



123rd Annual Council of the Diocese of Southern Virginia
Williamsburg, Virginia
February 6-7, 2015

Friday Opening Worship

Feast of the Presentation

The people stand and sing Hymn 135: Songs of thankfulness and praise (tune *Salzburg*).

Songs of thankfulness and praise, Jesus, Lord, to thee we raise,
manifested by the star to the sages from afar;
branch of royal David's stem in thy birth at Bethlehem;
anthems be to thee addressed, God in us made manifest.

Manifest at Jordan's stream, Prophet, Priest, and King supreme;
and at Cana, wedding guest, in thy God-head manifest;
manifest in power divine, changing water into wine;
anthems be to thee addressed, God in us made manifest.

Manifest in making whole palsied limbs and fainting soul;
manifest in valiant fight, quelling all the devil's might;
manifest in gracious will, ever bringing good from ill;
anthems be to thee addressed, God in us made manifest.

Manifest on mountain height, shining in resplendent light,
where disciples filled with awe thy transfigured glory saw.
When from there thou led-dest them steadfast to Jerusalem,
cross and Easter Day attest God in us made manifest.

The Officiant then says

From the rising of the sun to its setting my Name shall be great among nations, and in every place incense shall be offered to my Name, and a pure offering; for my Name shall be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts. *Malachi 1: 11*

The Assembly is seated. Psalm 43 is prayed responsively whole verse.

Give judgment for me, O God, and defend my cause against an ungodly people*
deliver me from the deceitful and the wicked.

For you are the God of my strength; why have you put me from you?*
and why do I go so heavily while the enemy oppresses me?

Send out your light and your truth, that they may lead me,*
and bring me to your holy hill and to your dwelling;

That I may go to the altar of God, to the God of my joy and gladness;*
and on the harp I will give thanks to you, O God my God.

Why are you so full of heaviness, O my soul?*
and why are you so disquieted within me?

Put your trust in God;*
for I will yet give thanks to him, who is the help of my countenance,
and my God.

All say together

Glory 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

The assigned reader then says

A Reading from the Gospel of John

Then Jesus said to the Jews who had believed in him, “If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free.” They answered him, “We are descendants of Abraham and have never been slaves to anyone. What do you mean by saying, ‘You will be made free’?” Jesus answered them, “Very truly, I tell you, everyone who commits sin is a slave to sin. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household; the son has a place there forever. So if the Son makes you free, you will be free indeed.”

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

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

The people stand and pray together

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.

Officiant

O God, who wonderfully created, and yet more wonderfully restored, the dignity of human nature: Grant that we may share the divine life of him who humbled himself to share our humanity, your Son Jesus Christ; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Almighty and everliving God, source of all wisdom and understanding, be present with those who take counsel in the Diocese of Southern Virginia for the renewal and mission of your Church. Teach us in all things to seek first your honor. Guide us to perceive what is right; and grant us both the courage to pursue it and the grace to accomplish it; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

I invite your intercessions and thanksgivings.

The People offer their prayers. The Officiant then says

Almighty God, you have given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications to you; and you have promised through your well-beloved Son that when two or three are gathered in his Name you will be in the midst of them: Fulfill now, O Lord, our desires and petitions as may be best for us; granting us in this world knowledge of your truth, and in the age to come life everlasting. *Amen.*

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Council Opening Eucharist for the Feast of the Presentation

The text for this liturgy is located in a separate document.

Friday Closing Worship

Feast of the Presentation

The Assembly stands. The Officiant then says

Jesus said, “I am the light of the world; whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.” *John 8:12*

Let us confess our sins to God.

Officiant and People

Almighty God, our heavenly Father:
We have sinned against you,
through our own fault,
in thought, and word, and deed,
and in what we have left undone.
For the sake of your Son our Lord Jesus Christ,
forgive us all our offenses;
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life,
to the glory of your Name. Amen

The Bishop then says

Almighty God have mercy on you, ✠forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Assembly is seated and prays Psalm 87 in unison.

On the holy mountain stands the city he has founded; *
the LORD loves the gates of Zion
more than all the dwellings of Jacob.

Glorious things are spoken of you, *
O city of our God.

I count Egypt and Babylon among those who know me; *
behold Philistia, Tyre, and Ethiopia:
in Zion were they born.

Of Zion it shall be said, "Everyone was born in her, *
and the Most High himself shall sustain her."

The LORD will record as he enrolls the peoples, *
"These also were born there."

The singers and the dancers will say, *
"All my fresh springs are in you."

Glory 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.

The Assigned reader then says

A reading from the first letter of John

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Beloved, we are God's children now; what we will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is. And all who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure.

Everyone who commits sin is guilty of lawlessness; sin is lawlessness. You know that he was revealed to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. No one who abides in him sins; no one who sins has either seen him or known him. Little children, let no one deceive you. Everyone who does what is right is righteous, just as he is righteous. Everyone who commits sin is a child of the devil; for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The Son of God was revealed for this purpose, to destroy the works of the devil.

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

The Assembly stands and sings Hymn 499: The Song of Simeon (tune *Song 1*)

Lord God, you now have set your servant free,
To go in peace as promised in your word,
My eyes have seen the Savior, Christ the Lord,
Prepared by you for all the world to see,
To shine on nations trapped in darkest night,
The glory of your people, and their light.

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And also with you.

Officiant Let us pray.

The people stand and pray

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.

The Officiant and People then chant

That this evening may be holy, good, and peaceful,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That your holy angels may lead us in paths of peace and goodwill,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be pardoned and forgiven for our sins and offenses,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That there may be peace to your Church and to the whole world,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may depart this life in your faith and fear, and not be condemned before the great judgment seat of Christ,
We entreat you, O Lord.

That we may be bound together by your Holy Spirit in the communion of saints, entrusting one another and all our life to Christ,
We entreat you, O Lord.

The Officiant chants the following prayers and closing

Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

O God and Father of all, whom the whole heavens adore: Let the whole earth also worship you, all nations obey you, all tongues confess and bless you, and men and women everywhere love you and serve you in peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Officiant Glory to God whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, Glory to Him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus forever. *Amen.*

Saturday Opening Worship

Feast of Cornelius the Centurion

The Assembly stands.

Officiant ✠O God, make speed to save us.

People O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant and People

Glory 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.

The people sing Hymn 580: God, who stretched the spangled heavens (tune *Cameron*).

God, who stretched the spangled heavens, infinite in time and place,
flung the suns in burning radiance through the silent fields of space,
we your children, in your likeness, share inventive powers with you;
Great Creator, still creating, show us what we yet may do.

Proudly rise our modern cities, stately buildings, row on row;
yet their windows, blank, unfeeling, stare on canyoned streets below,
where the lonely drift unnoticed in the city's ebb and flow,
lost to purpose and their meaning, scarcely caring where they go.

We have ventured worlds undreamed of since the childhood of our race;
known the ecstasy of winging through untraveled realms of space;
probed the secrets of the atom, yielding unimagined power.
facing us with life's destruction or our most triumphant hour.

As each far horizon beckons, may it challenge us anew,
children of creative purpose, serving others, honoring you.
May our dreams prove rich with promise, each endeavor well begun:
Great Creator give us guidance till our goals and yours are one.

The Assembly is seated to pray Psalm 67

May God be merciful to us and bless us, *
show us the light of his countenance and come to us.

Let your ways be known upon earth, *
your saving health among all nations.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, *
for you judge the peoples with equity
and guide all the nations upon earth.

Let the peoples praise you, O God; *
let all the peoples praise you.

The earth has brought forth her increase; *
may God, our own God, give us his blessing.

May God give us his blessing, *
and may all the ends of the earth stand in awe of him.

Glory 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.

The lector then reads Acts 11:1-18.

A Reading from the Acts of the Apostles

Now the apostles and the believers who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also accepted the word of God. So when Peter went up to Jerusalem, the circumcised believers criticized him, saying, "Why did you go to uncircumcised men and eat with them?"

Then Peter began to explain it to them, step by step, saying, "I was in the city of Joppa praying, and in a trance I saw a vision. There was something like a large sheet coming down from heaven, being lowered by its four corners; and it came close to me. As I looked at it closely I saw four-footed animals, beasts of prey, reptiles, and birds of the air. I also heard a voice saying to me, 'Get up, Peter; kill and eat.' But I replied, 'By no means, Lord; for nothing profane or unclean has ever entered my mouth.' But a second time the voice answered from heaven, 'What God has made clean, you must not call profane.' This happened three times; then everything was pulled up again to heaven.

At that very moment three men, sent to me from Caesarea, arrived at the house where we were. The Spirit told me to go with them and not to make a distinction between them and us. These six brothers also accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. He told us how he had seen the angel standing in his house and saying, 'Send to Joppa and bring Simon, who is called Peter; he will give you a message by which you and your entire household will be saved.'

And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them just as it had upon us at the beginning. And I remembered the word of the Lord, how he had said, 'John baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' If then God gave them the same gift that he gave us when we believed in the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could hinder God?" When they heard this, they were silenced. And they praised God, saying, "Then God has given even to the Gentiles the repentance that leads to life."

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

The Assembly stands and prays

Officiant Lord, have mercy.
People Christ, have mercy.
Officiant Lord, have mercy.

Officiant and People

Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those
who sin against us.
Save us from the time of trial,
and deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours,
now and forever. Amen.

Officiant Lord, hear our prayer;
People And let our cry come to you.
Officiant Let us pray.

Heavenly Father, send your Holy Spirit into our hearts, to direct and rule us according to your will, to comfort us in all our afflictions, to defend us from all error, and to lead us into all truth; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Saturday Midday Worship

The Assembly stands.

Officiant ✠O God, make speed to save us.
People O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant and People

Glory 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.

The people sing Hymn 490: I want to walk as a child of the light (tune *Houston*)

- 1 I want to walk as a child of the light.
I want to follow Jesus.
God set the stars to give light to the world.
The star of my life is Jesus.

*In him there is no darkness at all.
The night and the day are both alike.
The Lamb is the light of the city of God.
Shine in my heart, Lord Jesus.*

- 2 I want to see the brightness of God.
I want to look at Jesus.
Clear sun of righteousness, shine on my path,
and show me the way to the Father.

Refrain

- 3 I'm looking for the coming of Christ.
I want to be with Jesus.
When we have run with patience the race,
we shall know the joy of Jesus.

Refrain

The Assembly is seated. The lector then reads Galatians 5:25-6:10.

A Reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians

If we live by the Spirit, let us also be guided by the Spirit. Let us not become conceited, competing against one another, envying one another. My friends, if anyone is detected in a transgression, you who have received the Spirit should restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness. Take care that you yourselves are not tempted. Bear one another's burdens, and in this way you will fulfill the law of Christ. For if those who are nothing think they are something, they deceive themselves. All must test their own work; then that work, rather than their neighbor's work, will become a cause for pride. For all must carry their own loads. Those who are taught the word must share in all good things with their teacher.

Do not be deceived; God is not mocked, for you reap whatever you sow. If you sow to your own flesh, you will reap corruption from the flesh; but if you sow to the Spirit, you will reap eternal life from the Spirit. So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up. So then, whenever we have an opportunity, let us work for the good of all, and especially for those of the family of faith.

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

The Assembly stands and prays

Officiant Lord, have mercy.
People Christ, have mercy.
Officiant Lord, have mercy.

Officiant and People

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.

Officiant Lord, hear our prayer;
People And let our cry come to you.
Officiant I invite your intercessions or thanksgivings.

The People offer their prayers.

The Officiant then says

Almighty Savior, who at noonday called your servant Saint Paul to be an apostle to the Gentiles: We pray you to illumine the world with the radiance of your glory, that all nations may come and worship you; for you live and reign for ever and ever. *Amen.*

Officiant Let us bless the Lord.
People Thanks be to God.

Saturday Closing Worship

The Assembly stands.

Officiant ✠O God, make speed to save us.
People O Lord, make haste to help us.

Officiant and People

Glory 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.

The people sing Hymn 542: Christ is the world's true Light (tune St. Joan).

Christ is the world's true Light, its Captain of salvation,
the Daystar clear and bright of every race and nation;
new life, new hope awakes, for all who own his sway:
freedom her bondage breaks, and night is turned to day.

In Christ all races meet, their ancient feuds forgetting,
the whole round world complete, from sunrise to its setting:
when Christ is throned as Lord all shall forsake their fear,
to ploughshare beat the sword, to pruning hook the spear.

One Lord, in one great Name unite us all who own you;
cast out our pride and shame that hinder to enthrone you;
the world has waited long, has travailed long in pain;
to heal its ancient wrong, come, Prince of Peace, and reign.

Officiant Lord, hear our prayer;
People And let our cry come to you.
Officiant Let us pray.

Lord Jesus Christ, you said to your apostles, "Peace I give to you; my peace I leave with you:" Regard not our sins, but the faith of your Church, and give to us the peace and unity of that heavenly city, where with the Father and the Holy Spirit you live and reign, now and forever. Amen.

Bishop Hollerith then offers his blessing

Bishop Our help is in the name of the Lord;
People The maker of heaven and earth.
Bishop Blessed be the Name of the Lord;
People From this time forth and for evermore.

Bishop

The blessing, mercy, and grace of God Almighty, the ✠ Father, the ✠ Son, and the ✠ Holy Spirit, be upon you, and remain with you for ever. *Amen.*

Officiant Let us go forth in the name of Christ.
People Thanks be to God.