

The Festal Eucharist of Candlemas

From the crib to the cross



**Truro
Cathedral**
sacred space, common ground

Candlemas Ceremonies

*The congregation are invited to join in the responses marked in **bold type**.*

Introit

sung by the choir

The Greeting

Please stand

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

The Lord be with you.

And also with you.

Words of welcome and introduction may be added.

The Blessing of Candles

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 recognised him as their Lord, as we sing today 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.

All light their candles and hold them up as the president blesses them saying:

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 temple where you live and reign, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*The president sprinkles the congregation and candles.
To commemorate the entry of Christ into the Temple the following hymn
is sung. Please (if you are able) join in the procession around the
cathedral.*

Hymn

This or another hymn is sung

*Chorus: Fling wide the gates, unbar the ancient doors;
salute your king in his triumphant cause!*

Come see the Virgin bearing Christ the King,
The Lord in his temple, light and life to bring.

Chorus

Anna and Sim-eon, prophesy and praise,
Rejoice in the saviour, God within their gaze.

Chorus

Now all the world belongs to Christ our Lord:
let all creation greet the living Word!

Chorus

Who has the right to worship him today?
All those who gladly serve him and obey.

Chorus

He comes to save all those who trust his name,
and will declare them free from guilt and shame.

Chorus

Who is the victor glorious from the fight?
He is our king, our life, our Lord, our light!

Chorus

Light for all nations, glory is revealed,
A sign for all people, ancient wounds are healed.

Chorus

Tune: Crucifer 35 A&M After Luke 2/Psalm 24, Michael Perry (1942-1996) and others.

When all have returned to their seats the president says

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.

Please remain standing

Gloria in excelsis Deo,
et in terra pax
hominibus bonae voluntatis.
Laudamus te, benedicimus te,
adoramus te, glorificamus te.
Gratias agimus tibi propter magnam
gloriam tuam,
Domine Deus, Rex caelestis,
Deus Pater omnipotens.
Domine Fili unigenite,
Jesu Christe, Domine Deus, Agnus Dei,
Filius Patris,
qui tollis
peccata mundi,
miserere nobis.
Qui tollis peccata mundi,
suscipe deprecationem nostram.
Qui sedes ad dexteram Patris,
miserere nobis.
Quoniam tu solus Sanctus,
tu solus Dominus,
tu solus Altissimus,
Jesu Christe,
cum Sancto Spiritu:

The choir sings 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 gloria Dei Patris. Amen.

in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

The candles are extinguished. Please remain standing

The Collect

Let us pray.

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.

Please sit

The Liturgy of the Word

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 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.

Responsorial Psalm 24: 1-6

The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.
The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it,
the compass of the world and all who dwell therein.
For he has founded it upon the seas
and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep.
The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

'Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord,
or who can rise up in his holy place?'
'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart,
who have not lifted up their soul to an idol,
nor sworn an oath to a lie;
The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

'They shall receive a blessing from the Lord,
a just reward from the God of their salvation.'
Such is the company of those who seek him,
Of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.
The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

Second Reading
Hebrews 2: 14-end

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since, the children share flesh and blood, he 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.

Please stand

Gospel Acclamation

Alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

This child is the light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

Gospel Reading

Luke 2: 22-40

The president says

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

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

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him 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 for 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.

Sermon

The preacher says an opening invocation or prayer, and then all sit.

Please stand

The Creed

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

The intercessor introduces the prayers of intercession:

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

Please sit

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, who was rich, for our sakes became poor:
look in mercy on the needy, suffering with him.
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, 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.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

Please stand

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 in 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

Deacon: Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

Hymn

This, or another hymn, is sung during which a collection will be taken

Hail to the Lord who comes,
Comes to his temple gate!
Not with his angel host,
Not in his kingly state;
No shouts proclaim him nigh,
No crowds his coming wait;

But borne upon the throne
Of Mary's gentle breast,
Watched by her duteous love,
In her fond arms at rest;
Thus to his Father's house
He comes, the heavenly guest.

There Joseph at her side
In reverent wonder stands;
And, filled with holy joy,
Old Simeon in his hands

Takes up the promised Child,
The glory of all lands.

Hail to the great First-born
Whose ransom-price they pay!
The Son before all worlds,
The Child of man today,
That he might ransom us
Who still in bondage lay.

O light of all the earth,
Thy children wait for thee!
Come to thy temples here,
That we, from sin set free,
Before thy Father's face
May all presented be!

*Tune: Old 120th, from Este's Psalter
1893)*

Words: John Ellerton (1826-

Offertory Prayer

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.

Eucharistic Prayer A

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:

The choir sings the Sanctus

Sanctus, Sanctus, Sanctus
Dominus Deus Sabaoth.
Pleni sunt coeli et terra
gloria tua.
Hosanna in excelsis.

Holy, holy, holy Lord,
God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full
of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.

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.

Deacon: Great is the mystery of faith:

Christ has died:

Christ is risen:

Christ will come again.

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:

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

Please remain standing

The Lord's Prayer

Believing the promises of God, let us pray with confidence:

**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

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 to light and life.

Giving of Communion.

Jesus 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 sit. All who usually receive Holy Communion in their own church are warmly invited to do so today. If you would prefer to receive a blessing, please carry this service paper as a signal to the minister. Gluten free wafers are available. Please note that intinction (dipping of the host) is not permitted.

The choir sings the Agnus Dei

Agnus Dei, qui tollis
peccata mundi:
miserere nobis.
Agnus Dei, qui tollis
peccata mundi:
dona nobis pacem.

Lamb of God, you take away the
sin of the world,
have mercy upon us.
Lamb of God, you take away the
sin of the world,
grant us peace.

Post-Communion Prayer

Please stand.

Let us pray:
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.

The Final Procession and blessing

The candles are re-lit as a hymn is sung; all who wish, are invited to follow the procession, via the crib, to the South Transept, gathering around the cross.

When Mary brought her treasure
Unto the holy place,
No eye of man could measure
The joy upon her face.
 He was but six weeks old,
 Her plaything and her pleasure,
 Her silver and her gold.

Then Simeon, on him gazing
With wonder and with love,
His aged voice up-raising
Gave thanks to God above:
 'Now welcome, sweet release!
 For I, my saviour praising,
 May die at last in peace.'

And she, all sorrow scorning,
Rejoiced in Jesus' fame.
The child her arms adorning
Shone softly like a flame
 That burns the long night through,
 And keeps from dusk till morning
 Its vigil clear and true.

As by the sun in splendour
The flags of night are furled,
So darkness shall surrender
To Christ who lights the world:

To Christ the star of day,
Who once was small and tender,
A candle's gentle ray.

*Tune: Es ist ein Ros NEH 21
1953)*

Words: Jan Struther (1901-

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 lay down these candles,
never to forsake the light of Christ.**

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

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

*As our focus moves from Christmas to the Passion the Nunc Dimittis
is sung by the choir and all are invited to place their candles before
the cross.*

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.

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. Amen.

The President says

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; and the blessing of God
Almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit
be among you and remain with you always.
Amen.

The Deacon says

Go in the light and the peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

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**Truro
Cathedral**
sacred space, common ground