

CHORAL EVENSONG



2 February 2022

The Feast of Candlemas

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple

7:00pm



St. George's Cathedral, Kingston

THE ORDER FOR EVENING PRAYER

Beginning on page 21 of the Book of Common Prayer

Minister. O LORD, open thou our lips;

People. And our mouth shall show forth thy praise.

Minister. O God, make speed to save us;

People. O Lord, make haste to help us.

Here, all standing up, the Minister shall say:

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost;

People. As it was in the beginning, is now, and
ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Minister. Praise ye the Lord;

People. The Lord's Name be praised.

Psalm 84 *Quam dilecta!*

O HOW lovely are thy dwellings, / thou LORD of hosts!
2 My soul hath a desire and longing to enter into the courts of the LORD:
/ my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.
3 Yea, the sparrow hath found her an house, and the swallow a nest where she
may lay her young: / even thine altars, O LORD of hosts, my King and my God.
4 Blessed are they that dwell in thy house; / they will be alway praising thee.
5 Blessed are the men whose strength is in thee, / in whose heart are the pilgrim
ways;
6 Who going through the Vale of Misery use it for a well; / yea, the early rain
covereth it with blessings.
7 They go from strength to strength, / and unto the God of gods appeareth every
one of them in Sion.
8 O LORD God of hosts, hear my prayer: / hearken, O God of Jacob.
9 Behold, O God, our shield, / and look upon the face of thine anointed.
10 For one day in thy courts / is better than a thousand.
11 I had rather be a door-keeper in the house of my God, / than to dwell in the
tents of ungodliness.
12 For the LORD God is a light and defence; the LORD will give grace and
glory; / and no good thing shall he withhold from them that lead a godly life.

13 O LORD God of hosts, / blessed is the man that putteth his trust in thee.

The First Lesson is written in the First Book of Samuel , the second chapter, beginning at the first verse:

Hannah prayed and said, ‘My heart exults in the Lord; my strength is exalted in my God. My mouth derides my enemies, because I rejoice in my victory. ‘There is no Holy One like the Lord, no one besides you; there is no Rock like our God. Talk no more so very proudly, let not arrogance come from your mouth; for the Lord is a God of knowledge, and by him actions are weighed. The bows of the mighty are broken, but the feeble gird on strength. Those who were full have hired themselves out for bread, but those who were hungry are fat with spoil. The barren has borne seven, but she who has many children is forlorn. The Lord kills and brings to life; he brings down to Sheol and raises up. The Lord makes poor and makes rich; he brings low, he also exalts. He raises up the poor from the dust; he lifts the needy from the ash heap, to make them sit with princes and inherit a seat of honour. For the pillars of the earth are the Lord’s, and on them he has set the world. ‘He will guard the feet of his faithful ones, but the wicked shall be cut off in darkness; for not by might does one prevail. The Lord! His adversaries shall be shattered; the Most High will thunder in heaven. The Lord will judge the ends of the earth; he will give strength to his king, and exalt the power of his anointed.’

Here endeth the first lesson.

THE OFFICE HYMN:

Hail to the Lord who comes,
Comes to his temple gate!
Not with his angel host,
Not in his kingly state;
No shouts proclaim him nigh,
No crowds his coming wait;

2 But borne upon the throne
Of Mary's gentle breast,
Watched by her duteous love,
In her fond arms at rest;
Thus to his Father's house
He comes, the heavenly guest.

3 There Joseph at her side
In reverent wonder stands;
And, filled with holy joy,

Old Simeon in his hands
Takes up the promised Child,
The glory of all lands.

4 Hail to the great First-born
Whose ransom-price they pay!
The Son before all worlds,
The Child of man to-day,
That he might ransom us
Who still in bondage lay.

5 O Light of all the earth,
Thy children wait for thee!
Come to thy temples here,
That we, from sin set free,
Before thy Father's face
May all presented be!

Old 120^h

John Ellerton 1826-93

Melody as in Este's *Psalter* 1592.

Harmony almost entirely from Ravenscroft's

Psalmes 1621

Magnificat. St Luke 1. 46.

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.

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 Second Lesson is written in the Gospel according to St Luke, the second chapter, beginning at the twenty-second verse:

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.

Here endeth the second lesson.

Blessing of Candles

Almighty and everlasting God, who on this day didst present thine only-begotten Son in the holy temple to be received in 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 bear, lighted in honour of the 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. Amen.

Antiphon

A light to enlighten the Gentiles;
and the glory of thy people Israel.

Nunc Dimittis. St Luke 2.29.

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.

At the end of the censing

V Your light is come, O Jerusalem.

R And the glory of the Lord is risen upon you.

O God, the source of all light, today thou revealed to the aged Simeon and Anna thy light which enlightens the nations. Fill our hearts with the light of faith, that we who bear theses candles may walk in the path of goodness, and come to the Light that shineth for ever, thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

Then shall be said or sung the Confession of the Faith, called the Apostles' Creed.

IBELIEVE 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.

And after the Creed these prayers following, all devoutly kneeling, the Minister first pronouncing:

The Lord be with you;
People. And with thy spirit.
Minister. Let us pray.
Lord, have mercy upon us.
Christ, have mercy upon us.
Lord, have mercy upon 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 them that trespass against us; And lead us not into temptation, But deliver us from evil. *Amen.*

Then the Priest standing up shall say:

O Lord, show thy mercy upon us;
People: And grant us thy salvation.
Priest: O Lord, save the Queen;
People: And mercifully hear us when we call upon thee.
Priest: Endue thy Ministers with righteousness;
People: And make thy chosen people joyful.
Priest: O Lord, save thy people;
People: And bless thine inheritance.
Priest: Give peace in our time, O Lord;
People: And evermore mightily defend us.
Priest: O God, make clean our hearts within us;
People: And take not thy Holy Spirit from us.

Almighty and everlasting 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 may we be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts, by the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

The Second 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 our enemies may pass our time in rest and quietness; through the merits of Jesus Christ our Saviour. *Amen.*

The Third Collect, for Aid against all 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 Saviour Jesus Christ. *Amen.*

THE ANTHEM:

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.

2 Help now thy servants, gracious Lord, that we may ever be
as once the faithful Simeon was, rejoicing but in Thee;
and when we must from earth departure take, departure take,
may gently fall asleep,
may gently fall asleep,
may gently fall asleep and with Thee wake.

Johannes Eccard 1558-1611

tr. John Troutbeck 1832-1899

HYMN:

When candles are lighted on Candlemas 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.*

2. The kings have departed, the shepherds have gone,

the child and his parents are left on their own.

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

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

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

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

7. The light is increasing and spring's in the air.
Look back with thanksgiving! Look forward with awe!

8. They see before Mary a heart-piercing grief,
but trust is complete at the end of their life.

9. For Mary will follow, with tears in her eyes,
her Saviour and Son to the foot of the cross.

10. Great Spirit of Jahweh, with courage inspire
your everyday saints who face up to despair.

11. They pass through temptation, through failure, through death.
When darkness descends they plod onward in faith.

12. Like Anna, like Simeon, may they have trust,
the eyes to see Jesus, and peace at the last.

13. The candles invite us to praise and to pray
when Christmas greets Easter on Candlemas Day.

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

Lourdes

Elizabeth Cosnett b. 1936

French Traditional Melody

ALmighty God, whose blessed Son Jesus Christ went about doing good, and healing all manner of sickness and disease among the people: Continue, we beseech thee, this his gracious work among us especially in this pandemic time; cheer, heal, and sanctify the sick; grant to the physicians, surgeons, and nurses wisdom and skill, sympathy and patience; and send down thy blessing upon all who labour to prevent suffering and to forward thy purposes of love; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

OLORD, support us all the day long of this troublous life, until the shadows lengthen and the evening comes, the busy world is hushed, the fever of life is over, and our work is done. Then, Lord, in thy mercy, grant us safe lodging, a holy rest, and peace at the last; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. *Amen.*

A Prayer of Saint Chrysostom.

ALmighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee; and dost promise that when two or three are gathered together in thy Name thou wilt grant their requests: Fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them; granting us in this world knowledge of thy truth, and in the world to come life everlasting. Amen.

2 Corinthians 13:14.

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



St. George's Cathedral, Kingston

The Ven. David Selzer, Interim Dean
Brad Barbeau, Interim Director of Music