

OFFERTORY *Diffusa est*

Full of grace are thy lips: because thy God hath blessed thee for ever and for evermore.

HYMN 157 *Hail to the Lord who comes*

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

O Lord, we beseech thee mercifully to hear our prayers : and that these gifts which we offer unto thy divine Majesty may be an acceptable offering in thy sight, do thou shew forth on us the succour of thy loving-kindness.

COMMUNION *Responsum*

It was revealed unto Simeon by the Holy Ghost that he should not see death until he had seen the Lord's Anointed.

HYMN 44 *Faithful vigil ended*

POSTCOMMUNION

Grant, we beseech thee, O Lord our God : that these holy mysteries, which thou hast given unto us for the assurance of our salvation, may, by the intercession of blessed Mary ever-Virgin, both in this life and in that which is to come, be profitable unto us for the healing of our souls.

"But here and now the Word which is implicit in the Beginning and in the End is become immediately explicit, and that which hitherto we could only passively fear as the incomprehensible I AM, henceforth we may actively love with comprehension that THOU ART. Wherefore, having seen Him, not in some prophetic vision of what might be, but with the eyes of our own weakness as to what actually is, we are bold to say that we have seen our salvation."

The Meditation of Simeon | For the Time Being | W. H. Auden

The original name of this festival is the *Hyppante* ('encounter') of our Lord Jesus Christ; the meeting of our Lord with Simeon in the Temple. Bl. John Henry Newman, remarking on the subject of the reverence due to the Blessed Virgin, wrote "we ... think of her with and for her Son, never separating her from Him, but using her name as a memorial of His great condescension in stooping from heaven and not 'abhorring the Virgin's womb'." (*Parochial and plain sermons*, 1868, vol. 2:136)

The name "Candlemas" is derived from the old practice of carrying lighted candles to Mass on this day, a reflection of the spiritual light of which Simeon spoke and in honour of the Virgin, the mother of the Light of the World.

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Founded in 1874, the Church of England in the Diocese of London

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

2 February



- ❖ *The people wait in the Narthex around Perpetual Succour.*
- ❖ *Candles are distributed and lit during the Nunc Dimittis - after they have been blessed.*
- ❖ *A hymn book is needed for the procession from the Narthex around church.*
- ❖ *They are lit for the Procession, for the Holy gospel and for the Eucharistic Prayer.*
- ❖ *After Mass, please leave your lit candle in a stand in front of Our Lady of Peace or St Joseph.*

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- ❖ *The Introductory Rite (which replaces the Penitential Rite) and Procession with the Propers of the Mass are set out below.*
 - ❖ *After the Procession the Order of Mass is provided in the green High Mass booklet.*
 - ❖ *The Ordinary is sung to Missa de Angelis*
 - ❖ *The Offertory Hymn is found in the New English Hymnal.*
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THE INTRODUCTORY RITE

Entrance Antiphons.

Open me the gates of righteousness : and I will enter and give thanks unto the Lord. *Ps 118.19*
Behold, our Lord shall come with mighty power : to bring light to the eyes of all who serve him, alleluia. *Isaiah 35: 4, 5*

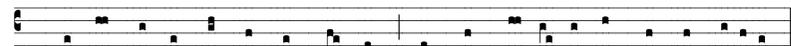
The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit.

Priest: Dear friends, forty days ago we celebrated the joyful feast of the birth of Our Lord Jesus Christ. Today we recall the holy day on which he was presented in the temple, fulfilling the law of Moses. Led by the spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the temple. They recognised Christ as their Lord, and proclaimed him with joy. United by the spirit, may we now go to the altar of God to meet the Lord, to recognise him in the breaking of bread until he comes in glory.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the source of all light, who upon this day didst reveal to Simeon the Light to enlighten the Gentiles: bless ✠ and sanctify, we beseech thee, these candles and make them holy. Mercifully grant that we who bear them in procession, to thy honour and glory, may walk in the paths of righteousness and come to share in the brightness of thine own everlasting glory, the same Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

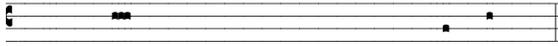
The Candles are sprinkled with holy water, censed, distributed and lit while the NUNC DIMITTIS is sung.



R/ A light to enlighten the nations : and the glory of thy people Israel

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace : according to thy word. **R/**
For mine eyes have seen thy salvation : which thou hast prepared before the face of all people. **R/**
To be a light to lighten the Gentiles : and to be the glory of thy people Israel. **R/**
Glory be to the Father and to the Son : and to the Holy Spirit. **R/**
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be : world without end. Amen. **R/**

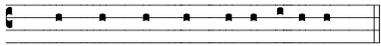
THE PROCESSION



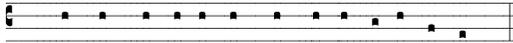
Deacon Let us go forth in peace to meet the Lord
R/ In the name of Christ. A-men

HYMN 33 *Of the Father's love begotten.*

The Procession concludes:



Thy light is come O Jerusalem



And the glory of the Lord is risen upon thee

Let us pray
O Lord Christ, who thyself art the temple of the heavenly city, and its light, and its surpassing splendour : Grant that we who in this earthly house do offer praise unto thee, may at length be brought with all thy saints to the vision of thine unending glory; who livest and reignest with the Father and the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. **Amen**

*Please extinguish your candle.
Candles are relit during the Alleluia for the Gospel & for the Eucharistic Prayer.*

SUNG MASS

INTROIT *Suscepimus*
We have waited, O God for thy loving kindness I the midst of thy temple: according to thy Name, O God, so is thy praise also unto the world's end; thy right hand is full of righteousness. *Ps.* Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised: in the city of our God, even upon his holy hill.

KYRIE ELIESON & GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *are sung*

The Lord be with you.
And with thy spirit

COLLECT
Almighty and everliving God, we humbly beseech thy Majesty : that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in substance of our flesh; so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts, by the same thy Son, Jesus Christ our Lord :

FIRST READING *Malachi 3.1-5*
Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts. But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: And he shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness. then shall the offering of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in

the days of old, and as in former years. And I will come near to you to judgment; and I will be a swift witness against the sorcerers, and against the adulterers, and against false swearers, and against those that oppress the hireling in his wages, the widow, and the fatherless, and that turn aside the stranger from his right, and fear not me, saith the Lord of hosts.

GRADUAL *Suscepimus*
We have waited, O God for thy loving kindness I the midst of thy temple: according to thy Name, O God, so is thy praise also unto the world's end. *Ps.* Like as we have heard so also have we seen, in the city of our God, even upon his holy hill.

EPISTLE *Hebrews 2.14-18*
Brethren: forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, Jesus also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. for verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. for in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Please relight your candle for the Gospel.
ALLELUIA *Senex Puerem*

The old man carried the child: but the child was the old man's king.

GOSPEL *St Luke 2.22-40*
At that time: When the days of Mary's purification, according to the law of Moses, were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord, as it is written in the law of the Lord: 'every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord: and to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.' And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said: '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: A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.' And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother: 'Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against, yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity. And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem. And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee to their own city Nazareth. And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

HOMILY
THE PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL *(The Creed is not recited)*