

Candlemas

Holy Communion



*This child is the light to enlighten
the nations and the glory
of your people Israel*

Introduction to the Season



This day marks the completion of forty days since the birth of Jesus, when Mary and Joseph took the child to the Temple in Jerusalem.

The requirement in Levitical law was for Mary to be 'cleansed', the completion of her purification following the birth of a male child.

Until that day, she could touch no holy thing nor enter the sanctuary. Yet on seeing the holy family, Simeon praised God and acclaimed the infant as 'the light to enlighten the nations' and the prophet Anna gave thanks and proclaimed him her Redeemer. The image of Christ as the Light has led to the celebration of light countering darkness, with candles often taking a central place in the observance of this festival.

Welcome

P Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.

All **From the rising of the sun to its setting
your name is proclaimed in all the world.**

P Lord, 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.

All **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.**

P The Lord be with you

All **and also with you.**

The congregation light their candles

Blessing the Light

M Dear friends in Christ,
forty days ago we celebrated with joy the feast
of our Lord's nativity.
Today 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 judgement,
looking back to the day of his birth ~
and forward to the coming day of his passion.

All hold up their candles for blessing.

P Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light,
bless these candles †
and pour into the hearts of thy faithful people
the brilliance of thine eternal splendour,
that we, who by these kindled flames
light up this temple to thy glory,
may have the darkness of our souls dispelled,
and so be counted worthy to stand before thee
in that eternal temple where thou livest
and reignest, one God, now and for ever.
Amen.

Prayer of Preparation

All Almighty God,
to whom all hearts are open,
all desires known,
and from whom no secrets are hidden:
cleans the thoughts of our hearts
by the inspiration of your Holy Spirit,
that we may perfectly love you,
and worthily magnify your holy name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Act of Penitence

M The grace of God has dawned upon the world
through our Saviour Jesus Christ,
who sacrificed himself for us to purify a people as his own.

Let us confess our sins.

After a short silence,

M Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

M Christ, have mercy.

All Christ, have mercy.

M Lord, have mercy.

All Lord, have mercy.

P May the God of all healing and forgiveness draw you to himself,
that you may behold the glory of his Son,
the Word made flesh, and be cleansed from all your sins,
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

Gloria in Excelsis

All Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

The Collect

Silence is kept.

P 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.

All Amen.

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.

Hebrews 2.14-18

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he 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.

The reader may say.

R This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

R Alleluia, alleluia.

This child is the light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.

All Alleluia.

R Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke.

All Glory to you, O Lord.

Luke 2.22-40

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.

At the end.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

All Praise to you, O Christ.

Affirmation of Faith

M Let us declare our faith
in in the resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ.

All Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures;
he was buried; he was raised to life on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures;
afterwards he appeared to his followers,
and to all the apostles: this we have received,
and this we believe. Amen.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray to the Father through Christ our light and life.

Father, your Christ is acclaimed as the glory of Israel:
look in mercy on your Church, sharing his light ...

Lord, have mercy

All Lord, have mercy.

Father, your Christ in the Temple brings judgement on the world:
look in mercy on the nations who long for his justice ...

Lord, have mercy

All Lord, have mercy.

Father, your Christ, who was rich, for our sake became poor:
look in mercy on all who are in need and those who suffer with him

Lord, have mercy

All Lord, have mercy.

Father, your Christ is the one
in whom faithful servants find their peace:
look in mercy on the whole Church, which glories in your salvation
Lord, have mercy

All Lord, have mercy.

Father, your Christ is the one in whom
faithful servants find their peace:
look in mercy on the whole Church, which glories in your salvation
Lord, have mercy

All Lord, have mercy.

Father, your Christ is the one destined for rejection:
look in mercy on us as we turn towards his passion.
Lord, have mercy

All Lord, have mercy.

Almighty Father, you kept faith with Simeon and Anna,
and showed them the infant King.
Give us grace to trust your promises,
and patience to wait for their fulfilment;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All Amen.

The Peace

P In the tender mercy of our God
the dayspring from on high has broken upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death
and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you

All and also with you.

Preparation of the Table

P Lord, accept your people's gifts,
not gold, frankincense or myrrh,
but hearts and voices raised in praise
of Jesus Christ, our light and our salvation.

All Amen.

The president takes the bread and wine.

P Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous;
accept the offering of your Church
and grant that Christ may shine in us
to the praise and glory of your name.

All Amen.

Prayer B

The president says.

P The Lord be with you (or) The Lord is here.

All and also with you. His Spirit is with us.

P Lift up your hearts.

All We lift them to the Lord.

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

P It is indeed right and good,
always and everywhere to give you thanks and praise
through Jesus Christ, who is one with you from all eternity.
For on this day he appeared in the Temple
in substance of our flesh
to come near to us in judgement.

He searches the hearts of all your people
and brings to light the image of your splendour.
Your servant Simeon acclaimed him
as the light to lighten the nations,
while Anna spoke of him to all who looked for your redemption.
Destined for the falling and rising of many,
he was lifted high upon the cross
and a sword of sorrow pierced his mother's heart
when by his sacrifice he made our peace with you.
And now we rejoice and glorify your name
that we, too, have seen your salvation
and join with angels and archangels
in their unending hymn of praise:

***All* Holy, holy, holy Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.**

P Lord, you are holy indeed, the source of all holiness;
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit,
and according to your holy will,
these gifts of bread and wine may be to us
the body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ;
who, in the same night that he was betrayed,
took bread and gave you thanks;
he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me. †

... In the same way, after supper he took the cup and gave you thanks;
he gave it to them, saying:
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, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me. †

P Christ is the bread of life:

All **When we eat this bread and drink this cup,
we proclaim your death, Lord Jesus,
until you come in glory.**

P And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection
and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise
and thanksgiving, we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of [*N and*] all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;
by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

M Rejoicing in the presence of God here among us,
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

All **Our Father, who art in heaven,**
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
in 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,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.

Breaking of the Bread

The president breaks the consecrated bread.

P We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world..

All **God here among us,**
light in the midst of us,
bring us to light and life.

The Agnus Dei may be said or sung as the bread is broken.

All **Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**
Jesus, bearer of our sins, have mercy on us.
Jesus, redeemer of the world, grant us peace.

P Jesus is the Lamb of God
who takes away the sin of the world.
Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

All **Lord, I am not worthy to receive you,
but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

P Draw near with faith.
Receive the body of our Lord Jesus Christ
which he gave for you,
and his blood which he shed for you.
Eat and drink in remembrance that he died for you,
and feed on him in your hearts
by faith with thanksgiving.

After Communion

M Arise, shine; for your light has come,
and the glory of the Lord has risen upon you.

Isaiah 60.1

We have beheld his glory,
glory as of the only Son of the Father,
full of grace and truth.

John 1.14

P Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes
to bring us to eternal life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

All **Amen.**

All Father of all, we give you thanks and praise,
that when we were still far off
you met us in your Son and brought us home.
Dying and living, he declared your love,
gave us grace, and opened the gate of glory.
May we who share Christ's body live his risen life;
we who drink his cup bring life to others;
we whom the Spirit lights give light to the world.
Keep us firm in the hope you have set before us,
so we and all your children shall be free,
and the whole earth live to praise your name;
through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Final Blessing

P Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus,
who was wounded for our sins,
that you may bear in your life the love and joy and peace
which are the marks of Jesus in his disciples;
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

Dismissal

M Stay in peace. Proclaim the Word made flesh.

All Glory, thanks and praise to God.

Lower 
Wensleydale