



Saint Matthew's Church
Big Lamp ~ Summerhill Street
Newcastle

Text of the Mass for Candlemas - 2nd February 2025

As the priest enters the church, the following is sung:

1. 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.

2. 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 heav'nly Guest.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. 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!

Words: John Ellerton 1826 - 93

Music: Laudes Domini

Joseph Barnby 1838 - 96

+ The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you.

[And with thy spirit.](#)

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.

God our Father, You sent Your Son full of Grace and Truth; forgive our failure to receive Him: Kyrie eleison.

[Kyrie eleison.](#)

Jesu our Saviour, You were born in poverty and laid in a manger; forgive our greed and rejection of Your ways: Christe eleison.

[Christe eleison.](#)

Your servant Mary responded joyfully to Your call; forgive the hardness of our hearts: Kyrie eleison.

[Kyrie eleison](#)

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.](#)

Forty days ago, we celebrated the joyful feast of the Birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today, we recall the holy day on which He was presented in the Temple, fulfilling the Law of Moses and at the same time going to meet His faithful people. Led by the Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the Temple, recognised Christ as their Lord and proclaimed Him with joy. United by the Spirit, we have come to the house of God to greet Christ the Lord. Here we see the Light of His Presence in the words of the Gospel and in the Sacrament of the Altar until He comes again in Glory.

The blessing of candles:

Amen.

The blessing of Light

The Light and Peace of Jesus Christ be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

It is meet and right so to do.

Blessed are You, Lord our God, King of the universe: to You be glory and praise for ever. You are our Light and our Salvation and we, Your children, wait for Your loving kindness in the midst of Your Temple. In Your Christ, born of the Blessed Virgin Mary, there has sprung up a Light for the righteous and joyful gladness for those who are faithful. As we, like Anna and Simeon, welcome Him with joy, presented before us a Light of all the world, may we be filled with His Spirit and made a living temple to the praise and glory of His holy Name. As we join our praises with theirs, grant us a quiet night and a perfect end in Your love, where we may worship You unto the ages of ages.

Blessing and honour and glory and power be Yours for ever and ever.

Amen.

The distribution of candles

When the days of Mary's purification according to the Law of Moses were accomplished, they brought Jesus to Jerusalem to present Him to the Lord. They offered for Him unto the Lord a pair of turtle doves or two young pigeons; as it is written in the Law of the Lord.

The visit to the Crib

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.

At the Crib:

The Light to enlighten the Gentiles:
And to be the glory of Your people.

Let us pray:

Lord our God, You have given us Your Word for a Light to shine upon our path. Grant that the glorious Light of Christ may shine into the hearts of all people, dispelling the darkness of ignorance and unbelief; and revealing to them the knowledge of Your Glory in the Face of the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Within Your Temple we ponder Your loving kindness, O God: as Your Name, so also Your praise reaches to the ends of the earth; Your right hand is filled with justice. Great is the Lord and worthy of all praise: in the city of our God, on His holy mountain. 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.

Within Your Temple &c

During the Gloria in excelsis, the Altar, the symbol of God's Presence, may be honoured with incense.

Glory be to God on high.

And in earth peace, goodwill towards men.

We praise Thee, we bless Thee,

we worship Thee, we glorify Thee,

we give thanks to Thee for Thy great glory,

O Lord God, heavenly King,

God the Father almighty.

O Lord, the only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ:

O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,

that takest away the sins of the world,

have mercy upon us.

Thou that takest away the sins of the world,

receive our prayer.

Thou that sittest at the right

hand of God the Father, have mercy upon us.

For Thou only art holy, Thou only art the Lord;

Thou only, O Christ, with the Holy Ghost,

art most high,

+ in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

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 lives with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, throughout all ages, world without end.

Amen.

A Reading from the Book of the Prophet Malachi.

The Lord says this, "Behold, I send 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, behold, 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 sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, till they present right offerings to the LORD. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; ♦
and the King of glory shall come in.

‘Who is the King of glory?’ ♦ ‘The Lord, strong and mighty, the
Lord who is mighty in battle.’

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted up, you everlasting doors; ♦
and the King of glory shall come in.

‘Who is this King of glory?’ ♦ ‘The Lord of hosts, he is the King of
glory.’

A Reading from the latter Letter of to the Hebrews.

Since the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage. For surely it is not with angels that he is concerned but with the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brethren in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people.

(continued over the page)

For because he himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

This is the Word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Gospel book is carried to the Lectern:

Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia! The Light to enlighten the Gentiles: and give glory to Israel Your people. Alleluia, alleluia, Alleluia, alleluia!

Christ's Presence in the words of the Gospel may be honoured with incense.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.

Glory be to Thee, 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 male that opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons." Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel."

This is the Gospel of the Lord.

Praise be to Thee, O Christ.

A homily may follow.

We believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
Maker of Heaven and earth,
and of all things visible and invisible.
And in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the only begotten Son of God,
begotten of His Father before all worlds.
God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God,
begotten not made;
being of one substance with the Father,
by Whom all things were made;
Who for us men and for our salvation
came down from Heaven
and was incarnate by the Holy Ghost
of the Virgin Mary, and was made man.
and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate.
He suffered and was buried,
and the third day He rose again
according to the Scriptures,
and ascended into Heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of the Father.
And He shall come again in glory
to judge both the quick and the dead;
Whose Kingdom shall have no end.
And we believe in the Holy Ghost,
the Lord, the Giver of life,
Who proceedeth from the Father and the Son,
Who with the Father and the Son together
is worshipped and glorified,
Who spake by the prophets.
And we believe
one Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church,
We acknowledge one Baptism for the remission of sins.
And we look for the resurrection of the dead,
+ and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Let us pray that the Light of God's peace and justice may shine through the Church and over all the world:

Father, Your Christ is acclaimed as the Glory of Israel: look in mercy on Your Church sharing His Light: Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

Father, Your Christ in His Temple brings judgement on the world: look in mercy on the nations, who long for His justice and peace: Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

Father, Your Christ, Who was rich, for our sake became poor: look in mercy on the needy of our world: Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

Father, Your Christ is revealed as the One destined to be rejected; look in mercy on all pushed to the margins of society: Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

Father, Your Christ died and a sword pierced His mother's soul: look in mercy on all who feel the pain of grief: Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

Father, Your Christ is the One in Whom faithful servants find their fulfilment: look in mercy on the departed that they may see Your Salvation: Lord, hear us ... [Lord, graciously hear us.](#)

In union with our Lady, Saint Matthew, Saint Philip, Saint Augustine, Saint Anna, Saint Simeon and all the saints, we pray that You will shine the Light of Your hope and love over all creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

[Amen.](#)

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 with thy spirit.](#)

As the bread and wine are brought to the Altar and prepared for the Mass, the following is sung:

Grace has been poured out on Your lips: therefore God has blessed You for ever, world without end.

Let us here who represent Cherubim guards around God's throne, As they cry out their thrice holy hymn, Praising the life-giving Trinity, Lay aside all earthly care. Borne by the power of angels' wings To His people now comes the King of kings. Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

The preparation of the Altar continues; incense may be used to honour the place where Christ will become present.

1. Ye who own the Faith of Jesus
Sing the wonders that were done,
When the love of God the Father
O'er our sin the vict'ry won,
When He made the Virgin Mary
Mother of His only Son.

2. Blessed were the chosen people
Our of whom the Lord did come,
Blessed was the land of promise
Fashioned for His earthly home;
But more blessed far the Mother
She who bare Him in the womb.

3. Wherefore let all faithful people
Tell the honour of her name,
Let the Church in her foreshadowed
Part in her thanksgiving claim;
What Christ's Mother sang in gladness
Let Christ's people sing the same.

(continued over the page)

4. Let us weave our supplications,
She with us and we with her,
For the advancement of the faithful
For each faithful worshipper,
For the doubting, for the sinful
For each heedless wanderer,

5. For the sick and for the aged,
For our dear ones far away,
For the hearts that mourn in secret,
All who need our prayers today,
For the faithful gone before us,
In this Eucharist we pray.

6. With her let us praise the Father,
Praise her Saviour and her Son,
Praise the everlasting Spirit,
Who hath made her ark and throne
With the greatest of God's people
Let us praise the Three in One.

Words: VS Stuckley Coles 1845 – 1929

Adapted RGSD

Music: Grafton

French Tantum Ergo

in Chants Ordinaires d'office Divin Paris 1881

At the end:

Thine, O Lord, is the greatness, the power and the glory and the victory
and the majesty. All that is in Heaven and earth is Thine:

All things come of Thee, O Lord, and of Thine own do we give Thee.

Almighty God, accept the joyful offering of Your Church and grant that
Your Son may shine in us as the Light that enlightens every nation; the
same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

The priest begins the great prayer of thanksgiving:

The Lord be with you.

And with thy spirit.

Lift up your hearts;

We lift them up unto the Lord.

Let us give thanks unto our Lord God.

It is meet and right so to do.

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 hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Glory be to Thee, O Lord most high.

+ Blessed is He that cometh in the Name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

We praise and bless you, loving Father,
through Jesus Christ, our Lord;
and as we obey his command,
send your Holy Spirit,
that broken bread and wine outpoured
may be for us the body and blood of your dear Son.

On the night before he died he had supper with his Apostles
and, taking bread, he praised you.
He broke the bread, gave it to them and said:
Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you;
do this in remembrance of me.

The priest holds up the consecrated Host for the people to see.

When supper was ended he took the cup of wine.
Again he praised you, gave it to them and said:
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 priest holds up the chalice of consecrated wine for the people to see.

So, Father, we remember all that Jesus did,
in him we plead with confidence his sacrifice
made once for all upon the cross.
Bringing before you the bread of life and cup of salvation,
we proclaim his death and resurrection
until he comes in glory.

Christ has died; Christ is risen; Christ will come again.

(continued over the page)

Lord of all life,
help us to work together for that day
when your kingdom comes
and justice and mercy will be seen in all the earth.
Look with favour on your people,
gather us in your loving arms
and bring us with [*N and*] all the saints
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Jesus Christ, our Lord,
By Whom and with Whom and in Whom,
Amen,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
Amen,
all honour and glory are Yours, almighty Father, for ever and ever.
Amen.

Instructed by saving precepts and taught by divine example, we are bold
to say:
Our Father,
Who art in Heaven,
hallowed by 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.

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.

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us Thy peace.

The priest holds up the consecrated elements and invites people to receive Holy Communion:

+ Behold the Lamb of God; behold Him, Who takes away the sin of the world; happy are they who are called to His Supper.

Lord, I am not worthy to receive You; but only say the Word and my soul will be healed.

Simeon had received a revelation from the Holy Spirit: that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

Holy Communion follows.

1. O Sion, open wide thy gates,
Let figures disappear;
A Priest and Victim, both in One,
The Truth Himself, is here.

2. No more the simple flock shall bleed;
Behold, the Father's Son
Himself to His own Altar comes,
For sinners to atone.

3. Conscious of hidden Deity,
The lowly Virgin brings
Her new-born Babe with two young doves
Her tender offerings.

(continued over the page)

4. The aged Simeon sees at last
His Lord so long desired,
And Anna welcomes Israel's Hope
With lowly rapture fired.

5. But silent knelt the Mother blest
Of the yet silent Word,
And pond'ring all things in her heart,
With speechless praise adored.

6. All glory to the Father be,
All glory to the Son,
All glory Holy Ghost to Thee,
While endless ages run.

Words: E Caswell
From the Latin of JB de Santeuil
Music: Oxford New
? Mr Coombes 1775

After Holy Communion:

With my own eyes I have seen salvation: which You have prepared in
the sight of all the nations.

Let us pray:

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 life
eternal; for He is alive and reigns, now and for ever.

[Amen.](#)

Notices may follow.

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 always.

[Amen.](#)

The Mass is ended. Go in the Peace of Christ.
Thanks be to God.

O, higher than the Cherubim, more glorious than the Seraphim, lead their praises, alleluia! Thou, bearer of the eternal Word, most gracious magnify the Lord. Alleluia, alleluia, (alleluia, alleluia,) alleluia!

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray:

Pour forth Your Grace into our hearts, we beseech You O Lord, that as we have known the Incarnation of Your Son, Jesus Christ, by the message of an angel, so by His Cross (+) and Passion, we may be brought to the glory of His Resurrection; in and through the same Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

1. In His temple now behold Him,
See the long-expected Lord;
Ancient prophets had foretold Him,
God has now fulfilled His Word.
Now to praise Him, His redeem-ed
Shall break forth with one accord.

2. In the arms of her who bore Him,
Virgin pure, behold Him like
While his ag-ed saints adore Him
Ere in perfect faith they die.
Alleluia, alleluia!
Lo, th'incarnate God most High!

(continued over the page)

3. Jesus, by Your presentation
When they blessed You, weak and poor,
Make us see Your great salvation,
Seal us with Your promise sure;
And present us in Your glory
To Your Father, cleansed and pure.

Words: J Pye 1851

Music: S Helen

George Martin 1844 - 1916

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