

The Parish Church of St Faith Great Crosby

The Eucharist on the Feast
of the
Presentation of Christ
(Candlemas)



The Gathering

Hymn

+In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen.

Grace, mercy and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ be with you.
and also with you.

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.

The Gloria

**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

Let us pray that we may know and share the light of Christ.

Silence is kept.

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy
to your heavenly Father,
your God and our God. **Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Word

When Candlemas is a Parade Service, only one Reading precedes the Gospel.

The Old Testament Reading:

Malachi 3: 1-5

At the end of the Reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Psalm: Psalm 24

The Epistle:

Hebrews 2:14-18

At the end of the Reading:

This is the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel

Today, the Lord is presented in the Temple
in substance of our mortal nature.

Alleluia.

Today, the Blessed Virgin comes
to be purified in accordance with the law.

Alleluia.

Today, old Simeon proclaims Christ
as the light of the nations and the glory of Israel.
Praise to Christ the light of the world.

Alleluia.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke
(Luke 2:22-40)

Glory to you, O Lord.

At the end of the Gospel:

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ

Sermon



The Affirmation of Faith

Let us affirm our faith in God:

**We believe in God the Father,
from whom every family
in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,
who lives in our hearts through faith,
and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,
who strengthens us
with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
Amen.**

The Prayers

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

Christ, have mercy

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

Christ, have mercy

Father, your Christ is the one
in whom your faithful servants find their peace:
look in mercy on the departed, that they may see your salvation.
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 for their fulfilment;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Prayers of Penitence

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 to light
And confess them in penitence and faith.

A period of silent reflection may follow.

**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.**

Absolution

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.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

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.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Offertory hymn

Preparation of the Table

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.

**Yours Lord, is the greatness, the power, the glory,
the splendour and the majesty; for everything in
heaven and on earth is yours: all things come of you,
and of your own do we give you.**



The Eucharistic 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.

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 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.

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 the
Blessed Virgin Mary, St Faith, Simeon and Anna,
the angels 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

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,

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.**

The 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 amongst us,
Light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.**

Agnus Dei

All say or sing:

**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 your peace.**

Invitation to 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.**

*At the distribution of communion, the minister says to each
communicant:*

The Body of Christ

The Blood of Christ

*and each responds: **Amen.***

A hymn or anthem may be sung during communion.

After Communion, silence is kept, and on Sundays, the Angelus is rung.

Prayer After Communion

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.

**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.**

Notices may be given.

Candlemas Procession

*A hymn is sung and the people's candles are lit. All process to the font
(or turn to face the font)*

The president says:

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 forever. **Amen.**

Nunc Dimittis

The Nun Dimittis may be sung. If it is said, the following responsorial form is used:

**A light to lighten the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.**

Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace
your word has been fulfilled.

**A light to lighten the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.**

My own eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared in the sight of every people.

**A light to lighten the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.**

A light to reveal you to the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.

**A light to lighten the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.**

Glory to the Father and to the Son
and to the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be forever. **Amen.**

**A light to lighten the nations
and the glory of your people Israel.**

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**

The people extinguish their candles and they are sprinkled with water, then they are invited to mark themselves with the sign of the cross in water as a reminder of baptism.

Here we stand near the place of baptism

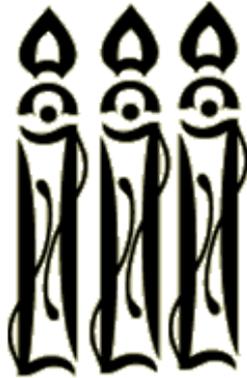
**Help us, who are marked with the cross
to share the Lord's death and resurrection**

Here, we 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 world.
Thanks be to God. Amen.**



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