

# The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

## (Candlemas)

### INTRODUCTION

INTROIT HYMN—**205** *New English Hymnal*

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

*All respond: Amen.*

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father  
and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.

**And also with you.**

*The priest introduces the Candlemas Liturgy.*

*The PRAYERS OF PENITENCE are introduced.*

**Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you, through our own fault, in thought, and word, and deed, and in what we have left undone. We are heartily sorry, and repent of all our sins. For your Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, forgive us all that is past; and grant that we may serve you in newness of life, to the glory of your name. 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.**

*KYRIE ELEÏSON is sung.*

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

*GLORIA IN EXCELSIS is sung.*

**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.**

*All remain standing for the COLLECT.*

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 lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

### LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING

*Mal 3:1-5*

A reading from the prophet Malachi.

Behold, I send my messenger, and he will prepare the way before me. And the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple; and the messenger of the covenant in whom you delight, behold, 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 sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and they will bring offerings in righteousness to the Lord. 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 a swift witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired worker in his wages, the widow and the fatherless, against those who thrust aside the sojourner, and do not fear me, says the Lord of hosts.

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

from Ps 24

℟. Let the Lord enter! He is the King of glory.  
(*All repeat*)

Lift up your heads, O gates;  
lift them high, O everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come in. ℟.

‘Who is this King of glory?’  
‘The Lord strong and mighty,  
the Lord who is mighty in battle.’ ℟.

Lift up your heads, O gates;  
lift them high, O everlasting doors;  
and the King of glory shall come in. ℟.

‘Who is this King of glory?’  
‘The Lord of hosts,  
he is the King of glory.’ ℟.

SECOND READING

Heb 2.14–18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because he himself has suffered when tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

This is the Word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

GRADUAL HYMN— **156**

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Lk 2.32

*Alleluia.*

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

GOSPEL READING

Lk 2.22–40

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

Hear the Gospel ✠ of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to Luke. **Glorify to you, O Lord.**

When the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said 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, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” And his father and his mother marvelled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favour of God was upon him.

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

A SERMON *may follow.*

*All stand to recite the* NICENE 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,**

*(all bow)* **was incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and was made man.**

*(all rise)* **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.**

*The INTERCESSIONS are introduced, and all kneel. One of these responses may be used:*

∇. Lord, hear us. ℞. **Lord, graciously hear us.**  
or ∇. Lord, in your mercy, ℞. **Hear our prayer.**

*At the Commemoration of the Departed:*

∇. Rest eternal ✠ grant unto them, O Lord;  
℞. **And let light perpetual shine upon them.**

*The Intercessions end:*

Merciful Father,

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

## LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

*All stand as the priest introduces the* PEACE.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

**And also with you.**

OFFERTORY HYMN— **55**

*The people unite their prayers with the priest, who says the* PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS.

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God, the almighty Father.

**May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands, for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his Church.**

Lord, may the offering which the Church makes with joy be pleasing to you, by whose will your only-begotten Son offered himself as a spotless Lamb for the life of the world; who lives and reigns for ever and ever. **Amen.**

EUCCHARISTIC 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 him thanks and praise.**

*The* PREFACE *follows.*

*All respond with the* SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS.

**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.**

All kneel. After the Consecration, all acclaim:

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died; Christ is risen;**

**Christ will come again.**

The Eucharistic Prayer continues, and ends:

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

## RITE OF COMMUNION

The priest introduces the LORD'S PRAYER.

**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.**

The priest breaks the Host; AGNUS DEI is sung.

**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.**

The priest gives the COMMUNION INVITATION.

Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.

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

Holy Communion is distributed.

## COMMUNION HYMN—44

The priest says the 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. **Amen.**

## CONCLUSION

The priest gives the BLESSING and DISMISSAL.

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

Bow your heads and pray for God's blessing.

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 among you, and remain with you always. **Amen.**

Go in the peace of Christ. **Thanks be to God.**

## RECESSIONAL HYMN—494

The service may be followed by the ANGELUS.

∇. The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary:

℟. **And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.**

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners, now,  
and at the hour of our death.**

∇. Behold the handmaid of the Lord:

℟. **Be it unto me according to thy word.**

Hail Mary ...

∇. And the Word was made flesh:

℟. **And dwelt among us.**

Hail Mary ...

∇. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God:

℟. **That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.**

Let us pray. Pour forth, we beseech you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts; that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ, your Son, was made known by the message of an angel, may by his Passion and Cross ✠ be brought to the glory of his Resurrection; through the same Christ our Lord. **Amen.**