



## **SOLEMN EUCHARIST**

**The Feast of the  
Presentation of Christ  
in the Temple**

**Wednesday 2 February 2022  
at 5.30pm**

## Welcome

Welcome to York Minster and to this liturgy for Candlemas, the traditional name for the Feast of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

When Jesus is brought by his parents to the Temple to be presented according to the Law of Israel, his significance is recognized by Simeon and Anna. He is both 'a light to lighten the Gentiles' and 'the glory of God's people Israel'. But the redemption he will bring must be won through suffering: Simeon's final words move our attention away from the celebration of the Incarnation and towards the mysteries of Easter.

The Eucharist is sung to the setting in B flat by Charles Stanford.

*The President is the Revd Dr Victoria Johnson, Precentor.*

*The Preacher is the Revd Catriona Cumming, Succentor.*

*Please join in saying together the words printed in bold type.*

*If you are joining us via the live stream, you might find this prayer helpful during Communion.*

## **Act of Spiritual Communion**

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Blessed Sacrament.  
I love you above all things and I desire you in my soul.  
Since I cannot now receive you sacramentally,  
come at least spiritually into my heart.  
As though you were already there,  
I embrace you and unite myself wholly to you;  
permit not that I should ever be separated from you.  
Amen.

# The Gathering

## Introduction

*Please remain seated. At the West End of the Minster, the choir sings:*

Maria wallt zum Heiligtum und bringt ihr Kindlein dar;  
Das schaut der greise Simeon, wie ihm verheißen war.  
Da nimmt er Jesum in den Arm und singt im Geiste froh:  
Nun fahr ich hin mit Freud, dich Heiland sah ich heut,  
Du Trost von Israel, das Licht der Welt!

*When to the temple Mary went, and brought the Holy Child,  
Him did the aged Simeon see, as it had been revealed.  
He took up Jesus in his arms, and blessing God, he said:  
In peace I now depart, my Saviour having seen,  
the Hope of Israel, the Light of men.*

*Words based on Luke 2.22–32, trans. John Troutbeck (1832–99)*

*Music Johannes Eccard (1553–1611)*

*Please stand.*

*The President welcomes the people and introduces the service:*

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

**Amen.**

May the light and peace of Jesus Christ our Lord be with you.

**The Lord bless 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. We gather together under the light of Christ, a light to lighten all people, a light to bring hope from despair and joy from sorrow. Wherever you may be, welcome. May the light of Christ shine in your hearts that you may bring his light to others. You are invited at the beginning of this service, to light a candle as a symbol of the light of Christ which reaches into our hearts and our homes.

## The Blessing of Light

### Processional Hymn

*As the hymn is sung, candles are lit.*



1. Of the Father's heart begotten  
ere the world from chaos rose,  
he is Alpha: from that fountain  
all that is and hath been flows;  
he is Omega, of all things  
yet to come the mystic Close,  
evermore and evermore.

2. He assumed this mortal body,  
frail and feeble, doomed to die,  
that the race from dust created  
might not perish utterly,  
which the dreadful Law had sentenced  
in the depths of hell to lie,  
evermore and evermore.

3. He assumed this mortal body,  
frail and feeble, doomed to die,  
that the race from dust created  
might not perish utterly,  
which the dreadful Law had sentenced  
in the depths of hell to lie,  
evermore and evermore.

4. O how blest that wondrous birthday,  
when the Maid the curse retrieved,  
brought to birth mankind's salvation,  
by the Holy Ghost conceived;  
and the Babe, the world's Redeemer,  
in her loving arms received,  
evermore and evermore.

5. This is he, whom seer and sibyl  
sang in ages long gone by;  
this is he of old revealed  
in the page of prophecy;  
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;  
let the world his praises cry,  
evermore and evermore.

6. Let the storm and summer sunshine,  
gliding stream and sounding shore,  
sea and forest, frost and zephyr,  
day and night their Lord adore;  
let creation join to laud thee  
through the ages evermore,  
evermore and evermore.

7. Sing, ye heights of heav'n, his praises;  
angels and archangels, sing!  
Whereso'er ye be, ye faithful,  
let your joyous anthems ring,  
ev'ry tongue his name confessing,  
countless voices answering,  
evermore and evermore.

*Words* Prudentius (348–413) trans. R F Davis (1866–1937)  
*Tune* DIVINUM MYSTERIUM, NEH 33, *Piae Cantiones* (1582)

*The President says:*

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 President says this prayer of thanksgiving:*

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.**

We wait for your loving-kindness, O Lord,  
**in the midst of your temple.**

Open to us the gates of righteousness,  
**that we may enter and give thanks to the Lord.**

God is the Lord who has shown us light.  
**Let us offer in his dwelling  
an oblation with great gladness.**

## **Gloria in Excelsis**

*The choir sings:*

Glory be to God on high,  
and in earth peace, good will 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 the Most High, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

*Please remain standing.*

## **The Collect**

*The President introduces a period of silent prayer with the words:*

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

*Silence is kept.*

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**

### **New Testament Reading**

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Since, therefore, 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.

HEBREWS 2.14–18

*At the end of the reading:*

This is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand.*

## Gradual Hymn



1. Faithful vigil ended,  
watching, waiting cease;  
Master, grant thy servant  
his discharge in peace.

2. All thy Spirit promised,  
all the Father willed;  
now these eyes behold it  
perfectly fulfilled.

3. This thy great deliverance  
sets your people free;  
Christ their light uplifted  
all the nations see.

4. Christ, your people's glory!  
Watching, waiting, cease:  
grant to us your servants  
our discharge in peace.

*Words* NEH 44, Timothy Dudley-Smith (*b.* 1926)

*Tune* PASTOR PASTORUM, NEH 282, F Silcher (1789–1860)



*The Deacon proclaims:*

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.

**Alleluia! Praise to Christ, the Light of the world!**

## **Gospel Reading**

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, 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.

LUKE 2.22–40

*After the Gospel the reader says:*

This is the Gospel of the Lord.  
**Praise to you, O Christ.**

*Please sit. The candles may be extinguished.*

## Sermon

The Revd Catriona Cumming, Succentor

*The choir sings:*

## Nunc Dimittis

Nunc dimittis servum tuum, Domine,  
secundum verbum tuum in pace:  
Quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum  
quod parasti ante faciem omnium  
populorum:  
Lumen ad revelationem gentium,  
et gloriam plebis tuae Israel.  
Gloria Patri, et Filio,  
et Spiritui Sancto.  
Sicut erat in principio, et nunc, et semper,  
et in saecula saeculorum. Amen.

*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.*

*Words* Luke 2.29–32 ♦ *Music* Setting in B flat, Charles Wood (1866–1926)

*Please sit or kneel.*

## Prayers of Intercession

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, 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.**

## Prayers of Penitence

*A Minister says:*

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.

**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.**

*The President says:*

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.**

*Please stand.*

# The Liturgy of the Sacrament

## The Peace

*The President introduces 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.**

*As the altar is prepared and the gifts of bread and wine are honoured with incense,  
this hymn is sung.*

## Gradual Hymn



1. Deck thyself, my soul, with gladness,  
leave the gloomy haunts of sadness;  
come into the daylight's splendour,  
there with joy thy praises render  
unto him whose grace unbounded  
hath this wondrous banquet founded:  
high o'er all the heavens he reigneth,  
yet to dwell with thee he deigneth.

2. Now I sink before thee lowly,  
filled with joy most deep and holy,  
as with trembling awe and wonder  
on thy mighty works I ponder:  
how, by mystery surrounded,  
depths no man hath ever sounded,  
none may dare to pierce unbidden  
secrets that with thee are hidden.

3. Sun, who all my life dost brighten,  
 Light, who dost my soul enlighten,  
 Joy, the sweetest man e'er knoweth,  
 Fount, whence all my being floweth,  
 at thy feet I cry, my Maker,  
 let me be a fit partaker  
 of this blessed food from heaven,  
 for our good, thy glory, given.

4. Jesus, Bread of Life, I pray thee,  
 let me gladly here obey thee;  
 never to my hurt invited,  
 be thy love with love required:  
 from this banquet let me measure,  
 Lord, how vast and deep its treasure;  
 through the gifts thou here dost give me,  
 as thy guest in heaven receive me.

*Words* J Franck (1618–77) tr. Catherine Winckworth (1827–78)

*Tune* SCHMÜCKE DICH, NEH 280, J Crüger (1598–1662)

## Taking of the Bread and Wine

*A prayer is said as the gifts are presented.*

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.**

## The Eucharistic Prayer

*The following dialogue is said or sung:*

The \_\_\_ Lord be \_\_\_ with \_\_\_ you and \_\_\_ al - so \_\_\_ 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:*

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.

*The congregation is invited to sit or kneel.*

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 friends  
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.

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.

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.

Great is the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died:**

**Christ is risen:**

**Christ will come again.**

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 the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
Peter the Apostle, and all the saints,  
to feast at your table in heaven.

Through Christ, and with Christ, and in Christ,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
all honour and glory are yours, O loving Father,  
for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

*A short silence is kept.*



# 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 glory,  
for ever and ever.  
Amen.**

## Breaking of the Bread

*The President breaks the consecrated bread, saying:*

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

*The President says an 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.**

The body and blood of Christ keep you in eternal life.

*During the distribution of Communion the choir sings:*

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.

## Prayer after Communion

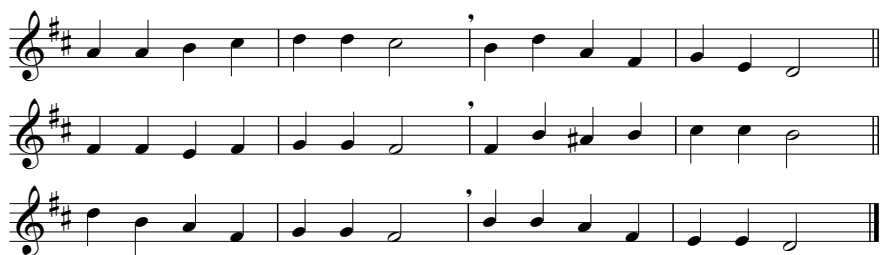
*The congregation stands.*

*The President says:*

Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,  
who did not die until they welcomed the Messiah:  
may we, who have received these your gifts beyond words,  
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes to bring us eternal life;  
for he is alive and reigns now and for ever.

**Amen.**

## Hymn



1. Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only light,  
sun of Righteousness, arise,  
triumph o'er the shades of night;  
dayspring from on high, be near;  
daystar, in my heart appear.

2. Dark and cheerless is the morn  
unaccompanied by thee;  
joyless is the day's return,  
till thy mercy's beams I see;  
till they inward light impart,  
glad my eyes, and warm my heart.

3. Visit then this soul of mine,  
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
fill me, radiance divine,  
scatter all my unbelief;  
more and more thyself display,  
shining to the perfect day.

*Words* Charles Wesley (1707–88)

*Tune* RATISBON, NEH 234, from J G Werner's *Choralbuch* (Leipzig, 1815)

*Please remain standing.*

## The Blessing

*The President says:*

The Lord bless you and watch over you,  
the Lord make his face shine upon you  
and be gracious to you,  
the Lord look kindly on you  
and give you peace:  
and the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit,  
be upon you and remain with you always.  
**Amen.**

## The Dismissal

*A Minister says:*

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

## Organ Voluntary

Praeludium in F, BUXWV 157

Dieterich Buxtehude