

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 may be celebrated by processing 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.

The Gathering

THE GREETING

The Lord of glory be with you.
The Lord bless you.

In Jesus was life
and the life was the light of all people.

The light shines in the darkness
and the darkness did not overcome it.

The true light, which enlightens everyone
was coming into the world.

(John 1:4-5, 9)

Hymn : "King of Glory, King of Peace"

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PENITENCE

Jesus says, 'I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me will never walk in
darkness, but will have the light of life.'

(John 8:12)

Let us then examine our lives in his light and
confess our sins in penitence and faith.

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father,
we have sinned against you
and against our neighbour,
in thought and word and deed,**

The Liturgy of the Word

THE SCRIPTURE READINGS

From Malachi & Hebrews

(After the reading)

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

**through negligence, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We are truly sorry,**

and repent of all our sins.

**For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past,
and grant that we may serve you
in newness of life
to the glory of your name. Amen.**

May Almighty God have mercy on us,
forgive us our sins, and bring us to
everlasting life,
through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Let us pray ... (silent prayer)

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 forever.

Amen.

THE GOSPEL

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke

Glory to you, O Lord.

(After the reading)

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

Today the Lord is presented in the Temple in
substance of our mortal nature. **Alleluia!**
Today the Blessed Virgin comes to be
purified in accordance with the law. **Alleluia!**
Today old Simeon proclaims Christ as the
light of the nations and the glory of Israel.

Alleluia!

Praise to Christ, the Light of the world!

THE SERMON

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Do you believe and trust in God the Father,
source of all being and life, the one for whom
we exist?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son,
who took our human nature,
died for us and rose again?

We believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy
Spirit,

who gives life to the people of God
and makes Christ known in the world?

We believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith.

**We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

Hymn "A man there lived in Galilee"

The Prayers

INTERCESSIONS

Recalling how the infant Jesus was brought
to the Temple to be presented to God, we
pray for all who bring their children to church
for baptism, or dedication, or instruction ...
God our Father, bless the work of this
church among children and young people,
that they will grow in faith.

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

Giving thanks for Simeon's good and holy
life, we pray for all who serve Christ today:
for bishop N. and the work of this diocese ...
for all who teach and minister among us ...
for each other here, and the life of our
church ... Renew us all with the Holy Spirit.
Christ, Light of the world, **shine upon us.**

Giving thanks that Simeon recognized Jesus
as his Saviour, we pray for all who are
searching for God ... for those in enquirer
groups, confirmation classes or Bible study
groups ... Deepen our knowledge of the
faith.

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

Remembering Simeon's prophecy about the
opposition Jesus would face, 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.**

Giving 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 ... Grant to all in need, the
encouragement to keep going, and the
healing that they long for.

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

We remember those who have died ...
May light perpetual shine upon them.
Heavenly Father, grant all these prayers for
the sake of Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

A Poem is read for Reflection

**Now, Lord, you let your servant go in
peace: your word has been fulfilled.
My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of
every people;
a light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.**

CONCLUDING PRAYER

Now we turn from celebrating Christ's birth,
to confronting the darkness he came to
dispel.

**Let us follow him so that we never walk in
darkness, but have the light of life. Amen.**

We all say The Grace together