

All Saints' Margaret Street

High Mass

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

2nd February, 2024, 6.30pm

The Mass is sung today to the Missa Brevis in F K192 – W. A. Mozart, 1756-1791

The choir sings THE MOTET Maria wallt zum Heiligum – Johannes Eccard, 1553-1611 during which the people's candles are lit.

Mary made a pilgrimage to the temple and brought her child there, who was seen by the aged Simeon, as the prophets had foretold. Simeon took Jesus in his arms, and joyfully sang: *Now I go forth with joy, for today I have seen You, Saviour – comfort of Israel, light of the World.*

O dear Jesus, grant now that we at all times find all our joy in Thee, just as Simeon did, and that, when the time comes, we pass away gently and thus sing gladly: *Now I go forth with joy, for today I have seen You, Saviour – comfort of Israel, light of the World.*

All turn to face the Sacred Ministers at the crossing.

THE INTRODUCTION & GREETING

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

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**

THE BLESSING OF CANDLES

Dear brothers and sisters, forty days have passed since we celebrated the joyful feast of the Nativity of the Lord. Today is the blessed day when Jesus was presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph. Outwardly he was fulfilling the Law, but in reality he was coming to meet his believing people. Prompted by the Holy Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the Temple. Enlightened by the same Spirit, they recognized the Lord and confessed him with exultation. So let us also, gathered together by

the Holy Spirit, encounter Christ in this house of God. There we shall find him and recognize him in the breaking of the bread, until he comes again, revealed in glory.

All hold their lit candles aloft, and the Priest blesses them.

O Lord Jesu Christ, who art the true light that lightenest every man that cometh in the world: we beseech thee to pour out thy blessing upon these candles, and sanctify them with the light of thy grace; and mercifully grant that, even as they with their outward flame do scatter the darkness of night, so our hearts being inflamed with the inward brightness of thy Holy Spirit may be delivered from all blindness of iniquity; that the eyes of our souls being enlightened may discern such things as are pleasing unto thee and profitable unto us for our salvation; that finally after the darkness and dangers of this world we may attain in the end of light everlasting; through thee, Christ Jesu, Saviour of the world, who in the unity of the blessed Trinity livest and reignest God, world without end. **Amen.**

The Priest sprinkles the candles with Holy Water.

Let us go forth in peace.

In the name of Christ. Amen.

All sing THE PROCESSIONAL HYMN
157 Hail to the Lord who comes

The choir sings THE INTROIT
Suscepimus, Deus

GLORIA IN EXCELSIS *is sung by the choir:*

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 most high in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

THE COLLECT

Almighty and ever-living God, we humbly beseech thy majesty, that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the Temple, in substance of our flesh, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts, by thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE FIRST READING Malachi 3.1-5

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 washers' 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 judgment; 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.

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

PSALM 24.7-10 is sung by the choir

7. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors : and the King of glory shall come in.
8. Who is the King of glory : it is the Lord strong and mighty, even the Lord mighty in battle.
9. Lift up your heads, O ye gates, and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors : and the King of glory shall come in.
10. Who is the King of glory : even the Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.

THE SECOND READING Hebrews 2.14-8

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 become 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.

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

THE GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.
Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

The old man carried the Child: but the Child governed the old man.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.

THE HOLY GOSPEL Luke 2.22-40

The Lord be with you. **And with thy spirit.**
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 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 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 be to thee, O Christ.

Please extinguish your candles now.

THE SERMON

Fr. James Wilkinson
Assistant Priest, St Andrew's Holborn
Chaplain to the Bishop of Fulham

All sing **THE CREED**

Text and music are found on p. 562 of the hymnal

THE PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

The response is:

Lord, hear us. **Lord, graciously hear us.**

The prayer concludes:

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

THE PEACE

We are all one in Christ Jesus. We belong to him through faith, heirs of the promise of the Spirit of peace.

The peace of the Lord be always with you.
And with thy spirit.

THE OFFERTORY

Please note that a collection is raised at the end of the service, rather than at this point.

The choir sings **THE MOTET**

Hodie beata virgo – William Byrd, 1539-1623

Today the Blessed Virgin Mary presented the child Jesus in the temple and Simeon, full of the Holy Spirit, took Him in his arms, and blessed God for evermore.

Pray, my brothers and sisters, that my sacrifice and yours may be acceptable to God the almighty Father.

May the Lord accept the sacrifice at thy hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good, and the good of all his holy Church.

O Lord, we beseech thee mercifully to hear our prayers: and that these gifts which we offer unto thy divine majesty may be an acceptable offering in thy sight, do thou show forth on us the succour of thy loving-kindness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

THE EUCHARISTIC PRAYER

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 the Lord our God.
It is meet and right so to do.

The preface continues.

SANCTUS & BENEDICTUS *are sung by the choir*

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 canon continues.

Great is the mystery of faith:
**Christ has died, Christ is risen,
Christ will come again**

The canon concludes:

O Father Almighty, world without end. **Amen.**

THE LORD'S PRAYER

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.

AGNUS DEI *is sung by the choir*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us. *(twice)*

O Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world, grant us thy peace.
Behold the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world. Blessed are those who are called to his supper.
Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof, but speak the word only and my soul shall be healed.

The choir sings **THE COMMUNION CHANT**
Viderunt oculi mei

Please use either of the two Communion stations. Gluten-free hosts are available at the Lady Altar station. Those with mobility issues are advised to use the Lady Altar station.

All sing **THE COMMUNION HYMN**
187 Virgin born we bow before thee

THE PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

O Lord, who didst fulfil the hope of Simeon and Anna that they might live to greet the coming of the Messiah: grant that we, who have received these inexpressible gifts, may be prepared to meet Christ Jesus when he shall come to bring us to eternal life; for he liveth and reigneth, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE BLESSING

To which all respond: **Amen.**

THE DISMISSAL

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

All sing **THE FINAL HYMN**
338 At the name of Jesus

VOLUNTARY Praeludium in C, BuxWV 137
– Dietrich Buxtehude, 1637-1707

A retiring collection is raised. Please make tap your debit or credit card on the machine.

Please stay for refreshments.

