

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.**

THE BLESSING

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

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.**

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

THE DISMISSAL

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

HYMN

Lord, the light of Your love is shining
In the midst of the darkness shining
Jesus, Light of the World, shine upon us
Set us free by the truth You now bring us
Shine on me, Shine on me

*Shine Jesus, Shine,
fill this land with the Father's glory
Blaze Spirit, blaze, set our hearts on fire.
Flow river, flow,
flood the Nations with grace and mercy
Send forth Your Word,
Lord, and let there be light.*

Lord, I come to Your awesome presence
From the shadow into Your radiance
By the blood I may enter Your brightness
Search me, try me, consume all my darkness
Shine on me, Shine on me

As we gaze on Your kingly brightness
So our faces display Your likeness
Ever changing from glory to glory
Mirrored here, may our lives tell Your story
Shine on me, Shine on me

CANDLEMAS

Welcome to St Mary's Church & online.

In Church, please set hearing aids to T for use of our hearing loop.

Before the service begins, we keep a time of quiet reflection and prayer, and music may be played.

This service sheet contains everything you need for this Candlemas Liturgy. Please don't sing out loud in Church.

Please do join in within the singing from home!

*Online please use the **DONATE** button in place of the usual financial collection / offering — thank you for your generosity.*

In Church please place your donation in a basket as you leave. If you pay UK income tax, please gift-aid your donation by completing the front of a yellow envelope with your details and placing your donation inside. Thank you.

Order for the Liturgy of Candlemas

HYMN

We hail thy Presence glorious,
O Christ our great high Priest,
O'er sin and death victorious,
At thy thanksgiving feast:
As thou art interceding
For us in heaven above,
Thy Church on earth is pleading
Thy perfect work of love.



Through thee in every nation
Thine own their hearts upraise,
Offering one pure Oblation,
One Sacrifice of praise:
With thee in blest communion
The living and the dead
Are joined in closest union,
One Body with one Head.

O living Bread from heaven,
Jesu, our Saviour good,
Who thine own self hast given
To be our souls' true food;
For us thy body broken
Hung on the Cross of shame:
This Bread its hallowed token
We break in thy dear name.

O stream of love unending,
Poured from the one true Vine,
With our weak nature blending
The strength of life divine;
Our thankful faith confessing
In thy life-blood outpoured,
We drink this Cup of blessing
And praise thy name, O Lord.

May we thy word believing
Thee through thy gifts receive,
That, thou within us living,
We all to God may live;
Draw us from earth to heaven
Till sin and sorrow cease,
Forgiving and forgiven,
In love and joy and peace.



Material is copyright, licenses held by Thorpe Parochial Church Council. Bible Texts: NRSV translation. Some Prayers: Common Worship 2000 & Times & Seasons 2006 & Festivals 2006 © Archbishop's Council. CCLI: 1427605, PRS: 1568753, PPL: 1851738, MRL: 1427612, SL:38399, CVL: 121132.

WELCOME

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 Holy 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. Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.
You make our darkness to be light.

For with you is the well of life and in your light shall we see light. **Blessed be God for ever.**

The priest blesses the candles

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, and so be counted worthy to stand before you in that eternal city where you live and reign, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE GLORIA

Glory be to God in heaven,
songs of joy and peace we bring,
thankful hearts and voices raising,
to creation's Lord we sing.

Lord, we thank you, Lord, we bless you,
glory be to God our King,
glory be to God our King!

Lamb of God, who on your shoulders
bore the load of this world's sin,
only Son of God the Father,
you have brought us peace within.
Lord, have mercy, Christ have mercy,
now your glorious reign begin,
now your glorious reign begin.

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 is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

FIRST READING

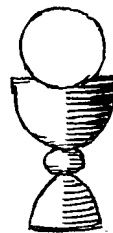
Malachi 3.1–5

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi. Thus says the LORD God: See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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

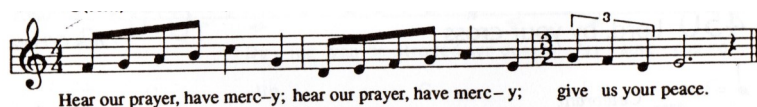
**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; the will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**



BREAKING OF THE BREAD

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.
**Though we are many, we are one body,
because we all share in one bread.**

THE AGNUS DEI



The Cantor sings the verse and we sing this refrain:

INVITATION TO COMMUNION

This is 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.**



**Please follow the one way system and
instructions from the wardens. Thank you.**

Hand gel is available. A time of quiet prayer is kept.

COMMUNION HYMN

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us,
you are one with us, Mary's son
cleansing our souls from all their sin,
pouring your love and goodness in;
Jesus, our love for you we sing, living Lord,

Lord Jesus Christ, now and every day
teach us how to pray, Son of God.
You have commanded us to do
this, in remembrance, Lord, of you;
into our lives your power breaks through,
living Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, you have come to us,
born as one of us, Mary's son
led out to die on Calvary,
risen from death to set us free;
living Lord Jesus, help us to see you are Lord.

Lord Jesus Christ, I would come to you,
live my life for you, Son of God;
all your commands I know are true;
your many gifts will make me new;
into my life your power breaks through,
living Lord.

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 so with all the choirs of angels in heaven, we proclaim your glory and join in their unending hymn of praise:

HOLY, HOLY, HOLY

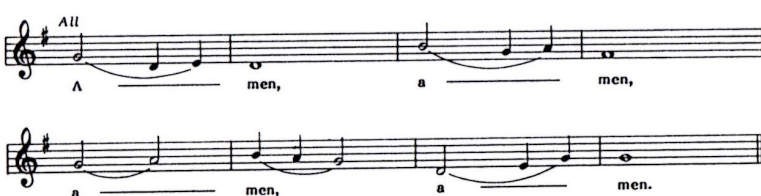


The priest continues the prayer as we recall the Last Supper, when Jesus broke the bread, then we are invited to profess our faith;



The Prayer continues to praise the Trinity (the doxology), which concludes:

Through him, with him, in him, in the unity of the Spirit, all glory and honour be yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever:



© 1982 Christopher Walker



Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight – indeed, 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 descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the LORD in righteousness. 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 swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

PSALM

Psalm 24.(1–6), 7–10

R The Lord of hosts, he is the king of glory.

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and all who dwell therein.

For it is he who founded it upon the seas and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep. **R**

'Who can ascend the hill of the Lord? and who can stand in his holy place?'

'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, who have not pledged themselves to falsehood, nor sworn by what is a fraud. **R**

They shall receive a blessing from the Lord and a just reward from the God of their salvation.'

Such is the generation of those who seek him, of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob. **R**

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, mighty in battle.' **R**

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

'Who is he, this King of glory?' 'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.' **R**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 2.14–18

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since the children share flesh and blood, Jesus himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.

Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested. This is the Word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

ALLELUIA

An Alleluia heralds the Gospel Reading.

Please stand.



GOSPEL

Luke 2.22-40

Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke. Glory to you, O Lord. When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated 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; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.' There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 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.**

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

HOMILY

INTERCESSIONS

Lord, in your mercy, **hear our prayer.**

Merciful Father, accept these prayers, for the sake of your Son, our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE PEACE

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.

Luke 1.78,79

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

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

OFFERTORY HYMN

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
Bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience,
and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his Name!**

**Low at his feet lay thy burden of carefulness,
high on his heart he will bear it for thee,
comfort thy sorrows,
and answer thy prayerfulness,
guiding thy steps as may best for thee be.**

**Fear not to enter his courts in the slenderness
of the poor wealth
thou wouldst reckon as thine;
truth in its beauty, and love in its tenderness,
these are the offerings to lay on his shrine.**

**These, though we bring them
in trembling and fearfulness,
he will accept for the Name that is dear;
mornings of joy
give for evenings of tearfulness,
trust for our trembling and hope for our fear.**

**O worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness!
bow down before him, his glory proclaim;
with gold of obedience,
and incense of lowliness,
kneel and adore him: the Lord is his Name!**

PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS

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.**

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 thanks and praise.