



**A LITURGY FOR
CANDLEMAS**

**Sunday 31 January 2021
at 4.00pm**

Welcome

Welcome to York Minster and to this liturgy for Candlemas, the traditional name for the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

When Jesus is brought by his parents to the Temple to be presented according to the Law of Israel, his significance is recognized by Simeon and Anna. He is both 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel'. But the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering; the Incarnation is directed to the Passion; and Simeon's final words move our attention away from the celebration of Christmas and towards the mysteries of Easter.

While the Minster is still closed for public worship, we are sharing this service with those live-streaming from home. We are particularly pleased today that we are able to include the Choral Scholars and Songmen of the Minster Choir.

The setting of the Eucharist is the Mass for Four Voices by William Byrd.

The Preacher is the Archbishop of York.

The President of the Eucharist is the Dean of York.

Please join in saying together the words printed in bold type.

If you are joining us via the live stream, you might find this prayer helpful during Communion.

Act of Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament.

I love you above all things and I desire you in my soul.

Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,
come at least spiritually into my heart.

As though you were already there,

I embrace you and unite myself wholly to you;

permit not that I should ever be separated from you.

Amen.

The Gathering

Introduction

The choir sings:

Senex puerum portabat, puer autem senem regebat: quem Virgo peperit, et post partum virgo permansit, ipsum quem genuit adoravit.

The old man [Simeon] carried the boy, yet the boy was the old man's ruler. The virgin bore him and thereafter remained a virgin; him whom she bore, she also adored.

Words Magnificat antiphon for Candlemas, Latin rite

Music William Byrd (1539/40–1623)

The Archbishop welcomes the people:

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

Amen.

May the light and peace of Jesus Christ our Lord be with you.

The Lord bless you.

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. 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 days of his passion. We gather together under the light of Christ, a light to lighten all people, a light to bring hope from despair and joy from sorrow. Wherever you may be, welcome. May the light of Christ shine in your hearts that you may bring his light to others. You are invited at the beginning of this service, to light a candle as a symbol of the light of Christ which reaches into our hearts and our homes.

The Blessing of Light

Hymn

As the choir sings the hymn, candles are lit.

1. Of the Father's heart begotten
ere the world from chaos rose,
he is Alpha: from that fountain
all that is and hath been flows;
he is Omega, of all things
yet to come the mystic Close,
evermore and evermore.
2. He assumed this mortal body,
frail and feeble, doomed to die,
that the race from dust created
might not perish utterly,
which the dreadful Law had sentenced
in the depths of hell to lie,
evermore and evermore.
3. This is he, whom seer and sibyl
sang in ages long gone by;
this is he of old revealed
in the page of prophecy;
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
let the world his praises cry,
evermore and evermore.
4. Sing, ye heights of heav'n, his praises;
angels and archangels, sing!
Wherso'er ye be, ye faithful,
let your joyous anthems ring,
ev'ry tongue his name confessing,
countless voices answering,
evermore and evermore.

Words Prudentius (348–413) trans. R F Davis (1866–1937)

Tune DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, NEH 33, *Piae Cantiones* (1582)

The Archbishop says:

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

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

You make our darkness to be light.

For with you is the well of life
and in your light shall we see light.

Blessed be God for ever.

The Archbishop says this prayer of thanksgiving:

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.

We wait for your loving-kindness, O Lord,

in the midst of your temple.

Open to us the gates of righteousness,

that we may enter and give thanks to the Lord.

God is the Lord who has shown us light.

**Let us offer in his dwelling
an oblation with great gladness.**

Gloria in Excelsis

The choir sings:

Gloria in excelsis Deo, et in terra pax
hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te, adoramus te,
glorificamus te, gratias agimus tibi propter
magnam gloriam tuam.

Domine Deus, Rex coelestis, Deus
Pater omnipotens. Domine Fili unigenite,
Jesu Christe: Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,
Filius Patris, qui tollis peccata mundi,
miserere nobis, qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram. Qui sedes ad
dexteram Patris, miserere nobis.

Quoniam tu solus sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
tu solus altissimus, Jesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spiritu,
in gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

*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.*

Please remain standing.

The Collect

The President introduces a period of silent prayer with the words:

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

New Testament Reading

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

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.

HEBREWS 2.14-18

At the end of the reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel is heralded by music played on the organ.

The Deacon proclaims:

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!

Gospel Reading

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.

LUKE 2.22-40

After the Gospel the reader says:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

The organist plays a musical response to the Gospel reading.

Sermon

The Archbishop of York

The organist plays a musical response to the sermon.

Prayers of Intercession

Let us pray to the Father through Christ who is 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.

Christ, have mercy.

Father, your Christ in his temple brings judgement on the world:

Look in mercy on the nations, who long for his justice.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Father, your Christ, who was rich, for our sakes became poor:

Look in mercy on the needy, suffering with him.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

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

Look in mercy on the departed, that they may see your salvation.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Father, your Christ is revealed as the one destined to be rejected:

Look in mercy on us who now turn towards his passion.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

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.

Prayers of Penitence

A Minister says:

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.

**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.

The President says:

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

The President introduces 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.

*As the altar is prepared and the gifts of bread and wine are honoured with incense,
this anthem is sung.*

Hodie beata Virgo Maria puerum Jesum presentavit in templo,
Et Simeon, repletus Spiritu Sancto, accepit eum in ulnas suas,
et benedixit Deum in aeternum.

*Today the Blessed Virgin Mary presented the child Jesus in the temple
and Simeon, full of the Holy Spirit, took Him in his arms,
and blessed God for evermore.*

Words Magnificat antiphon for Candlemas, Latin rite
Music William Byrd (1539/40–1623)

Taking of the Bread and Wine

A prayer is said as the gifts are presented.

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous;
accept the gifts we bring before you
and grant that Christ may shine in us
to the praise and glory of your name.

Amen.

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.

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:

The choir sings:

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus,
Dominus Deus Sabaoth,
pleni sunt caeli et terra gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

*Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.*

Benedictus qui venit in nomine
Domini. Osanna in excelsis.

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

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his friends
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them 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, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.

Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.

Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Peter the Apostle, and all the saints,
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

A short silence is kept.

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 glory,
for ever and ever.
Amen.**

Breaking of the Bread

The President breaks the consecrated bread, saying:

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.**

Giving of Communion

The President says an 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 body and blood of Christ keep you in eternal life.

During the distribution of Communion the choir sings:

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: *Lamb of God, you take away the sin of
miserere nobis. the world, have mercy on us.*

Agnus Dei, qui tollis peccata mundi: *Lamb of God, you take away the sin of
dona nobis pacem. the world, grant us peace.*

Prayer after Communion

The President says:

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,
who did not die until they welcomed the Messiah:
may we, who have received these your gifts beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us eternal life;
for he is alive and reigns now and for ever.

Amen.

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.
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.

Words Luke 2.29–32 ♦ *Music* William Byrd (tone i)

The Dismissal

The Blessing

The Archbishop says:

Christ, whose glory fills the skies, fill you with radiance and scatter the darkness from your 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, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always. **Amen.**

The Dismissal

A Minister says:

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

Organ Voluntary

Fluorescence

Paul Patterson

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