

The

Order

for

Solemn

Choral

Evensong

for

The Feast of the Presentation of our Lord
Jesus Christ in the Temple

February 5, 2023 at 5:00 pm

THE OFFICE OF EVENSONG is sung at the close of each day in cathedrals, collegiate chapels, monastic communities, and parish churches throughout the Anglican Communion. Derived from the ancient offices of Vespers and Compline, it is a service of rare beauty offered through the singing of psalms and canticles, the reading of scripture, and prayer. This liturgy of sung prayer has been offered daily throughout the Christian era and it enables us to join with all those who have gone before, those today who offer their evening prayers, and those who will continue their sung praise, petitions, and thanksgivings in times to come.

The worshipper offers praise through association with the choir and sits awash in sung prayer as it resonates throughout this sacred space. Natural time is suspended as word and music combine to capture the holy rhythms of the spheres and the worshipper is transported beyond chronological time to a place where creation and eternity coalesce into one.



The Use of Incense

THE USE OF INCENSE in the liturgical rites of the Church has its origins in antiquity. Deeply imbued with mystic symbolism, the practice of offering incense dates from the Old Testament in the time of the Second Temple. It is symbolic of the prayers of the faithful rising to heaven: “Let my prayer be set forth in thy sight as the incense, and let the lifting up of my hands be an evening sacrifice” (Psalm 141:2). On this day of Candlemas, we look also to the Gospel of Matthew (2:11) and the precious offerings of the Wise Men: “...And going into the house they saw the child with Mary his mother, and they fell down and worshipped him. Then, opening their treasures, they offered him gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh.” Christian worship is fully sensory and, through the offering of incense at this Solemn Office of Evensong, we offer an additional dimension to our worship with our entire being.

The Order for Solemn Choral Evensong

for

The Feast of the Presentation of our Lord Jesus Christ in the Temple
commonly called Candlemas

February 5, 2023 at 5:00 PM

*¶ The choral setting of the Responses was composed
for the Choir of Guilford Cathedral by Philip Moore*

Organ Voluntary

¶ All stand as the Choir and Ministers enter

Introit

O lux beatissima,
Reple cordis intima
Tuorum fidelium.
Sine tuo numine,
Nihil est in homine,
Nihil est innoxium.

O light most blessed,
Fill the inmost heart
Of all thy faithful.
Without your grace,
There is nothing in us,
nothing that is not harmful.

Words: From Whitsundtide sequence Veni Sancte Spiritus
Music: Howard Helvey (2004)

¶ Officiant



Light and peace in Je - sus Christ our Lord. —

¶ People



Thanks be to God. —

¶ *The Officiant bids the People to prayer*

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLASTING GOD, who on this day didst present thine only-begotten Son in the holy temple to be received into the arms of blessed Simeon; we humbly entreat thee to bless, ✠ hallow, and kindle with the light of thy heavenly benediction these candles which we thy servants carry, lighted in honor of thy Holy Name. May we be filled with the fire of thy love and made worthy to be presented in the holy temple of thy glory; through Jesus Christ our Lord. ¶ *People Amen.*

¶ *The Candles are lit as the following Hymn is sung by all*

1. Sing of Ma-ry, pure and low-ly, Vir-gin- Mo-ther un-de-filed.
2. Sing of Je-sus, Son of Ma-ry, In the home at Naz-a-reth.
3. Sing of Ma-ry, sing of Je-sus, Ho-ly Mo-ther's ho-lier Son.
4. Joy-ful Mo-ther, full of glad-ness, In thine arms thy Lord was borne.
5. Glo-ry be to God the Fa-ther; Glo-ry be to God the Son;

Sing of God's own Son most ho-ly, Who be-came her lit-tle child.
Toil and la-bour can-not wea-ry Love en-dur-ing un-to death.
From his throne in heav'n he sees us, Thi-ther calls us ev-ery one,
Mourn-ful-Mo-ther, full of sad-ness, All thy heart with pain was torn.
Glo-ry be to God the Spi-rit; Glo-ry to the Three in One.

Fair - est child of fair - est Mo - ther, God the Lord who came to earth,
 Con - stant was the love he gave her, Though it drove him from her side,
 Where he wel - comes home his Mo - ther To a place at his right hand,
 Glo - rious Mo - ther, now re - ward - ed With a crown at Je - sus' hand,
 From the heart of bless - ed Ma - ry, From all saints the song as - cends,

Word made Flesh, our ve - ry Bro - ther, Takes our na - ture by his birth.
 Forth to preach, and heal, and suf - fer, Till on Cal - va - ry he died.
 There his faith - ful ser - vants gath - er, There the crown - ed vic - tors stand.
 Age to age thy name re - cord - ed Shall be blest in ev - ery land.
 And the Church the strain re - ech - oes Un - to earth's re - mot - est ends.

Words: Roland Ford Palmer (1891-1985)

Music: HERMON: C. Venn Pilcher (1879-1961)

‡ *The Officiant again bids the People to prayer*

Officiant The Lord be with you.

People And with thy spirit.

Officiant Let us pray.

O GOD OUR FATHER, source of all light, who didst this day reveal to the aged Simeon thy light which enlightens all nations. Fill our hearts with the light of faith, we beseech thee, that we who bear these candles may walk in the path of goodness, and come unto the Light that shines for ever, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord.

‡ *People Amen.*

The Invitatory and Psalter

¶ *All remain standing as the Officiant and Choir sing*

∇. O Lord, open thou our lips.

℞. And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

∇. O God, make speed to save us.

℞. O Lord, make haste to help us.

∇. 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.

∇. Praise ye the Lord.

℞. The Lord's Name be praised.

Hymn 34

INNISFREE FARM

¶ *All are then seated as the Choir sings the Psalm appointed for the day*

Psalm 34

Benedicam Dominum

*Anglican Chants: Martin How
John Barnard*

I will always give thanks unto the Lord;
his praise shall ever be in my mouth.

My soul shall make her boast in the Lord;
the humble shall hear thereof, and be glad.

O praise the Lord with me,
and let us magnify his name together.

I sought the Lord, and he heard me;
yea, he delivered me out of all my fear.

They had an eye unto him, and were lightened;
and their faces were not ashamed.

Lo, the poor crieth, and the Lord heareth him;
yea, and saveth him out of all his troubles.

The angel of the Lord tarrieth round about them that fear him,
and delivereth them.

O fear the Lord, ye that are his saints;
for they that fear him lack nothing.

The lions do lack, and suffer hunger;
but they who seek the Lord shall want no manner of thing that is good.

Come, ye children, and hearken unto me;
I will teach you the fear of the Lord.

What man is he that lusteth to live,
and would fain see good days?

Keep thy tongue from evil,
and thy lips, that they speak no guile.

Eschew evil, and do good;
seek peace, and ensue it.

The eyes of the Lord are over the righteous,
and his ears are open unto their prayers.

The countenance of the Lord is against them that do evil,
to root out the remembrance of them from the earth.

The righteous cry, and the Lord heareth them,
and delivereth them out of all their troubles.

The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a contrite heart,
and will save such as be of an humble spirit.

Great are the troubles of the righteous;
but the Lord delivereth him out of all.

He keepeth all his bones,
so that non one of them is broken.

But misfortune shall slay the ungodly;
and they that hate the righteous shall be desolate.

The Lord delivereth the souls of his servants;
and all they that put their trust in him shall not be destitute.

¶ Then the Gloria Patri is sung

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.

The Lessons

The First Lesson

HEBREW 12:1-6

THEREFORE, SINCE WE ARE SURROUNDED BY SO GREAT A CLOUD OF WITNESSES, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured from sinners such hostility against himself, so that you may not grow weary or fainthearted. In your struggle against sin you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. And have you forgotten the exhortation which addresses you as sons? “My son, do not regard lightly the discipline of the Lord, nor lose courage when you are punished by him. For the Lord disciplines him whom he loves, and chastises every son whom he receives.”

¶ Following the Lesson, all stand for the singing of the Office Hymn

Office Hymn 269

DEN DES VATERS SINN GEBOREN

¶ All remain standing for the singing of the Magnificat

Magnificat in C

¶ The Altar is censed during the singing of the Magnificat

My soul doth magnify the Lord,
and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour.
For he hath regarded
the lowliness of his handmaiden.
For behold from henceforth
all generations shall call me blessed.
For he that is mighty hath magnified me,
and holy is his Name.
And his mercy is on them that fear him
throughout all generations.
He hath showed strength with his arm;
he hath scattered the proud in the imagination of their hearts.
He hath put down the mighty from their seat,
and hath exalted the humble and meek.
He hath filled the hungry with good things,
and the rich he hath sent empty away.
He remembering his mercy hath holpen his servant Israel,
as he promised to our forefathers,
Abraham and his seed for ever. — 6 —

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 1:46–55 with Gloria Patri
Music: Jack H. Ossewaarde (1918–2004)*

¶ All are seated following the singing of the Magnificat

The Second Lesson

JOHN 7:37–46

ON THE LAST DAY OF THE FEAST, THE GREAT DAY, Jesus stood up and proclaimed, “If any one thirst, let him come to me and drink. He who believes in me, as the scripture has said, ‘Out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water.’” Now this he said about the Spirit, which those who believed in him were to receive; for as yet the Spirit had not been given, because Jesus was not yet glorified. When they heard these words, some of the people said, “This is really the prophet.” Others said, “This is the Christ.” But some said, “Is the Christ to come from Galilee? Has not the scripture said that the Christ is descended from David, and comes from Bethlehem, the village where David was?” So there was a division among the people over him. Some of them wanted to arrest him, but no one laid hands on him. The officers then went back to the chief priests and Pharisees, who said to them, “Why did you not bring him?” The officers answered, “No man ever spoke like this man!”

¶ Following the Lesson, all stand for the singing of the Nunc dimittis

Nunc dimittis *in C*

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 with Gloria Patri
Music: Jack H. Ossewaarde*

The Apostles' Creed

¶ Sung on a monotone by the Officiant and People together, all standing

I believe in God, the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth;
And in Jesus Christ his only Son our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Ghost,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, dead, and buried.
He descended into hell.
The third day he rose again from the dead.
He ascended into heaven,
and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father almighty.
From thence he shall come to judge the quick and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Ghost,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body, ✚
and the life everlasting. Amen.

The Prayers

¶ The Officiant and Choir sing the following

∇. The Lord be with you.
℞. And with thy spirit.
∇. Let us pray.

¶ The People kneel

℞. Lord have mercy upon us.
Christ have mercy upon us.
Lord have mercy upon us.

¶ Then the short form of the Lord's Prayer is sung by all, kneeling

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. Amen.

¶ Then follow these Suffrages, sung by the Officiant and Choir

∇. O Lord, show thy mercy upon us.

℟. And grant us thy salvation.

∇. O Lord, save the State.

℟. And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.

∇. Endue thy ministers with righteousness.

℟. And make thy chosen people joyful.

∇. O Lord, save thy people.

℟. And bless thine inheritance.

∇. Give peace in our time, O Lord.

℟. Because there is none other that fighteth for us, but only thou, O God.

∇. O God, make clean our hearts within us.

℟. And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

¶ The following Collects are sung; the Choir sings “Amen.”

The Collect of the Day

ALMIGHTY AND EVERLIVING GOD, we humbly beseech thee that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts by the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; who liveth and reigneth with thee and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

A Collect for Peace

O GOD, FROM WHOM ALL HOLY DESIRES, all good counsels, and all just works do proceed: Give unto thy servants that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey thy commandments, and also that by thee, we, being defended from the fear of all enemies, may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Savior. Amen.

A Collect for Aid against Perils

LIGHTEN OUR DARKNESS, we beseech thee, O Lord; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night; for the love of thy only Son, our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

Benedicamus Domino

¶ *Officiant*

¶ *People*



Let us bless the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

The Grace

¶ *Officiant*

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost, be with us all evermore. ¶ *People Amen.*

¶ *Then the Congregation is seated*

Greeting

Anthem

O nata lux de lumine,
Jesu redemptor saeculi,
dignare clemens supplicum
laudes preces que sumere.

*O born light of light,
Jesus, redeemer of the world,
mercifully deem worthy and accept
the praises and prayers of your supplicants.*

Qui carne quondam contegi
dignatus es pro perditis.
Nos membra confer effici,
tui beati corporis.

*Thou who once deigned to be clothed in flesh
for the sake of the lost ones,
grant us to be made members
of your holy body.*

*Words: Office hymn of the Feast of the Transfiguration
Music: Morten Lauridsen (b.1943)*

Closing Prayers

¶ *All kneel*

∇. The Lord be with you.

℞. And with thy spirit.

¶ *The Officiant may then offer prayers for mission and for the world*

The Blessing

MAY CHRIST, WHO BY HIS INCARNATION gathered into one things earthly and heavenly, fill you with his joy and peace; and the blessing ✠ of God Almighty, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you, and remain with you always. ¶ *People Amen.*

¶ *Then all stand for the singing of the final Hymn*

Hymn 278

RUSTINGTON

¶ *At the conclusion of the Hymn the Choir and Ministers depart; the Congregation remains standing as the procession retires*

¶ *Eucharist will be offered in St. Mayr's Chapel following the Office*

All are cordially invited to a reception in the Great Hall following the Office

The Choir will sing a service of Evensong next Sunday with the Choir of St. Peter's Ladue at 5:00pm at St. Peter's. 110 N. Warson Rd. Ladue, MO 63124

The Rev. Andrew John Archie	<i>Rector</i>
The Rev. Peter James Speropulos	<i>Assistant Rector</i>
The Rev. Thomas Roy Albinson	<i>Assistant Rector</i>
The Rev. Anne Hunter Kelsey	<i>Priest Associate</i>
The Rev. Dr. Stewart Douglas Clem	<i>Priest Associate</i>
Dr. Nicholas Frazier Bideler	<i>Director of Music</i>
Kathleen Guilfooy Beyers	<i>Assistant Director of Music</i>



THE CHURCH

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