CANDLEMAS EUCHARIST.

ST BOTOLPH’S AND ST MARK’S 31st January 2021

Welcome

This Sunday we celebrate Candlemas.  There will be a moment in our service where I will ask you to raise a lighted candle (perhaps you could be prepared at home for that moment).  I hope you can share in this with me so that in our church and in our homes the light of the presence of Christ might shine, albeit briefly, as a reminder that as Christ’s light is revealed in the temple, so is his light and life present with us in our homes.

Minister: In the name of the father and of the son and of the Holy Spirit

**Amen**

Priest: The Lord be with you

**ALL: And also with 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 recognised him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. Today 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

Minister now invites us to call to mind our sins.

Jesus says, ‘I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me shall not walk in darkness but will have the light of life.’ Let us then bring our secret sins into his light and confess them in penitence and faith.

**All: 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, in what we have done and in what we have not 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 minister will declare the words of forgiveness.

Absolution

Almighty God who forgives all who truly repent, Have mercy upon you, Pardon and deliver you from all your sins. Confirm you in all goodness and keep you in life eternal through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen

All Say the Gloria

Gloria in Excelsis  
**All 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 the glory of God the Father.**

**The Collect**

**Almighty Father, whose son Jesus Christ was Presented to the Temple and acclaimed the glory of Israel and the light of the nations, grant that in him we may be presented to you and in the world may reflect his glory through christ our Lord who is alive and reigns with you and the holy spirit one God now and for ever**

**Amen**

**All seat for the reading**

Malachi 3:1-5,

– Hebrews 2.14-18

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.

Reader:

This is the word of the Lord All: Thanks be to God

Gospel Reading

Alleluia, alleluia.  
Christ was revealed in flesh,  
proclaimed among the nations  
And believed in throughout the world.  
**All Alleluia.**

The Lord be with you.  
All And also with you.  
Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ  
according to LUKE.

**All Glory to you, O Lord.**

## Luke 2:22-40

22When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23(as it is written in the law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord”), 24and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

25Now 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. 26It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. 27Guided 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, 28Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 29“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; 30for my eyes have seen your salvation, 31which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.” 33And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 34Then 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 35so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.” 36There 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, 37then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. 38At 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. 39When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

At the end  
This is the Gospel of the Lord.

The SERMON

The Creed  
**All 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,**  
**2was incarnate from 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*.**

**Intercessory Prayers**

Prayers of Intercession  
This response or another may be used  
Lord, in your mercy  
**All hear our prayer.**

To conclude the Intercessions this may be said.  
Merciful Father,  
**All Accept these prayers**  
**for the sake of your Son,**  
**our Saviour Jesus Christ.**  
**Amen.**

The Liturgy of the Sacrament

The Peace

**In the tender mercy of our God the dawn from on high has broken upon us to shine on all those who dwell in darkness and the shadow of death and to guide feet into the way of peace.**

**The Peace of The Lord be always with you.**

**ALL: And all so with you.**

**THE EUCJARISTIC PRAYER**

The Lord is here.

All   **His Spirit is with us.**

Lift up your hearts.

All   **We lift them to the Lord.**

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All   **It is right to give 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 and praise,

holy Father, heavenly King,

almighty and eternal God,

through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord.

**And now we give you thanks because in coming to**

**dwell among us as man he revealed the radiance of your glory, and brought us out of darkness into your own marvellous light,**

Therefore with angels and archangels,

and with all the company of heaven,

we proclaim your great and glorious name,

for ever praising you and saying:

All   **Holy, holy, holy Lord,**

**God of power and might,**

**heaven and earth are full of your glory.**

**Hosanna in the highest.**

**[Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.**

**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.

[Great is the mystery of faith:]

All   **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:

*All*   **Blessing and honour and glory and power**

**be yours for ever and ever.**

**Amen.**

Silence is kept.

The Lord’s Prayer  
The president introduces the Lord’s Prayer.  
Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us  
**All 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 this bread to share in the body of Christ.

**All Though we are many, we are one body, because we all share in one bread**

The Agnus Dei is said as the bread is broken.  
**All: Lamb of God;**  
**you take away the sin of the world,**  
**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God;**  
**you take away the sin of the world,**  
**have mercy on us.**

**Lamb of God;**  
**you take away the sin of the world,**  
**grant us peace**

This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sin the world Happy are those who called to his supper.

**All: Lord, I am not worthy to receive you, but only say the word, and I shall be healed.**

**The Post Communion Prayer**

**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.**

BLESSING AND DISTRIUTION OF CANDLES

Simeon calls Jesus "a light to enlighten the Gentiles." Accordingly this day was made into Candlemas, a feast of candles. The warm candlelight is meant to be a tangible reminder of that greater light which, for and beyond all time, radiates from the figure of Jesus. We are reminded of the need to be prepared to burn brightly ourselves in the midst of this dark world. We take a light away this morning, it is not our own light, no light of our own would be bright enough, rather it is the light of Christ. The light which at the beginning of creation shined in the darkness and which no darkness could overcome. Jesus was a light to lighten the gentiles, all the nations and races and culture of people. Bless these candles Lord, that through the prayer we offer as we light them, your light may shine brightly in our lives.

The Nunc Dimitis

1 Now, Lord, you let your servant go in peace:  
your word has been fulfilled.  
2 My own eyes have seen the salvation  
which you have prepared in the sight of every people;  
3 A light to reveal you to the nations  
and the glory of your people Israel.  
All Glory to the Father and to the Son  
and to the Holy Spirit;  
as it was in the beginning is now  
and shall be for ever. Amen.

Father, here we bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour’s birth.  
**All 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.  
**All Help us, who have received the bread of life,**  
**to be thankful for your gift.**  
Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.  
**All 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.  
**All Help us never to forsake the light of Christ.**  
Here we now stand near the place of baptism.  
**All Help us, who are marked with the cross,**  
**to share the Lord’s death and resurrection.**  
Here we turn from Christ’s birth to his passion.  
**All Help us, for whom Lent is near,**  
**to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.**

Closing Hymn

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
Christ, the true, the only light,  
Sun of righteousness, arise,  
triumph o'er the shades of night;  
[Dayspring](http://dayspring.com/) from on high, be near;  
Daystar, in my heart appear.  
  
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.  
  
Visit then this soul of mine;  
pierce the gloom of sin and grief;  
fill me, radiancy divine;  
scatter all my unbelief;  
more and more thyself display,  
shining to the perfect day.

(1707-1788) 1740

**Dismissal and Blessing.**

**Priest:** Christ the son of God, born of Mary, fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will

And he blessing of God almighty the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, be upon you and remain with you always

Amen.

Priest: Go in peace to love and serve the lord.

**All: In the name of Christ. Amen**

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