

Holy Communion

CANDLEMAS

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple



Organ Music is played as we gather together.

Adagio from Widor's 5th symphony

The Gathering

Welcome

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

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

*Some words of welcome and introduction
are given by Fr Peter*

*If you have a candle available, feel free to
light it as a sign of God's presence among
us.*

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.

Gathering Hymn

**Hail to the Lord's Anointed,
great David's greater Son!
hail, in the time appointed,
his reign on earth begun!
He comes to break oppression,
to set the captive free,
to take away transgression,
and rule in equity.**

**He comes with succour speedy
to those who suffer wrong;
to help the poor and needy,
and bid the weak be strong;
to give them songs for sighing,
their darkness turn to light,
whose souls condemned and dying,
were precious in his sight.**

He shall come down like showers
upon the fruitful earth,
and love, joy, hope like flowers,
spring in his path to birth;
before him on the mountains
shall peace, the herald, go;
and righteousness in fountains
from hill to valley flow.

Kings shall bow down before him,
and gold and incense bring;
all nations shall adore him,
all praise his people sing:
to him shall prayer unceasing
and daily vows ascend;
his kingdom still increasing,
a kingdom without end.

O'er every foe victorious,
he on his throne shall rest;
from age to age more glorious,
all-blessing and all-blest;
the tide of time shall never
his covenant remove;
his name shall stand for ever,
his changeless name of love.

James Montgomery (1771-1854)

Gloria in Excelsis

**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

Almighty and everlasting 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

A Reading from the Epistle to the Hebrews
Chapter 2 verses 14-18

Since the children share flesh and blood,
Jesus 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 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.

*At the end of the Epistle the reader
says.....*

'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 also.'

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 years. 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 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



Sermon

Fr Peter

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 according to 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

This or another response is used:

Lord, in your mercy
Hear our prayer

Then at the end:

Merciful Father,
**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.
Who ever 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.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly
repent,
have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver
you from your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all
goodness, and keep you in life eternal.
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.

*We share the Peace using British Sign
Language, please join in at home!*

Offertory Hymn

Longing for light, we wait in the darkness.
Longing for truth, we turn to you.
Make us your own, your holy people,
light for the world to see.

Christ, be our light!

*Shine in our hearts. Shine through the
darkness*

Christ, be our light!

Shine in your Church gathered today.

Longing for peace, our world is troubled.
Longing for hope, many despair.
Your word alone has power to save us.
Make us your living voice.

Longing for food, many are hungry.
Longing for water, many still thirst.
Make us your bread, broken for others,
shared until all are fed.

Longing for shelter, many are homeless.
Longing for warmth, many are cold.
Make us your building, sheltering others,
walls made of living stones.

Many the gifts, many the people,
many the hearts that yearn to belong.
Let us be servants to one another,
making your kingdom come.

Bernadette Farrell (b 1957)

The Eucharistic Prayer

The Lord be with you
and also with you.

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

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Father, we give you thanks and praise
through your beloved Son Jesus Christ,
your living Word,
through whom you have created all
things; who was sent by you in your great
goodness to be our Saviour.

By the power of the Holy Spirit he took
flesh; as your Son, born of the blessed
Virgin,
he lived on earth and went about among
us; he opened wide his arms for us on the
cross;
he put an end to death by dying for us;
and revealed the resurrection by rising to
new life;
so he fulfilled your will and won for you a
holy people:

And now we give you thanks because, by
appearing the Temple, he comes near to
us in judgement;
the Word made flesh searches the hearts
of all your people and brings to light the
brightness of your splendour.

Therefore with angels and archangels, and
with all the company of heaven,
we proclaim your great and glorious
name, for ever praising you and singing:

Ho - ly, Ho - ly, Ho - ly Lord, God of po - wer and might.
Heav'n and earth are full of your glo - ry. Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na.
in the high - est. Bles - sed is he who comes in the name of the
Lord. Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na, Ho - san - na in the high - est.

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:



Christ has died: Christ is ri - sen: Christ will come a - gain.

Accept through him, our great high priest, this our sacrifice of thanks and praise, and as we eat and drink these holy gifts in the presence of your divine majesty, renew us by your Spirit, inspire us with your love and unite us in the body of your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, and with him, and in him, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, with all who stand before you in earth and heaven, we worship you, Father almighty, in songs of everlasting praise:



Bles - sing and ho - nour and



glo - ry and power be yours for e - ver and e - ver. A - men.

The Lord's Prayer

We raise our hands and pray together...

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your Kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the Kingdom, the power and the glory
are yours, now and forever.
Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

Agnus Dei

We remember that Jesus is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.



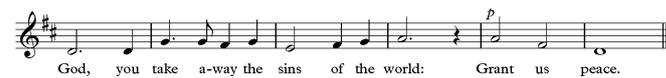
Lamb of God, you take a-way the



sins of the world: have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God, you



take a-way the sins of the world: have mer-cy on us. Lamb of



God, you take a-way the sins of the world: Grant us peace.

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.**

Communion

*Fr Peter and those present receive the
Sacrament*

*We are invited to share our own bread as
we give thanks to God for all his gifts.*

Prayer of Spiritual Communion

**Grant, O Lord, that as the hem of your
garment, touched in faith,
healed the woman who could not touch
your body,
so we, who cannot receive this bread and
wine,
may be healed by that same faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.**

The Blessing

The peace of God, which passes all
understanding, keep your hearts and
minds in the knowledge and love of God,
and of his Son Jesus Christ our Lord;
and the blessing of God Almighty, the
Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit †, be
among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

Sending Hymn

**Faithful vigil ended,
watching, waiting cease;**

**Master, grant your servant
his discharge in peace.**

**All the Spirit promised,
all the Father willed,
now these eyes behold it
perfectly fulfilled.**

**This your great deliverance
sets your people free;
Christ their light uplifted
all the nations see.**

**Christ, your people's glory!
Watching, doubting cease;
grant to us your servants
our discharge in peace.**

*Timothy Dudley-Smith (b 1926)
(Nunc Dimittis – The Song of Simeon)*

Notices

The Team notices are given out.

The Dismissal

Go in peace, to love and serve the Lord.
In the name of Christ. Amen.

*The service concludes with an organ
voluntary.*

Toccata from Widor's 5th Symphony.