

The Gathering

HYMN

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

Amen.

The Lord of glory be with you

The Lord bless you.

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 today we 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.

PRAYERS OF PENITENCE

The President or Sub Deacon says

Let us prepare to celebrate this Feast by confessing our sins.

Jesus says,

“I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.”

We bring our secret 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 all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

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.**

COLLECT

Almighty and everliving 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

READINGS

Sit for either one or two readings after each we say

This is the word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

A canticle, psalm or anthem may follow the first reading.

HYMN

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia. Alleluia

Today the Lord is presented in the Temple in substance of our mortal nature. Today the Blessed Virgin comes to be purified in accordance with the law. Today old Simeon proclaims Christ as the light of the nations and the glory of Israel.
Alleluia.

GOSPEL READING

When the Gospel is announced the reader says:

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to.....
Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end:

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

SERMON

Sit

THE CREED

Stand

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, source of being and life, the one by whom we exist?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Son, who took our human nature, died for us and rose again?

I believe and trust in him.

Do you believe and trust in God the Holy Spirit, who gives life to the people of God and makes Christ known to the world?

I believe and trust in him.

This is the faith of the Church.

**This is our faith,
We believe and trust in one God,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Kneel or sit

Let us pray to the Father through Christ who is our Light and our Life.

Father, your Christ is acclaimed as the glory of Israel:
Look in mercy on your Church, sharing his light.

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy

Father, your Christ in his temple brings judgement on the world:

Look with mercy on the nations, who long for his justice. Especially we pray for....

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

Father, your Christ, who was rich, for our sakes
became poor:

Look in mercy on the needy, suffering with him.

Especially we pray for....

Lord have mercy

Christ have mercy.

Father, your Christ is the one in whom faithful
servants find their peace:

Look in mercy on the departed who see your
salvation. Especially we pray for....

Lord have mercy.

Christ have mercy.

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.

Christ have mercy.

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 their fulfilment;

through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

THE PEACE

Stand

In the tender compassion of our God
the dawn from on high has broken upon us,
to shine on 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.

PREPARATION OF THE TABLE

TAKING OF THE BREAD AND WINE

HYMN

The gifts of the people are gathered and presented.

The table is prepared and bread and wine placed upon it.

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.

Amen

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness
we have this bread to set before you,
which earth has given and human hands have made.
It will become for us the bread of life.

Blessed be God for ever.

Blessed are you, Lord God of all creation:
through your goodness
we have this wine to set before you,
fruit of the vine and work of human hands.
It will become for us the cup of salvation.

Blessed be God for ever.

EUCCHARISTIC PRAYER

Kneel or sit

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 thanks and praise.

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:

**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.**

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.

The President or Sub Deacon says

Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

And so, Father, calling to mind his death on the cross,
his perfect sacrifice made once for the sins of the whole world;
rejoicing in his mighty resurrection and glorious ascension,
and looking for his coming in glory,
we celebrate this memorial of our redemption.
As we offer you this our sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving,
we bring before you this bread and this cup
and we thank you for counting us worthy
to stand in your presence and serve you.

Send the Holy Spirit on your people
and gather into one in your kingdom
all who share this one bread and one cup,
so that we, in the company of Simeon and Anna and all the saints,
may praise and glorify you for ever,
through Jesus Christ our Lord;

by whom, and with whom, and in whom,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
all honour and glory be yours, almighty Father,
for ever and ever.

Amen.

THE LORD'S PRAYER

Either version of the Lord's Prayer is said.

As our Saviour has taught us, so we pray:

**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 for ever. Amen.**

Or Let us pray with confidence,
as our Saviour has taught us:
**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 president breaks the consecrated bread:

We break the bread of life,
and that life is the light of the world.
**God here among us,
light in the midst of us,
bring us light and life.**

**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.**

Or **Jesus, Lamb of God
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins,
have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world
grant us your peace.**

GIVING OF 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.**

We welcome to communion all who are full members of their own church. If you would like to come up for a blessing, please bring your Order of Service with you. Hymns and anthems may be sung during the distribution.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

The President says

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

We all say

**Almighty God,
we thank you for feeding us
with the body and blood of your Son Jesus Christ.
Through him we offer you our souls and bodies
to be a living sacrifice.
Send us out
in the power of your Spirit
to live and work
to your praise and glory.
Amen.**

The Dismissal

(The following is used if there is no Candlemas procession.)

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

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

THE CANDLEMAS PROCESSION

Stand

HYMN

During which the candles are lit and the congregation moves into the Sanctuary

Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light,
pour into the hearts of your faithful people
the brilliance of your eternal splendour,
that we, who by these kindling flames
light up this temple to your glory,
may have the darkness of our souls dispelled,
as so be counted worthy to stand before you
in that eternal temple where you live and reign,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen**

Either this, or another version of the Nunc Dimittis is used

**Lord, now lettest thou thy servant de'part in ' peace:
according' to thy ' word. For mine eyes have ' seen thy
sal'vation: which thou hast prepared before the ' face
of ' all ' people. To be a light to ' lighten the ' Gentiles:
and to be the ' glory of thy ' people ' Israel.
Glory be to the Father, and ' to the ' Son: and ' to the '
Holy Ghost; As it was in the beginning, is now and '
ever ' shall be: world without ' end. ' A'men.**

FINAL RESPONSORY

Father, here we bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour's birth.

**Help us, in whom he has been born,
to live his life that has no end.**

Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.

**Help us, who have received the bread of life,
to be thankful for your gift.**

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.

**Help us, who have found the Lord in his Temple
to trust in your eternal promises.**

Here we have greeted the Light of the World.

**Help us, who now extinguish these candles,
never to forsake the light of Christ.**

All now extinguish their candles.

Here we now stand and recall our baptism to life in Christ.

**Help us who are marked with the cross,
to share the Lord's death and resurrection.**

Here we now turn from Christ's birth to his passion.

**Help us, for whom Lent is near,
to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.**

Here we bless one another in your name.

**Help us, who now go in peace,
to shine with your light in the world.
Thanks be to God. Amen!**

The Clergy and people depart.

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CW ORDER ONE – ORDINARY TIME AND HOLY DAYS.