

 Saint Thomas's Church



The Presentation of Christ in the Temple, Giotto, 1305

The Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple

Commonly called Candlemas

Blessing of Candles
Procession and Solemn Eucharist



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THIS SPECIAL FEAST commemorates the presentation of the child Jesus in the temple in the rite of dedicating him to God. The temple is important in Luke's story of Jesus and the early church, and there is no shortage of Old Testament texts to join him in that affirmation of the temple as central in the life of God's people. Malachi pictures the awful day of the Lord's coming to the temple to cleanse and purify. The psalmist sings not only of the Lord's coming to the temple but also of the beauty and attractiveness of the temple for all those who trust in God. The text from Hebrews shifts the image, portraying Christ as the meeting place of the eternal and holy God, and the people who are but flesh and blood. In order to be for us a place to meet God, Christ, who came from God to be one of us, was made in every way like his brothers and sisters.

BLESSING

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will: And the blessing of God Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always.
Amen.

ANGELUS

V/ The Angel of the Lord brought tidings unto Mary
R/ *And she conceived by the Holy Ghost.*

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

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

V/ Behold the handmaid of the Lord;
R/ *Be it unto me according to thy word.*

V/ HAIL MARY, full of grace; the Lord is with thee;
blessèd art thou among women, and blessèd is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

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

V/ The Word was made flesh;
R / *And dwelt among us.*

V/ HAIL MARY, full of grace; the Lord is with thee;
blessèd art thou among women, and blessèd is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

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

V/ Pray for us, O holy Mother of God;
R / *That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

COLLECT

We beseech thee, O Lord, pour thy grace into our hearts; that as we have known the incarnation of thy Son Jesus Christ by the message of an angel, so by his cross + and passion we may be brought unto the glory of his resurrection; through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

V / The Divine assistance remain with us always.
R / *Amen.*

Please see the Hymn Sheet for the final hymn

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Merbecke

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 them that 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.*

After a short period of silence the Priest says:

THE PEACE of the Lord be always with you:

R / *And with thy spirit.*

All who intend to receive Communion then say together this prayer of humble access:

We do not presume to come to this thy Table, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, But in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy So much as to gather up the crumbs under thy Table. But thou art the same Lord, Whose property is always to have mercy: Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, So to eat the Flesh of thy dear Son Jesus Christ, And to drink his Blood, That our sinful bodies may be made clean by his Body, And our souls washed through his most precious Blood, And that we may evermore dwell in him, And he in us. *Amen.*

The consecrated Bread is broken and the choir sings

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sin of the world, grant us thy peace.

A hymn is sung during the distribution of holy Communion. Please see the Hymn Sheet.

POST-COMMUNION PRAYER

O Almighty God, who didst fulfil the hope of Simeon and Anna who did not die until they welcomed the Messiah. Grant that we who have received these thy gifts beyond words may prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us eternal life; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

THE BLESSING AND DISTRIBUTION OF CANDLES

Please see the Hymn Sheet for Mass Settings and other musical selections

Please Stand

THE BLESSING OF THE CANDLES

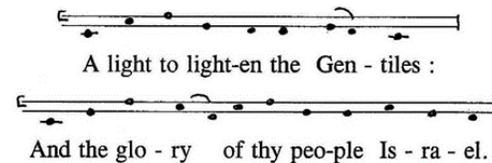
FORTY DAYS ago we celebrated the great festival of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today we recall that holy day on which Mary and Joseph brought him to the Temple where he was received and recognized by Simeon and Anna. In the Spirit, let us also welcome the Lord in his Word and Sacrament, and let us recognize him in the breaking of Bread until he comes again in glory.

Let us pray:

Almighty and everlasting God, who as on this day didst present thine only-begotten Son in thy holy temple to be received in the arms of blessed Simeon: we humbly entreat thy mercy, that thou wouldst vouchsafe to bless, hallow, and kindle with the light of thy heavenly benediction these candles which we thy servants desire to receive and carry, lighted in honour of thy holy Name. By offering them to thee our Lord and God, may we be inflamed with the fire of thy love, and made worthy to be presented in the holy temple of thy glory: Through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

During the distribution of candles Nunc Dimittis will be sung with its proper Antiphon repeated after each verse:

Choir sings:



Please see the Hymn Sheet for the Procession and other hymns

At the conclusion of the hymn, please extinguish your hand candles and kneel for Kyrie Eleison.

*KYRIE ELEISON : LORD, HAVE MERCY UPON US.
Christe Eleison : Christ, have mercy upon us.
Kyrie Eleison : Lord, have mercy upon us.*

Then shall be sung:

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS DEO
Missa de Angelis

Glory be to God on high, and in earth peace, good will towards men. We praise thee, we bless thee, we worship thee, we glorify thee, we give thanks to thee for thy great glory, O Lord God, heavenly King, God the Father Almighty.

*O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesu Christ; O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, that takest away the sin of the world, have mercy upon us. Thou that takest away the sin of the world, receive our prayer. Thou that sittest at the right hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us. For thou only art holy; thou only art the Lord; thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost, art most high in the glory of God the Father. **Amen.***

V / THE LORD be with you;
R / **And with thy spirit.**

Please remain standing for the Collect of the day:

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, who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. **Amen.**

Please kneel or be seated

Choir: HOLY, Holy, Holy, Lord God of hosts, Heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Glory be to thee, O Lord most High.

Blessèd is he that cometh in the Name of the Lord: Hosanna in the highest.

Blessing and glory and thanksgiving be unto three Almighty God, our heavenly Father, who of thy tender mercy didst give thine only Son Jesus Christ to take our nature upon him, and to suffer death upon the Cross for our redemption; who made there, by his one oblation of himself once offered, a full, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice, oblation, and satisfaction, for the sins of the whole world; and did institute, and in his holy Gospel command us to continue, a perpetual memorial of that his precious death, until his coming again.

Hear us, O merciful Father, we most humbly beseech thee; and grant that we receiving these thy creatures of bread and wine, according to thy Son our Saviour Jesus Christ's holy institution, in remembrance of his death and passion, may be partakers of his most blessed Body and Blood; who, in the same night that he was betrayed, took Bread; and, when he had given thanks, he brake 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. Likewise after supper he took the Cup; and, when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all, of this; for this is my Blood of the new Covenant, which is shed for you and for many for the remission of sins: Do this, as oft as ye shall drink it, in remembrance of me.

Wherefore, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, we thy humble servants, with all thy holy Church, remembering the precious death of thy beloved Son, his mighty resurrection, and glorious ascension, and looking for his coming again in glory, do make before thee, in this sacrament of the holy Bread of eternal life and the Cup of everlasting salvation, the memorial which he hath commanded; And we entirely desire thy fatherly goodness mercifully to accept this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving, most humbly beseeching thee to grant, that by the merits and death of thy Son Jesus Christ, and through faith in his blood, we and all thy whole Church may obtain remission of our sins, and all other benefits of his passion; And we pray that by the power of thy Holy Spirit, all we who are partakers of this holy Communion may be fulfilled with thy grace and heavenly benediction; through Jesus Christ our Lord, by whom and with whom, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, all honour and glory be unto thee, O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

INTERCESSIONS

Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men: We acknowledge and confess our manifold sins and wickedness, Which we from time to time most grievously have committed, By thought, word, and deed, Against thy Divine Majesty. We do earnestly repent, And are heartily sorry for these our misdoings. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father; For thy Son our Lord Jesus Christ's sake, Forgive us all that is past; And grant that we may ever hereafter Serve and please thee In newness of life, To the honour and glory of thy Name; Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

ALMIGHTY GOD, our heavenly Father, who of his great mercy hath promised forgiveness of sins to all them that with hearty repentance and true faith turn unto him: Have mercy upon you; pardon and deliver you from all your sins; confirm and strengthen you in all goodness; and bring you to everlasting life; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

SURSUM CORDA

V / The Lord be with you;
R / *And with thy spirit.*

V / Lift up your hearts;
R / *We lift them up unto the Lord.*

V / Let us give thanks unto our Lord God;
R / *It is meet and right so to do.*

All remain standing while the Celebrant sings the preface

It is very meet, right, and our bounden duty, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto thee, O Lord, Holy Father, Almighty, Everlasting God, Creator and Preserver of all things.

Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, thou hast caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of thy glory, in the face of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

Therefore with Angels and Archangels, and with all the company of heaven, we laud and magnify thy glorious Name; evermore praising thee and saying:

LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING: Malachi 3.1-4

Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, who ye seek, shall suddenly come to this 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 offerings of Judah and Jerusalem be pleasant unto the Lord, as in the days of old, and as in former years.

The word of the Lord
R / *Thanks be to God*

SEQUENCE HYMN #823 – From east to west

From east to west, from shore to shore,
Let ev'ry heart awake and sing
The Holy Child whom Mary bore,
The Christ, the everlasting King
Behold! the world's Creator wears
The form and fashion of a slave;
Our very flesh our Maker shares,
His fallen creature, man to man, to save.

For this how wondrously he wrought!
A maiden, in her lowly place,
Became, in ways beyond all thought,
The chosen vessel of his grace.

She bowed her to the angel's word
Declaring what the Father willed,
And suddenly the promised Lord
That pure and hallowed temple filled.

All glory for this blessed morn
To God the Father ever be;
All praise to thee, O Virgin-born,
All praise, O Holy Ghost, to thee. Alleluia.

GOSPEL: Luke 2.22-40

When the gospel is announced, all respond:

R / *Glory be to thee, O Lord*

And when the days of her 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 Spirit was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Spirit, 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 Asher; 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.

The Gospel of Christ

R / *Praise be to thee, O Christ*

NICENE CREED

Missa de Angelis

I believe in one God the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, And of all things visible and invisible, And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, Begotten of the Father before all worlds; God, of God; Light, of Light; Very God, of very God; Begotten, not made; Being of one substance with the Father; Through whom all things were made: Who for us men and for our salvation came down from heaven, And was incarnate by the Holy Ghost of the Virgin Mary, And was made man, And was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate. He suffered and was buried, And the third day he rose again according to the Scriptures, And ascended into heaven, And sitteth on the right hand of the Father. And he shall come again with glory to judge both the quick and the dead: Whose kingdom shall have no end.

And I believe in the Holy Ghost, The Lord, The Giver of Life, Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son, Who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified, Who spake by the Prophets. And I believe One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic Church. I acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins. And I look for the Resurrection of the dead, And the Life of the world to come. *Amen.*

Please be seated

HOMILY

OFFERTORY SENTENCE

Please see the hymn sheet.

PRAYER OVER GIFTS

ALMIGHTY GOD, accept the joyful offering of thy Church, and grant that thy Son may shine in us as the light that lightens every nation. We ask this in the name of the same Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*