



The Feast of the Presentation of Our Lord and the Purification of Our Lady: Candlemas St. Martin's Episcopal Church, Bridgewater, NJ

The Blessing of Candles

Please stand

Dear people of God, forty days ago we celebrated the joyful feast of the incarnation of Jesus. Today we recall the day on which he was presented in the temple, fulfilling the law of Moses. Led by the Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the temple, recognized the child as the Christ, and proclaimed him with joy. United by the same Spirit, we now enter the house of God, where we shall recognize Christ in the breaking of bread.

Let us pray. O eternal God, who has created all things; on this day you fulfilled the petitions of the just Simeon: we humbly ask you to bless and sanctify these candles for our use. Graciously hear our prayers and be merciful to us, whom you have redeemed by your Son, who is the light of the world, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

The people's candles are lit as the following is sung by the choir

Lord, you now have set your servant free to go in peace as you have promised.
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior,
whom you have prepared for all the world to see.
A Light to enlighten the nations, and the glory of your people Israel.
Glory be to the one, holy, and triune God,
as it was in the beginning is now and shall be forever. Amen.

The Candlemas Procession

Let us pray. O God, source of all light, today you revealed to the aged Simeon your light which enlightens the nations. Fill our hearts with the light of faith, that we who bear these candles may walk in the path of goodness, through Jesus Christ the Light of the World. *Amen.*

Once all candles are lit, the solemn candlemas procession begins, as all sing:

The Great Creator of the Worlds vv. 1-2

Blue Hymnal, 489

Station at the Creche

Let us pray. O God, you have made this day holy by the presentation of your Son in the Temple, and by the purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary: Mercifully grant that we, who delight in her humble readiness to be the birth-giver of the Only-begotten, may rejoice forever in our adoption as his sisters and brothers; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The procession continues as we continue singing verses 3 **Blue Hymnal, 489***

Station at the Font

Let us pray. Blessed God, you call forth light from darkness: Send the power of your Spirit upon your servants as they follow the footsteps of the founders of this parish, that they may continue to carry your Gospel to the people of this community. Fill them with your light, that they may shine with your radiance, drawing all to the brightness of your love and mercy; through Jesus, our Savior and true Light. Amen.

*The procession continues as we continue singing verses 4-6 **Blue Hymnal, 489***

The Lord be with you. *And also with you.* Let us pray. Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray that, as your only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented to you with pure and clean hearts by Jesus Christ our Lord; who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

A Reading from the Prophet Malachi *(Please be seated)*

Thus says the Lord, 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. The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God*

Psalm 84

Ant: How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts.

My soul has a desire and longing for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

The sparrow has found her a house

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young; by the side of your altars,
O Lord of hosts, my King and my God. **(Ant)**

Happy are they who dwell in your house! they will always be praising you.
Happy are the people whose strength is in you!

whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way. **(Ant)**

Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs,
for the early rains have covered it with pools of water.

They will climb from height to height,

and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion. **(Ant)**

Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; hearken, O God of Jacob.

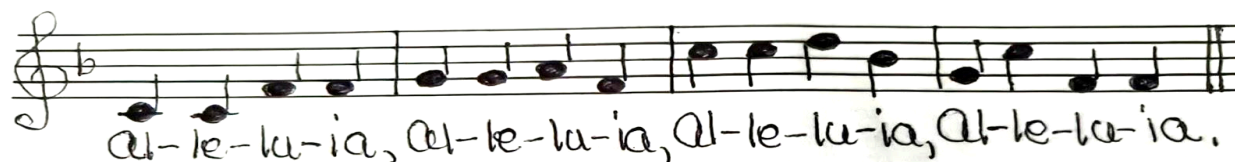
Behold our defender, O God; and look upon the face of your Anointed. **(Ant)**

Reading from the Epistle to the Hebrews

Since God's 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. The Word of the Lord. *Thanks be to God.*

Gospel Acclamation

K. Shanklin



V: A Light of revelation to the gentiles, and the glory of your people, Israel.

The Holy Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, the parents of Jesus 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 turtledoves 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 worshiped 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 favor of God was upon him. The Gospel of the Lord.

The Homily

The Nicene Creed

BCP, 358

The Prayers of the People *Please stand or kneel*

BCP, 388

Confession and Absolution Let us confess our sins against God and our neighbor.

All: Most merciful God, we confess that we have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done, and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. We are truly sorry and we humbly repent. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, have mercy on us and forgive us; that we may delight in your will, and walk in your ways, to the glory of your Name. Amen.

Priest: Almighty God have mercy on you, forgive you all your sins through our Lord Jesus Christ, strengthen you in all goodness, and by the power of the Holy Spirit keep you in eternal life. *Amen.*

The Peace and Announcements

Offertory Choir Anthem: The Lord Is My Light and My Salvation

(Copyright Issues do not permit the words to be published here)

(Please stand to sing)

Offertory Hymn *Sing of Mary, Pure and Lowly Blue Hymnal, 277*

The Liturgy of the Altar

Priest: Redeeming God, 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.

Sursum Corda (Lift Up Your Hearts)

Blue Hymnal S 120

It is right, and a good and joyful thing, always and everywhere to give thanks to you, Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, because Because in the mystery of the Word made flesh, you have caused a new light to shine in our hearts, to give the knowledge of your glory in the face of your son Jesus Christ our Lord. Therefore we praise you, joining our voices with Angels and Archangels and with all the company of heaven, who forever sing this hymn to proclaim the glory of your Name:

Ho - ly, ho - ly, ho - ly Lord, God of pow-er and
might, hea - ven and earth are full of your
glo - ry. Ho - san - na in the high-est.
Blessed is the one
Bless - ed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Ho - san - na in the high-est.

The Eucharistic Prayer continues in the *Book of Common Prayer*, page 368
The Lord's Prayer *BCP*, 364
The Fraction and Lamb of God

Lamb of God _____ you take a-way the sins of the
 world: have mer-cy on us. Lamb of
 God _____ you take a-way the sins of the world:
 have mer-cy on us. Lamb of God _____ you
 take a-way the sins of the world: grant us peace.

Behold the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world.
 Happy are they who are called to the Supper of the Lamb.

**The Holy Communion
 Communion Hymns**

When Candles Are Lighted on Candlemas Day

1 When can - dles are light - ed on Can - dle - mas Day
2 The kings have de - part - ed, the shep - herds have gone,
3 They go to the tem - ple, o - bey - ing the law,

the dark is be - hind us, and spring's on the way,
the child and his par - ents are left on their own.
and of - fer two pi - geons, the gift of the poor.

A glo - ry dawns in ev - ery dark place,

the light of Christ, the full - ness of grace.

O Gracious Light

Blue Hymnal, 25

Post Communion Prayer (*Please kneel or stand*)

BCP, 365

Blessing and Dismissal

Closing Hymn: *Lift Up Your Heads, vv, 1,5*

Blue Hymnal, 436

Serving Today

Thurifer: Michael Maloney Crucifer: Nick Persson Lector: Anne Marie Verdiramo

Eucharistic Minister: Jennifer Persson

Ushers: David Persson, Victor Haddad

Choir: Beth Hixenbaugh, Alison Jandak, Jane Maloney, Rob Vernon

Organist: Kathy Shanklin Celebrant: Father Rob Laws+

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mass: Wednesday, 6 PM in the Lady Chapel

Wednesday, February 14, 5 PM Ash Wednesday Mass

Mondays in Lent, beginning February 19 at Juanita Hawkins Home.

We will gather at 6:30pm to pray St. Anthony's Rosary for healing.

The study will begin at 7:00 pm.

The first reading will be the story of Noah and the Flood.

Please read Genesis 6 and Genesis 7 in advance of the class.

Confirmation Classes to Begin during Lent

Youth and adults who would like to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation, or adults who were Confirmed in another church with apostolic succession and would like to be received into the Episcopal Church by the bishop, should register to attend these classes. Registration forms and more information may be found in the narthex and on the parish website.

Please check the weekly email newsletter for more information about upcoming activities and events. If you are not receiving the newsletter, please send an email to the parish office and they will help you sign up.

Prayer Intentions for this Mass

Elaina, Adam, Brent, Anna Rose, Ryan and his family, Celeste, Joe, Paige, Maureen, Bozeno, Helios, Sonia, Bob, Julia, Anna, Nicole, Dusty, Nory, Anthony, Jeff, Debbie, Ian, Pat, Dillon, Mary and Evelyn.