



# **Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2025**

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

### **Candlemass**

## Entrance Hymn

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

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

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

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

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

*Michael Perry based on Ps.24  
Tune: Crucifer*

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

Grace and peace be with you  
**and keep you in the love of Christ.**

### ***The priest introduces the Eucharist***

At Christmas we heard the angels' message proclaiming 'Peace to all on earth.' Forty days later, as we recall the sacred moment when Christ was presented in the temple, we hear the voice of Simeon singing the praises of Jesus, the salvation promised to all the nations.

On this day, in the temple, the pain of love and the cost of salvation is declared, and God is praised for all he has done to lead his people from darkness into his own wonderful light.

As our Christmas celebrations come to a close we cling to the light of the Christ child. Led by the Spirit, let us go to the house of God, embracing the Light that has come into the world, and singing his praises. There we will recognise him in the breaking of bread, proclaiming his death and resurrection until he comes again.

## Gloria in Excelsis

Glory in the highest to the God of heaven!  
Peace to all your people through the earth be given:  
Mighty God and Father, thanks and praise we bring,  
Singing alleluias to our heavenly King.  
Jesus Christ is risen, God the Father's Son:  
With the Holy Spirit, you are Lord alone!

Lamb once killed for sinners, all our guilt to bear,  
Show us now your mercy, now receive our prayer.  
Christ the world's true Saviour, high and holy one,  
Seated now and reigning from your Father's throne:  
Lord and God, we praise you; highest heaven adores:  
In the Father's glory, all the praise be yours!

*Tune: Rachie*

## Collect

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

Almighty and ever-living God, clothed in majesty,  
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the Temple,  
in substance of our mortal 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*

## Malachi 3. 1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

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.

For the word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

## **The Gospel Reading**

*Please Stand*

Alleluia, alleluia,  
give thanks to the risen Lord:  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
give praise to his name.

Come, let us praise the living God,  
joyfully sing to our Saviour.

Alleluia, alleluia,  
give thanks to the risen Lord:  
Alleluia, alleluia,  
give praise to his name.

*Donald Fishel b.1950  
Tune: Alleluia no.1*

## **Luke 2. 22-40**

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to Saint 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.**

## **The Homily**

*Please Sit*

## **The Affirmation of Faith**

*Please Stand*

*A Baptismal Creed*

**I believe and trust in God the Father,  
who created all that is.**

**I believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ,  
who redeemed humankind.**

**I believe and trust in his Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God.**

**I believe and trust in one God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Amen.**

## The Intercession

*Please Sit*

Lord, in your mercy: **Or** Lord, hear us:  
**hear our prayer. Lord, graciously hear us.**

Merciful Father,  
**accept these prayers  
for the sake of your Son,  
our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

## Penitence

Our Saviour Jesus Christ says:  
I am the light of the world.  
Whoever follows me shall never live 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.

**Merciful God,  
we have sinned in thought and word and deed:  
we are truly sorry, and repent and turn to you.  
Renew our lives by your Spirit  
in the image of Jesus Christ our Saviour,  
to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

Almighty God have mercy on you,  
forgive you and set you free from sin,  
and keep you in eternal life. **Amen.**

## The Peace

*Please Stand*

In the tender compassion of our God the dawn from on high has broken upon us, to  
shine on 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 with you always.  
**And also with you.**

Let us offer one another a sign of the Lord's peace.

## Hymn

New light has dawned, the Son of God is here,  
a holy light no earthly light outshines;  
the light has dawned, the light that casts out fear,  
the light that evil dreads and love defines.

The light of glory shines to angels' song,  
the shepherds run to where a baby lies;  
a servant of the Lord, who waited long,  
acclaims the light to lighten Gentile eyes.

And priestly men sit listening to a boy,  
they see the dawning light within his face.  
Such words they hear those Christ-child lips employ!  
Amazing words of wisdom, truth and peace.

O Christ, the light who came to us on earth,  
shine through the shadow cast by human sin;  
renew the faith you gave at our new birth,  
destroy the dark, and let your light come in.

*Paul Wigmore 1925-2014*  
*Tune: Woodlands*

## The Thanksgiving

We celebrate together the gifts and grace of God.  
**We take this bread,**  
**we take this wine**  
**to follow Christ's example**  
**and obey his command.**

## The Prayer over the Gifts

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.**

## **Eucharistic Prayer (4)**

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 our thanks and praise.**

It is indeed right, it is our duty and our joy  
at all times and in all places to give you thanks, holy Father,  
all-powerful and everliving God,  
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Because by appearing in the Temple  
he brings judgement on the world.

The Word made flesh searches  
the hearts of all your people,  
to bring to light the brightness of your splendour.

And so with the hosts of angels and all the company of heaven  
we proclaim the glory of your name  
and join in their unending hymn of praise:

**Holy, holy, holy, holy,  
Holy, holy, Lord God Almighty.  
And we lift our hearts before you  
as a token of our love.  
Holy, holy, holy, holy.**

**Gracious Father, gracious Father,  
Blessed is the one who comes to us  
in your name.**

**And we lift our hearts before you  
as we give you thanks and praise.  
Hosanna in the highest.**



All praise and thanks to you, true and living God,  
Creator of all things, Giver of life.  
You formed us in your own image;  
but we have marred that image and fall short of your glory.

We give you thanks  
that you sent your Son to share our life;  
you gave him up to death that the world might be saved,  
and you raised him from the dead  
that we might live in him and he in us.

Sanctify with your Spirit this bread and wine, your gifts to us,  
that they may be for us the body and blood of our Saviour Jesus Christ.

On the night he was betrayed, he took bread,  
and when he had given 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 when he had given thanks  
he gave it to them, saying,

Drink from this, all of you,  
for 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.

Let us proclaim the mystery of faith:

**Christ has died.**

**Christ is risen.**

**Christ will come in glory.**

As he has commanded us, Father,  
we remember Jesus Christ, your Son.  
Proclaiming his victorious death,  
rejoicing in his resurrection  
and waiting for him to come in glory  
we bring to you this bread, this cup.

Accept our sacrifice of thanks and praise.  
Restore and revive your people,  
renew us and all for whom we pray  
with your grace and heavenly blessing,  
and at the last receive us with all your saints  
into that unending joy promised by your Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Through him, with him, in him,  
in the unity of the Holy Spirit  
all honour and glory are yours, almighty Father,  
for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*Silence is kept*

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

**Our Father in heaven,  
hallowed be your name;  
your kingdom come;  
your will be done  
on earth as in heaven.  
Give us today our daily bread.  
Forgive us our sins,  
as we forgive those who  
sin against us.  
Save us from the time of trial  
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom,  
the power and the glory are yours  
now and for ever. Amen.**

*The priest breaks the bread*

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**Though we are many, we are one body  
for we all share in one bread.**

*We sing*

**Jesus, Lamb of God: have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, bearer of our sins: have mercy on us.**

**Jesus, redeemer of the world: give us your peace.**

## **The Invitation to Holy Communion**

Jesus is the Lamb of God

who takes away the sins of the world.

Happy 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.**

*The sacrament is administered with these words:*

The body of Christ. **Amen.**     The blood of Christ. **Amen.**

*All those who are baptised (Christened) are welcome to receive Holy Communion today. Baptised (Christened) children are welcome to receive holy communion at the discretion of their parents.*

*If you are not receiving you are welcome to come forward for a blessing but please bring this leaflet with you as a signal to the priest.*

## **Hymn at the end of Communion**

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

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

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

Christ, thy people's glory!  
watching, doubting cease;  
grant to us thy servants  
our discharge in peace.

*Timothy Dudley-Smith 1926-2024*  
*Tune: Pastor Pastorum*

## **Post Communion**

Give thanks to the Lord for he is gracious:  
**his love is everlasting.**

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.**

This child is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a  
sign that is rejected. And a sword will pierce your own soul also.

*Candles are lit*

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

*We turn to face the Font*

Father, today 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.**

Today, we offer the Church's sacrifice of praise  
**Help us, who receive the bread of life,  
To be thankful for your gift.**

Today, we rejoice with faithful Simeon and Anna.  
**Help us, who will find the Lord in his eternal temple  
To trust in your unfailing promises.**

Today, we greet the Light of the world.  
**Help us, as we extinguish these candles,  
never to forsake the light of Christ.**

*All now extinguish their candles. The Paschal candle remains lit.*

Today, we stand near the place of baptism  
**Help us, marked with the cross,  
to share the Lord's death and resurrection.**

Today, we turn from Christ's birth to his passion.  
**Help us, for whom Lent is near,  
to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.**

Today, we bless one another in your name  
**Help us to walk in your light  
all the days of our life  
and shine as alight in the world  
to your glory, our God and Father. Amen.**

## **Hymn**

When candles are lighted on Candlemass Day  
the dark is behind us, and spring's on the way.

*A glory dawns in every dark place,  
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.*

The kings have departed, the shepherds have gone,  
the child and his parents are left on their own.

They go to the temple, obeying the law,  
and offer two pigeons, the gift of the poor.

But Anna and Simeon recognise there  
the Christ-child who came at the turn of the year.

The old who have suffered and waited so long  
see hope for the world as they welcome the young.

They gaze at God's wonderful answer to prayer,  
the joy of the Jews and the Gentiles' desire.

The candles invite us to raise and to pray  
when Christmas greets Easter on Candlemass Day.

*A glory dawns in every dark place,  
the light of Christ, the fullness of grace.*

*Elizabeth J. Cosnett 1936-2024  
Tune: Lourdes Hymn*

*An Order for the Holy Eucharist 2004, material from which is included in this service  
is copyright © Church in Wales Publications 2004.*

*CCL No: 961722*

## Notices

**Refreshments.** Please do join us for refreshments after the service if you can.

**Praying for Growth.** Please pray for the growth and renewal of the Church here in this place. Here is the Leading Your Church into Growth Prayer:

*God of Mission,  
Who alone brings growth to your  
Church,  
Send your Holy Spirit to give  
Vision to our planning,  
Wisdom to our actions,  
Joy to our worship,  
And power to our witness.  
Help our church to grow in numbers,  
In spiritual commitment to you,  
And in service to our local community,  
Through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.*

**The Community Fridge** takes place every Sunday from 4-5pm at the Parish Church.

**Sunday Sheet.** Please take this sheet home with you for the notices for the week and to pray for what is happening in the life of our Church.

**Choir Tour.** The Cathedral Choir have been given the amazing opportunity of singing in Finland on a choir tour in May next year. We are raising money to make sure this can happen. For more details, and to donate online, please see the following

link: <https://gofund.me/560aa0db>

If you would like to donate in cash or by cheque, please clearly mark your donations 'Choir Finland' and hand to a member of the cathedral team or pop it

in the collection plate or donation box in the cathedral. If you are able to, please share the Go Fund Me page – from the page on the link above, click 'Share' and you can share on social media or copy the link to send to friends and family. Thank you.

**The Kentigern Guild** next meets on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> February when the speaker will be Peter Robinson from Rhyl RNLI. The story of the Ocean Monarch (A ship which caught fire and sank off the coast near Abergele).

**Epiphany Carol Service** at St Asaph Cathedral today at 3.30pm. Come and enjoy some beautiful seasonal music and sing some seasonal hymn with our Cathedral Choir.

## The Week Ahead

### 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday – Seiriol

9am Morning Prayer  
9.30am Holy Eucharist  
5pm Evening Prayer

### 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday – Manche Masemola

9am Morning Prayer  
5pm Evening Prayer  
6pm Holy Eucharist

### 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday – Feria

9am Morning Prayer  
10.30am Holy Eucharist  
6.15pm Sung Evening Prayer

## **6<sup>th</sup> Thursday – Feria**

9am Morning Prayer

10am Holy Eucharist *at the Parish Church*

10.45am Prayer Group *at the Parish Church*

12noon Food4Thought Lunch *at the Parish Church*

5pm Evening Prayer

## **7<sup>th</sup> Friday – Feria**

9am Morning Prayer

9.30am Offeren (Welsh Eucharist)

6pm Choral Evensong

## **8<sup>th</sup> Saturday – Feria**

9am Morning Prayer

5pm Evening Prayer

## **9<sup>th</sup> Sunday – The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday before Lent**

9.30am The Parish Eucharist

11am The Cathedral Eucharist

3.30pm Choral Evensong

### Contact:

Parish Church: 01745 535957

Fr Rex: 07393 639813

### Parish Church Website:

[www.stasaphparishchurch.org.uk](http://www.stasaphparishchurch.org.uk)

## **Today's Readings**

### **Micah 3. 1-5**

Malachi predicts the coming of a messenger to the Temple who will purify 'the descendants of Levi' and will enable God to draw near to judge those who oppress the vulnerable.

### **Psalm 24. 7-10**

### **Hebrews 2. 14-end**

Jesus is described as a human being sharing human characteristics, but one who destroys the power of death, thus freeing those who fear death. He is a merciful and faithful High Priest, able to help those who are being tested.

### **Luke 2. 22-40**

When the baby Jesus is presented in the Temple, old Simeon and Anna both recognise him as someone very special who will reveal the inner thoughts of many but who will also be the cause of pain to his parents.

