

Douglas Union with Frankfield

THE EUCHARIST

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple
(Candlemas)



When Mary and Joseph presented their son to God, Simeon and Anna, representing all faithful Jews, recognized him as both Israel's Saviour and the one who would 'enlighten the Gentiles'. This festival is celebrated with lighted candles symbolizing Christ, the True Light. Held on or near 2nd February, it closes the Epiphany season, but the sombre words of Simeon hint at sufferings to come. We take one last look back to Christmas before we turn towards Lent and Holy Week.

The Gathering of God's People

Hymn 203 *When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day (Verses 1-4)*

The Lord be with you **and also with you.**

PENITENCE

Christ the light of the World has come to dispel the darkness of our hearts. In his light let us examine ourselves and confess our sins.

God be merciful to us and bless us, and make his face to shine on us.

Lord, have mercy, **Lord, have mercy.**

May your ways be known upon earth, your saving power to all nations.

Christ have mercy, **Christ have mercy.**

You, Lord, have made known your salvation, and reveal your justice in the sight of the nations.

Lord have mercy, **Lord have mercy.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent, have mercy on you,

pardon and deliver you from all your sins, confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,

and keep you in eternal life, through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and everliving God, clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the temple
in the substance of our mortal nature:

May we be presented to you with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Proclaiming and Receiving the Word

THE FIRST READING - MALACHI 3: 1-5

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.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

Hymn 52 *Christ, whose glory fills the skies*

THE GOSPEL READING

Hear the Gospel of our Saviour Christ, according to Luke chapter 2 beginning at verse 22

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

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 (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 turtle-doves 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 for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped 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 favour of God was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.**

THE SERMON

THE NICENE CREED

**We believe in one God, the Father, the Almighty,
maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.**

**We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God,
eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God, begotten, not made, of one Being with the Father.
Through him all things were made.**

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven,
was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate;
he suffered death and was buried.

On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures
he ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead,
and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life,
who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified,
who has spoken through the prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.

The Prayers of the People

Lord, our Father, we remember how Mary and Joseph brought the infant Jesus to the Temple to be presented to God. Even while our church buildings are closed, may we still know your presence with us in these challenging times. Help all who work to keep the worship of the church alive through online services. Bless Paul our Bishop and Adrian our Rector and our organists. Bless us all as we worship you in our homes, and pour your special blessing on our young people, that they may grow in faith. We pray for all who are persecuted today for their Christian faith; sustain them as they bear witness among hostile people, and save them from the powers of evil.

Christ, Light of the world, **shine upon us.**

We give you thanks for Simeon's good and holy life of faithful service. Guide all people who serve in positions of influence or power. We pray for our government and the new government in the United States and all governments. Help them to make their decisions responsibly, for the good of everybody. We pray for a good and fair distribution of the Covid vaccine both here and throughout the world. Encourage school pupils and students and their teachers. Help us all to continue to keep to the present social restrictions and to remember that they are for the good of everyone.

Christ, Light of the world, **shine upon us.**

We give you thanks for Anna's long and faithful life of prayer. We pray for all who, like her, suffer the distress of bereavement, old age or human frailty: especially we remember those in our parish who have been bereaved. We pray for all who are worried, ill, lonely or in poverty of any kind. Give your special grace to all who support others, healthcare workers, family carers and essential services of all kinds.

Christ, Light of the world, **shine upon us.**

Lord, your Christ is the one in whom faithful servants find their peace:

We remember those who have died. Sustain all who are near death. Have mercy on us who now turn towards Christ's passion.

Lord God, you kept faith with Simeon and Anna, and showed them the infant king.

Give us grace to put all our trust in your promises and the patience to wait for their fulfilment.

Through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

THE PEACE

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and of peace there shall be no end. The peace of the Lord be always with you **and also with you.**

Hymn 203 *When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day (Verses 8 & 9)*

Celebrating at the Lord's Table

THE TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

Christ our passover has been sacrificed for us **therefore let us celebrate the feast.**

THE GREAT THANKSGIVING

The Lord is here. **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts. **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God. **It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

Father, Lord of all creation, we praise you for your goodness and your love.

When we turned away you did not reject us.

You came to meet us in your Son, welcomed us as your children and prepared a table where we might feast with you.

In Christ you shared our life that we might live in him and he in us.

He opened wide his arms upon the cross and, with love stronger than death, he made the perfect sacrifice for sin.

Lord Jesus Christ, our redeemer,

on the night before you died you came to table with your friends.

Taking bread, you gave thanks, broke it and gave it to them saying,

Take, eat: this is my body which is given for you; do this in remembrance of me.

Lord Jesus, we bless you: you are the bread of life.

At the end of supper you took the cup of wine, gave thanks, and said,

Drink this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant,

which is shed for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins; do this in remembrance of me.

Lord Jesus, we bless you: you are the true vine.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ:

dying, you destroyed our death, rising, you restored our life; Lord Jesus, come in glory.

Holy Spirit, giver of life, come upon us now;

may this bread and wine be to us the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

**As we eat and drink these holy gifts make us, who know our need of grace,
one in Christ, our risen Lord.**

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, Blessed Trinity:

with your whole Church throughout the world we offer you this sacrifice of thanks and praise
and lift our voice to join the song of heaven, for ever praising you and saying:

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord, God of power and might.

Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest.

Thanks be to you, our God, for your gift beyond words. **Amen. Amen. Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

THE BREAKING OF THE BREAD

The bread which we break is a sharing in the body of Christ.

We being many are one body, for we all share in the one bread.

THE COMMUNION

The gifts of God for the people of God.

Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Spiritual Communion

Going Out as God's People

Hymn 203 *When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day (Verses 12 & 13)*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

**Almighty God, we thank you for feeding us with the spiritual food
of the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.**

Through him we offer you our souls and bodies to be a living sacrifice.

Send us out in the power of your Spirit to live and work to your praise and glory. Amen.

BLESSING

Christ, whose glory fill the skies, fill you with radiance and scatter the darkness from our path.

Amen.

Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, gladden your eyes and warm your heart. **Amen.**

Christ, the Dayspring from on high, draw near to guide your feet into the way of peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty...**Amen.**

DISMISSAL

Go in the light and peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**