

Candlemas Procession

The congregation stands.

The Presider greets the people with these words

Light and peace, in Jesus Christ our Lord.

People Thanks be to God.

Dear people of God, forty days ago we celebrated the joyful feast of the incarnation of Jesus. Today we recall the day on which he was presented in the temple, fulfilling the law of Moses. Led by the Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the temple, recognized the child as the Christ, and proclaimed him with joy. United by the same Spirit, we now enter the house of God, where we shall recognize Christ in the breaking of bread.

Let us pray.

O eternal God, who have created all things; on this day you fulfilled the petitions of the just Simeon: we humbly ask you to bless and sanctify these candles for our use. Graciously hear our prayers and be merciful to us, whom you have redeemed by your Son, who is the light of the world, and who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

The following canticle is then said, during which the candles are lighted, if the people are not already holding them.

A Light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.

*A Light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.*

Lord, you now have set your servant free *
to go in peace as you have promised.

*A Light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.*

For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, *
whom you have prepared for all the world to see.

*A Light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.*

The Presider then says the following prayer
Let us pray.

O God, source of all light, today you revealed to the aged Simeon your light which enlightens the nations. Fill our hearts with the light of faith, that we who bear these candles may walk in the path of goodness, through Jesus Christ the Light of the World. Amen.

The Procession

Deacon Let us go forth in peace.

People In the name of Christ. Amen.

During the procession, all carry lighted candles; and appropriate hymns, psalms, or anthems are sung.

Praise to the Lord, the Almighty, the King of Creation
O my soul praise him, for he is thy health and salvation:
join the great throng, psaltery, organ, and song,
sounding in glad adoration.

Praise to the Lord; over all things He gloriously reigneth:
borne as on eagle-wings, safely his saints he sustaineth
Hast thou not seen, how all thou needest hath been,
granted in what he ordaineth?

Praise to the Lord! who doth prosper thy way and defend thee;
surely his goodness and mercy shall ever attend thee;
Ponder anew, what the Almighty can do,
who with his love doth befriend thee.

Praise to the Lord! O let all that is in me adore him!
All that hath life and breath come now with praises before him!
Let the amen, sound from his people again,
gladly forever adore him.

On arrival in the sanctuary, the Presider goes to the usual place, and the Eucharist begins with the Collect of the Day. After the Collect, all extinguish their candles.