



*S*t HELEN'S CHURCH
ABINGDON-ON-THAMES

The First Sunday Eucharist Candlemas



The Preparation

After the welcome and before the Eucharist begins the President invites the congregation to prepare by an act of penitence.

Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ:
'I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness
but shall have the light of life.'
Let us therefore bring our sins into his light
and confess them in penitence and faith.

Lord Jesus, you are mighty God and Prince of peace:

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are Son of God and Son of Mary:

Christ, have mercy.

All **Christ, have mercy.**

Lord Jesus, you are Word made flesh

and splendour of the Father:

Lord, have mercy.

All **Lord, have mercy.**

Almighty God, who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you, pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness, and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The Holy Eucharist

The Entrance

All stand as the President, ministers and choir enter. Hymn numbers for the service can be found in the newsletter and on the hymn boards.

The Hymn of Entry

Introduction

Dear friends, forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple, when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people. As a sign of his coming among us, his mother was purified, as we now come to him for cleansing. In their old age Simeon and Anna recognised him as their Lord, as we today sing of his glory. In this Eucharist, we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching judgement, looking back to the day of his birth and forward to the coming days of his passion.

The congregation's candles are lit

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Blessed are you, Lord our God, King of the universe.
You make our darkness to be light.
For with you is the well of life
and in your light shall we see light.

All Blessed be God for ever.

Lord God, the springing source of everlasting light,
pour into the hearts of your faithful people the brilliance of your
eternal splendour, that we, who by these kindling flames light up this
temple to your glory, may have the darkness of our souls dispelled, and
so be counted worthy to stand before you in that eternal city where
you live and reign,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

All Amen.

The Gloria

All **Glory to God in the highest,
and peace to his people on earth.
Lord God, heavenly King,
Almighty God and Father,
we worship you, we give you thanks,
we praise you for your glory.
Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father,
Lord God, Lamb of God,
you take away the sin of the world:
have mercy on us;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father:
receive our prayer.
For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.**
Amen.

The Collect of the Day

The president invites the people to pray silently, saying

Let us Pray

Lord Jesus Christ,
light of the nations and glory of Israel:
make your home among us,
and present us pure and holy to your heavenly Father,
your God, and our God.

All **Amen.**

The congregations' candles are extinguished.

The Liturgy of the Word

All sit.

The First Reading

At the end

For the gift of the word

All Thanks be to God.

All stand.

The Gradual Hymn

All remain standing for

The Holy Gospel

A cantor introduces the acclamation.

Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

All Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!

This child is the light to enlighten the nations,
and the glory of your people Israel.

*When the Gospel is announced all reply: **Glory to you, O Lord.***

*Then afterward: **Praise to you, O Christ.***

All sit.

The Sermon

The Apostles' Creed

Brothers and sisters, I ask you to profess the faith of the Church;

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

All **I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ?

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

Do you believe and trust in the Holy Spirit?

All **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**

The Intercessions

Please stand, kneel or sit as directed.

Thanksgiving for the Gift of a Child and/or Baptismal Welcome

(see pages 11-12)

All stand.

The Peace

In the tender mercy of our God
the dayspring from on high has broken upon us,
to give light to those who dwell in darkness
and in the shadow of death and to guide our feet into the way of peace.
The peace of the Lord be always with you.

And also with you.

A suitable sign of the peace is shared by all.

All remain standing.

The Offertory Hymn and Presentation of the Gifts

A collection is taken.

Members of the congregation present bread and wine for consecration.

The Great Thanksgiving

The Lord be with you
All and also with you.

Lift up your hearts.
All We lift them to the Lord.

Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All It is right to give thanks and praise.

Lord of all life, you created the universe,
where all living things reflect your glory.
You give us this great and beautiful earth,
to discover and to cherish.

You give us sun and moon and star-lit sky,
everything that gives us light,
light for our eyes, our hearts, our minds.

And now we give you thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who shares your eternal splendour
and was presented in the Temple.
He was revealed by the Spirit as the glory of Israel,
that all peoples might find him, the light of the world.

You made us all, each wonderfully different,
to join with the angels and sing your praise:

All **Holy, holy, holy Lord,**
God of power and might,
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.
Hosanna in the highest.
Blessèd is he who comes in the name of the Lord.
Hosanna in the highest.

We thank you, loving Father,
because, when we turned away,
you sent Jesus, your Son.
He gave his life for us on the cross
and shows us the way to live.

Send your Holy Spirit
that these gifts of bread and wine
may be for us Christ's body and his blood.

On the night before he died,
when darkness had fallen,
Jesus took bread.
He gave thanks, broke it,
and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my body, given for you.
Do this to remember me.'

After they had eaten, he took the cup of wine,
gave thanks, and shared it with his disciples, saying:
'This is my blood, poured out for you and for many,
for the forgiveness of sins.'

So Father, with this bread and this cup
we celebrate his love, his death, his risen life.
As you feed us with these gifts,
send your Holy Spirit,
and change us more and more
to be like Jesus our Saviour.

Help us, Father, to love one another,
as we look forward to that day
when suffering is ended,
and all creation is gathered in your loving arms.

And now with [N and] all your saints
we give you glory,
through Jesus Christ,
in the strength of the Spirit,
today and for ever.

All **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

All **Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name.
Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins as we forgive these who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power and the glory are yours now and forever.
Amen.**

The Breaking of the Bread

We who are many are one body,
All **because we all share in one bread.**

The choir sings the 'O Lamb of God' Then the President invites the congregation to come forward to receive either the Sacrament or a blessing saying,

God's holy Gifts for God's holy people.

The Communion

While the choir sings an anthem the congregation is directed to the altar rail by the sidespeople.

The Post-Communion Hymn

Post-Communion Prayer

All **Lord, you fulfilled the hope of Simeon and Anna,
who lived to welcome the Messiah:
may we, who have received these gifts beyond words,
prepare to meet Christ Jesus when he comes
to bring us to eternal life;
for he is alive and reigns, now and for ever. Amen.**

Father, we have sung your praise with shepherds and angels:
may Christ be born in our hearts today.

All Praise to Christ our light.

We have shared in the joy of Simeon Anna:
help us, like them, to trust your word.

All Praise to Christ our light.

We have greeted Jesus, the light of the world;
may we be filled with the light of your love.

All Praise to Christ our light.

The Blessing

Christ the Son of God, born of Mary,
fill you with his grace to trust his promises and obey his will;
And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.

All Amen.

All sit for the Notices.

The Dismissal

Go in the light and peace of Christ.

All Thanks be to God.

The President, other ministers and choir depart while an organ postlude is played.

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THANKSGIVING for the GIFT of a CHILD

Parents with their children gather at the altar rail. The President or other minister begins:

We gather today with parents as they give thanks for *their children*, and to support them in their responsibilities toward those whom they have brought into the world. God became one of us in Jesus, and understands all that surrounds the arrival and upbringing of children. It is God's purpose that children should know love within the stability of their home, grow in faith, and come at last to the eternal city where his love reigns.

The President/minister says:

Loving God,
you hold all things in life
and call us into your kingdom of peace;
help us to walk the path of your truth
and fill our lives with gratitude and faith;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

The minister says to each group of parents:

Do you receive this child as a gift from God?

The parents reply:

We/I do.

Do you wish to give thanks to God and to seek his blessing?

We/I do.

What name have you given this child?

His/her name is N.

The President/minister takes the child in his arms and says:

Heavenly Father, we praise you for *his/her* birth,
surround *him/her* with your blessing
that *he/she* may know your love,
be protected from evil,
and know your goodness all *his/her* days.

All **May *he/she/they* learn to love all that is true,
grow in wisdom and strength,
and, in due time, come through faith and baptism
to the fullness of your grace;
through our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.**

The Giving of the Gospel

As a Bible is given to the family, the minister says:

Receive this Bible.
Hear God's word with us. Learn and tell its stories.
Rejoice in its Good News. Discover its mysteries.
Honour its commandments.
May God's life-giving word be to you sweeter than honey,
and may it lead you in the way of Christ.

All **Amen.**

WELCOME to THOSE RECENTLY BAPTISED

Families of those recently baptised come to the front of the church. Each receives a lighted candle and is given the Certificate of Baptism.

Receive this light. This is to show that you have passed from darkness to light.

All: Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.

God has received you by baptism into his Church.

All: We welcome you into the Lord's family. We are members together of the body of Christ; we are children of the same heavenly Father; we are inheritors together of the kingdom of God, we welcome you.

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PLEASE LEAVE THIS BOOKLET IN CHURCH TO BE USED AGAIN. THANK YOU.

