

Candlemas – The Feast of the Presentation

saint benedict's table

February 2, 2020

*We light a candle for the ancient prophets
And sing hymns of longing
For the fruit of the root of the Jesse tree
The Jesse tree*

*And the spirit of the Lord rested on Him
The spirit of the Lord rested on Him
(Alana Levandoski)*

Gathering

Jesus Christ is the light of the world.

A light no darkness can extinguish.

Blessed are you, O God, our maker.

Enlighten our darkness by the light of your Christ.

May his word be a lamp to our feet
and a light to our path;
for you are full of loving kindness for your whole creation,
and we, your creatures, glorify you,
One God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

*I wandered so aimless, life filled with sin
I wouldn't let my dear Saviour in
Then Jesus came like a stranger in the night
Praise the Lord, I saw the light
I saw the light, I saw the light
No more darkness, no more night*

*Now I am so happy, no sorrow in sight
Praise the Lord, I saw the light*

*Just like a blind man I wandered along
Worries and fears I claimed for my own
Been like the blind man that God gave back his sight
Praise the Lord, I saw the light
I saw the light...*

*I was a fool to wander and stray
Straight is the gate and narrow's the way
Now I have traded the wrong for the right
Praise the Lord, I saw the light
I saw the light...*
(Hank Williams)

God of love,
you gave your Son
to be a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.
With Simeon and Anna
and all who hail redemption's happy dawn,
may we sing your praise in Jesus Christ,
your Word made flesh. **Amen.**

The Word

Readings - Malachi 3:1-4 and Luke 2:22-40

The Word of the Lord
Thanks be to God.

Sermon – Rachel Twigg

The Apostles Creed

I believe in God,
the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.

I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the Holy Spirit
and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day He rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.
He will come again
to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Blessing of the Candles

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.

Following an ancient tradition, tonight we will bless candles and the light that they will cast, inviting you to take candles with you, to use in your homes, whether this night, this week, or on a day when your heart is in particular need of the reminder of Christ's light and Christ's promises.

Let us pray.

O eternal God, who have created all things, we ask you to bless and sanctify these candles for our use. May they stand as a sign to us of the presence of 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.**

Free us from all that casts shadows upon our lives, whether our fears or our wounds or our sins.

A time of silence for reflection and confession is held

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.**

Fill our hearts with the light of faith, that we who bear these candles may walk in the path of goodness.

**A Light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.**
Through Jesus Christ, the Light of the World.
Amen.

The Peace

The peace of the Lord be always with you,
And also with you.

The Table

*No more walking in the darkness
We've been smitten by the light
We go walking in the light of the living God
Beat our swords into ploughshares
Study war no more
We go walking in the light of the living God
Singing Allelu, Allelu, Alleluia, Allelu
We go walking in the light of the living God*

*No more hiding in the shadows
We are children of the light
We go walking in the light of the living God
We are watching and awaiting
For the coming of the king
We are walking in the light of the living God.
Singing Allelu...*

(Gord Johnson)

The Lord be with you.
And also with you.

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

It is right to give our thanks and praise.

We give you thanks and praise, almighty God,
through your beloved Son, Jesus Christ...

...now with all creation we raise our voices
to proclaim the glory of your name.

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

heaven and earth of your glory are full.

Hosanna! Hosanna! Hosanna in the highest.

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

Holy and gracious God,
accept our praise...

... all glory and honour are yours,

Father and Son,

with the Holy Spirit

in the holy Church,

now and for ever.

Amen.

As our Saviour Christ has taught us, we are bold to pray

Our Father, who art in heaven...

This is the body of Christ:

behold what you are,

become what you receive. **Amen.**

After you have received communion and are beginning to return to your pew, please pick up a candle from the baskets placed just outside of each of side of the communion circle.

*Behold, I make all things new x3
I am the light x2*

*Anything may manifest x3
Becomes the light x2
Behold...*

*Turn your face towards my face x3
Become the light x2
Behold...*

*Become the light x2
(Alana Levandoski)*

*Lost and weary traveller
Searching for the way to go
Stranger, heavy hearted
Longing for someone you know*

*May you find a light, may you find a light
May you find the light to guide you home*

*There are weary travellers
Searching everywhere you go
Strangers who are searching
Longing deeply to be known*

May you find a light...
(Josh Garrels)

*May the Good Lord shine a light on you
Make every song you sing
Your favourite tune
May the Good Lord shine a light on you
Warm like the evening sun
(Jagger/Richards)*

After communion, into the rest of life

As communion comes to an end, the candle flame is to be shared, beginning from those sitting in the front pews and spreading through the whole of the church.

**Glory to God
whose power, working in us,
can do infinitely more
than we can ask or imagine.
Glory to God from generation to generation,
in the Church and in Christ Jesus,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

The Blessing

*The day is gone, the hours have run
And You have taken count of all
Scanty triumph grace has won
The broken vow, the frequent fall*

*Through life's long day
And death's dark night
Be our light*

*In our midst the lonely sit
We're painfully aware of it
Let the joyful song be lifted high
So we can find some peace of mind
Through life's long day
And death's dark night
Be our light*

(Jenny Moore, from a hymn text by Frederick Faber)

Go forth into the world, rejoicing in Christ's shining light.
Thanks be to God.

* * * * *