



The season of Epiphany concludes with the Feast of the Presentation (Candlemas). The child who has been manifested to the magi at his birth is now recognised by Simeon and Anna, when he comes to be presented in the Temple according to the Law of Israel. 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.

# ORDER OF SERVICE

*The people are welcomed and the first hymn is announced.*

**Opening Hymn**

## **INTRODUCTION**

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

Priest                    The Lord of glory be with you  
**All**                         **The Lord bless you.**

Priest                    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.

## Gloria in Excelsis

**All**                    **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

*The Priest introduces a period of silent prayer with the words 'Let us pray'.*

**Priest**                    **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.**

**All**                    **Amen.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

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## Old Testament Reading

*At the end*

Reader  
**All** This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

## New Testament Reading

*At the end*

Reader  
**All** This is the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

## Gospel Reading

Reader  
**All** Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to *N.*  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

*At the end*

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

**Sermon**

**All 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  
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.**

## Prayers of Intercession

Priest 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.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

Priest 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.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

Priest Father, your Christ, who was rich,  
for our sakes became poor:  
look in mercy on the needy, suffering with him.  
Lord, have mercy.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

Priest 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.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

Priest 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.

**All Christ, have mercy.**

Priest 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.

**All Amen.**

## Prayers of Penitence

Priest 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.

*Cf John 8:12*

**All** **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.**

Priest 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.

**All** **Amen.**

# THE LITURGY OF THE SACRAMENT

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## The Peace

Priest            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.  
*cf Isaiah 9:7*

Priest            The peace of the Lord be always with you  
**All**                **and also with you.**

Priest            Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*All may exchange a sign of peace.*

## Preparation of the Table

Priest            Lord, 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.  
**All**                **Amen.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

Priest            The Lord be with you  
**All**                **and also with you.**

Priest            Lift up your hearts.  
**All**                **We lift them to the Lord.**

Priest            Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.  
**All**                **It is right to give thanks and praise.**

Priest            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:

**All**                **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.**

Priest

Accept our praises, heavenly Father,  
through your Son our Saviour Jesus Christ,  
and as we follow his example and obey his command,  
grant that by the power of your Holy Spirit  
these gifts of bread and wine  
may be to us his body and his blood;

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.

Therefore, heavenly Father,  
we remember his offering of himself  
made once for all upon the cross;  
we proclaim his mighty resurrection  
and glorious ascension;  
we look for the coming of your kingdom,  
and with this bread and this cup  
we make the memorial of Christ your Son our Lord.

**All**

Great is the mystery of faith:  
**Christ has died;**  
**Christ is risen;**  
**Christ will come again.**

Priest                    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:

**All                    Blessing and honour and glory and power  
be yours for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Priest                    Believing the promises of God,  
let us pray with confidence as our Saviour taught us:

**All                    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.**

## Breaking of the Bread

*The priest breaks the consecrated bread.*

Priest            We break the bread of life,  
and that life is the light of the world.

**All                God here among us,  
light in the midst of us,  
bring us to light and life.**

**All                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.**

## Giving of Communion

Priest            God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**All                Jesus Christ is holy,  
Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father.**

*The priest and people receive communion.*

## Prayers after Communion

*The priest will say the post communion prayer.*

Priest 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.

**All Amen.**

## The Blessing

Priest Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
fill you with radiance  
and scatter the darkness from your path.

**All Amen.**

Priest Christ, the Sun of Righteousness,  
gladden your eyes and warm your heart.

**All Amen.**

Priest Christ, the Dayspring from on high,  
draw near to guide your feet into the way of peace.

**All Amen.**

Priest And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
be among you and remain with you always.

**All Amen.**

## Closing Hymn

## The Dismissal

Priest Go in the light and peace of Christ.

**All Thanks be to God. Amen**

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