this prayer*

Almighty and everliving God, let your fatherly hand ever be over these your servants; let your Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of your Word, that they may serve you in this life, and dwell with you in the life to come; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**



THE PEACE

BCP 360

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND WELCOME

*Please be seated.*

**THE LITURGY OF THE HOLY COMMUNION**

*Our risen Lord comes to us, the Light to enlighten all people, in His sacrifice banquet  
and we receive Him by the power of the Holy Spirit.*

OFFERTORY ANTHEM

“O Thou, the central orb”

Charles Wood (1866-1926)

THE PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

*Bishop* Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous; accept the gifts we bring before you and grant that Christ may shine in us to the praise and glory of your name.

*People* **Amen.**

✠ **The Great Thanksgiving** ✠

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER D

BCP 372

SANCTUS

S-114

THE LORD’S PRAYER

BCP 364

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

BCP 364

AGNUS DEI

S-158

COMMUNION ANTHEM

“Ave verum corpus, Op. 2 No. 1”

Edward Elgar (1857-1934)

**HYMN 692**

“I heard the voice of Jesus say”

*The Third Tune*

**THE SENDING OUT OF THE LORD’S PEOPLE**

*Nourished and strengthened by the Body and Blood of Christ,  
we go forth into the world bearing the light of Christ.*

THE POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

BCP 366

THE CANDLEMAS RESPONSORY

*Priest* Father, here we bring to an end our celebration of the Savior’s birth.

*People* **Help us, in whom he has been born, to live his life that has no end.**

*Priest* Here we have offered the Church’s sacrifice of praise.

*People* **Help us, who have received the bread of life, to be thankful for your gift.**

*Priest* Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.

*People* **Help us, who have found the Lord in his temple, to trust in your eternal promises.**

*Priest* Here we have greeted the light of the world.

*People* **Help us, who extinguish these candles, never to forsake the light of Christ.**

*Priest* Here we stand near the place of baptism.

*People* **Help us, who are marked with the cross, to share the Lord's death and resurrection.**

*Priest* Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion.

*People* **Help us, for whom Lent is near, to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.**

*Priest* Here we bless one another in your name.

*People* **Help us, who now go in peace, to shine with your light in the world. Thanks be to God. Amen.**

THE PONTIFICAL BLESSING

**S-173**

**HYMN 436**

"Lift up your heads, ye mighty gates"

*Truro*

VOLUNTARY

"Impromptu No. 1 Op. 78 No.1"

*S. Coleridge-Taylor (1875-1912)*

THE DISMISSAL

**BCP 366**

**Prayer List:** Geoff, Barbara, Carrie, Yvonne, Jo, Terry, Julia, John, Freddy, Kevin, Nancy, Rosalie, Anje, Joyce, Linda, Rick, Carol, Beverly, Mary and family, and all those adversely affected by hurricanes.

**Healing prayer:** Anyone wanting Healing prayer with the imposition of holy oil at the 10am service, is invited to come to the baptismal font after making your communion and receive a confidential healing prayer from a trained parishioner. Intercessory prayers for others can also be made.

*Thank you to those who are serving today:*

**Acolytes:** Luke Evanoff, Caroline Whitley, Dominic Nicolas, Daniel Nicolas.

**Altar Guild:** Diane Robinson, Pat Bernfeld.

**Bishop's Chaplain:** Russ Martin.

**Camera Operator/Digital Commentary:** Stuart Hine, Mike White.

**Cantor:** Jordan Markham.

**Coffee Host:** Liz Stiles.

**Flower Guild:** Marilyn Lanctot.

**Greeters:** Angie Ford, Diane Robinson.

**Healing:** Liz Stiles.

**Lay Eucharistic Minister:** Tom Shevlin.

**Lector Lectors:** Michael Mahoney, Laura Hine.

**Oblations:** Edy Nicolas, Cathy Zanbaka.

**Thurifer:** Colin Burkhart.

**Ushers:** George Burkhart, Bill Thomas.



# St. Thomas' Episcopal Church

1200 Snell Isle Blvd. NE, St. Petersburg, FL 33704, Church Telephone: 727-896-9641

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 7177, St. Petersburg, FL 33704

Rector's Cell: 727-685-9224 • Email: [office@stthomasstpete.org](mailto:office@stthomasstpete.org) • Website:

[www.stthomasstpete.org](http://www.stthomasstpete.org)

Facebook: [comeseestthomas](https://www.facebook.com/comeseestthomas)

The Right Rev. Douglas F. Scharf, D.D.  
*VI Bishop of the Diocese of Southwest Florida*

## Clergy and Staff

The Rev. Ryan R. Whitley, *Rector*

The Rev. Martha Goodwill, *Deacon*

Jordan Markham, *Organist and Choirmaster*

Russ Martin, *Parish Administrator*

Joe Master, *Director of Finance*

Jon Ward, *Sexton*

Angel Bickert, *Nursery*

Joan Groendal-Patterson, *Nursery*

## Vestry

*(Class of 2025)*

Mary Clark, *Senior Warden* • Wade Hamby, *Treasurer* • Kayla Mitchell

*(Class of 2026)*

Colin Burkhart, *Secretary* • Michael Labbee • Tom Shevlin, *Junior Warden*

*(Class of 2027)*

Tad Badger • Ed Lanctot • Kanika Tomalin



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### **Our Mission:**

Making a difference for others, because God is making a difference for us.

### **Our Vision:**

Making a difference for others, because God is making a difference for us.

