



St Stephen with St John  
Westminster  
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# *The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)*



St Stephen's Westminster



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## **Entrance Hymn**

In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
**Amen.**

## **The Greeting**

*The president greets the people*

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

## **Introduction**

*The president introduces the day's liturgy*

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. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognised 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 days of his passion.

*All sing* **Gloria in Excelsis**

**Glory be to God the Father,  
glory be to God the Son,  
glory be to God the Spirit,  
great Jehovah, Three in One!  
As it was, is now, and shall be  
while unending ages run.**

## **The Collect**

Let us pray that we may know and share the light of Christ.

*Silence is kept*

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***

**Reading:** *Malachi 3.1-5*

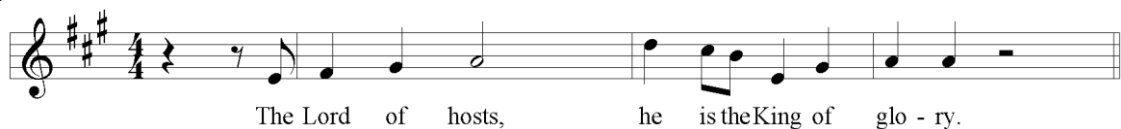
See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

### **Psalm 24**



**Response:** *The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.*

- 1 The earth is the Lord's and all that is / in it,  
the world and all who / dwell there- / in.
- 2 For it is he who founded it upon the / seas  
and made it firm upon the / rivers of the / deep. **R**
- 3 'Who can ascend the hill of the / Lord?  
and who can stand in his / holy / place?'

- 4 'Those who have clean hands and a / pure heart,  
who have not pledged themselves to falsehood,  
nor sworn by / what is a / fraud. **R**
- 5 They shall receive a blessing from the / Lord  
and a just reward from the God of / their sal-/vation.'
- 6 Such is the generation of those who / seek him,  
of those who seek your face, O / God of / Jacob. **R**
- 7 Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them up high,  
O everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in
- 8 'Who is this King of glory?' 'The Lord, strong and mighty,  
The Lord, mighty in battle **R**
- 9 Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them up high,  
O everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in
- 10 'Who is he, this King of glory?'  
'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.' **R**

**Second Reading:** *Hebrews 2: 14 - end*

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

**Gospel Reading:** *Luke 2: 22 - 40*

*When the Gospel is announced the reader says*

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

**Glory to you, O Lord.**

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.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

**The Sermon**

**The 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 from the Holy Spirit  
and 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.**

### **Prayers of Intercession**

*The response to the prayers is:*

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

*And at the end*

Merciful God,  
**accept these prayers for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ.  
Amen.**

### **Prayers of Penitence**

Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ:  
‘I am the light of the world.

Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness  
but shall have the light of life.'

Let us therefore bring our sins into his light  
and confess them in penitence and faith.

*cf John 8:12*

**Father eternal, giver of light and grace,  
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,  
in what we have thought,  
in what we have said and done,  
through ignorance, through weakness,  
through our own deliberate fault.  
We have wounded your love,  
and marred your image in us.  
We are sorry and ashamed,  
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 lead us out from darkness  
to walk as children of light. Amen.**

Almighty God,  
who forgives all who truly repent,  
have mercy upon you,  
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,  
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,  
and keep you in life eternal;  
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

### ***The Liturgy of the Sacrament***

#### **The Peace**

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 the shadow of death, and to guide our feet into the way of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**and also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

#### **Preparation of the Table and Taking of the Bread and Wine**

## Offertory Hymn

*The table is prepared and bread and wine are placed upon it*

***Offering is available online at CAF Donate, or please leave donations in the box by the North Door at the end of the service.***

## The Eucharistic Prayer

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

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

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

*At this point the Proper Preface is prayed*

...Evermore 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.**

**Blessed is he who comes  
in the name of the Lord.  
Hosanna in the highest.**

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:  
Christ is risen:  
Christ will come again.**

...for ever and ever. **Amen.**

## The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us.



**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,  
the power and the glory,  
for ever and ever. Amen.  
Breaking of the Bread**

*The president breaks the consecrated bread*

**We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.  
God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

*Agnus Dei is sung as the bread is broken*

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God,  
you take away the sin of the world,  
grant us peace.**

**Giving of Communion**

*The president says this or another invitation to communion*

**God's holy gifts for God's holy people.  
Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*The president and people receive communion*

### **Post Communion Prayer**

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.

### **Notices**

### **Candlemas Procession**

### **Nunc dimittis**

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.

### **Prayer**

*The president says*

Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light,  
pour into the hearts of your faithful people  
the brilliance of your eternal splendour,  
that we, who by these kindling flames  
light up this temple to your glory,  
may have the darkness of our souls dispelled,  
and so be counted worthy to stand before you  
in that eternal city where you live and reign,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

### **Renewal of Baptismal Vows**

In baptism, God calls us  
out of darkness into his marvellous light.  
To follow Christ means dying to sin  
and rising to new life with him.

Therefore I ask:

Do you turn to Christ?

**I turn to Christ.**

Do you repent of your sins?

**I repent of my sins.**

Do you renounce evil?

**I renounce evil.**

### **Final Hymn**

*During our hymn Holy Water is sprinkled on us to remind us of our baptism.*

### **Final Responsory**

Father, here we bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour's birth.

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

Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.

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

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.

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

Here we have greeted the light of the world.

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

Here we stand near the place of baptism.

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

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

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

Here we bless one another in your name.

**Help us, who now go in peace, to shine with your light in the world.**

*The Dismissal*

### **The Blessing**

*Priest blesses the people*

Go and carry the light of Christ.

**Let us shine with the light of your love.**

**Thanks be to God. Amen.**

### **Organ Voluntary**

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