

The Parish Clergy:
The Reverend the Vicar and Surrogate
Fr. Andrew Stevens, M.A., S.S.C.,
Regional Dean For Southwark Forward in Faith
S. Nicholas Vicarage, 64, Purrett Rd., Plumstead,
London. SE18 1JP
Tel. 020-8854 0461 Facsimile 020-8265 5065
e-mail parishpriest@saintnicholasplumstead.org
Web site: www.saintnicholasplumstead.org
The Reverend the Hon. Curate Fr. Charles Heard
The Churchwardens:
Mrs Cecelia Okrafo-Smart Mrs Diane Bartlett
The Churchwardens Emeriti
Mr Reg Martin Miss Betty Stroud

Dr Marc Naylor has composed a Mass setting for the Parish:

MISSA SANCTI NICOLAI

the first part, the Kyrie is set out below:

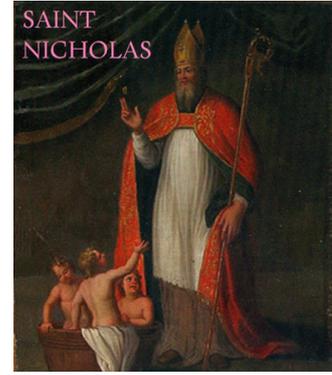
Welcome to our Church today, after the Parish Mass refreshments will be served at the back of Church. Please join us and make yourself known to one of the clergy.

This ancient church has been a place of Christian worship of Almighty God for well over 1,000 years; as we enter the third millennium of our salvation it is salutary to remember that Christians have gather here on this spot since the first millennium.

If you would like to pray, the Lady Chapel is set aside as a place of quiet, where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved or you might like to light a candle at one of the many shrines around church.

THE PARISH AND ANCIENT CHURCH OF SAINT NICHOLAS, PLUMSTEAD

WELCOME TO OUR CELEBRATION TODAY



Induction loop fitted Sound reinforcement

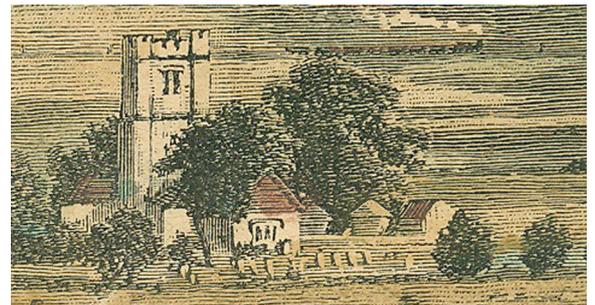


Ramp available for access

A Forward in Faith parish under the Episcopal Care of the Bishop of Fulham, during the vacancy in See The Right Reverend Peter Wheatley, we are a Eucharistic community who is worshipping in the present, upon the Apostolic Truths of the past, in the hope of finding our future salvation in God's Heavenly Kingdom.

The Mass is offered daily

Sunday	8:00am
	11:00am
Monday	8:00pm
Tuesday	7:30pm
Wednesday	9:30am
Thursday	7:00pm
Friday	12:00pm
Saturday	10:00am



Exposition of the BLESSED SACRAMENT or ADORATION half an hour before Mass every day except Sunday.

The ROSARY of the Blessed Virgin Mary is said after Mass on Friday and Saturday

Confessions:

Monday 7:30-8:00pm. Tuesday 7:00-7:30pm, Thursday 6:30-7:00pm, or by appointment.

Please turn off



all mobile 'phones

PLEASE LET FR. ANDREW KNOW OF ILLNESS OR OTHER NEED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

PLEASE TAKE THIS SHEET HOME

The word of the Lord

Luke 4. 21-30

The mood changed when the words of the preacher came nearer home. Prophecy of the great works that would be done by the Messiah when he came was fine – they had heard it before and it was an encouraging thought for some future time. But now the Messiah was standing before them, shaking their complacency, warning that the privileges of their religion might go out from them to people they thought were outside the love of God.

Whatever their scriptures said about care for strangers, nobody wanted anything to do with those across the border. It was time to get rid of this subversive young man before he did more harm to those specially chosen for the divine favour. Preachers are not often lynched today, though many have suffered even to death for speaking the truth, but they can become unpopular if they make the congregation feel less specially privileged. Those who are called to spread the word of God may suffer abuse and even persecution. The call may come not only to appointed preachers, but to any Christian.

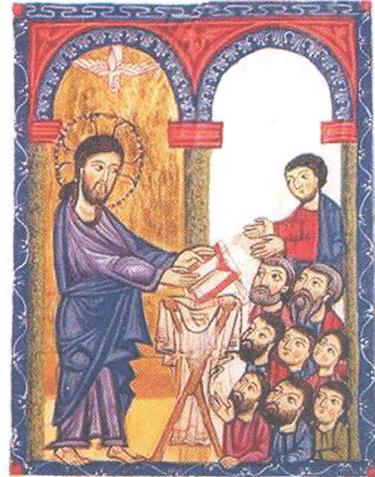
Forward!

Welcome to our celebration today

Sunday 3rd February 2013

4th Sunday of the Year
2nd Before Lent

“Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing”



In this Sunday's gospel reading Jesus is confronted with the reality of what it is to be a prophet. Like Jeremiah, the rejected Old Testament prophet par excellence, Jesus is rejected by His own townsfolk for claiming to be a prophet; and much more than a prophet, as He claims to be the one of whom the prophecy of Isaiah was originally spoken. In today's passage, Jesus accepts the reality that “no prophet is accepted in his own town.”

As the Church, as the body of Christ in the world today, Christians are called to speak prophetic words to the world. Church leaders often speak out against the prevailing wind of opinion and all of us from time-to-time will find our Christian faith coming into conflict with the values of modern society. In these situations all of us are called to stand by our Christian faith and to speak words of prophecy to an individual, to a community, or even to a nation. We may be called to speak hard words, words which the world may prefer to reject rather than accept. However, we are called to be a Prophetic Church.

Prayer

Prayer is a great weapon,
a rich treasure,
a wealth that is never exhausted,
an undisturbed refuge,
a cause of tranquillity,
the root of a multitude of blessings
and their source

St John Chrysostom

Saint of the Week

Saint Blaise

3rd February

St Blaise was a bishop of Sebastea in Armenia: due to persecution he lived as a hermit in solitude and prayer, but he made friends with the wild animals. One day a group of hunters seeking wild animals for the amphitheatre stumbled upon St Blaise's cave. The bishop was kneeling in prayer surrounded by wolves, lions and bears.

As the hunters took St Blaise to prison, a mother came with her son who had a fish bone lodged in his throat. At St Blaise's command the child coughed up the bone.

Agricolaus, governor of Cappadocia, tried to persuade St Blaise to sacrifice to pagan idols. The first time he refused, he was beaten. The next time he was suspended from a tree and his flesh torn with iron combs or rakes (wool combers, who used similar iron combs, took St Blaise as their patron). Finally, he was beheaded c. 316.

Today St Blaise's intercession is asked at the blessing of throats which uses two crossed candles from the Feast of Candlemas celebrated the day before.

“Through the intercession of St. Blaise, bishop and martyr, may God deliver you from ailments of the throat and from every other evil. In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”



Prayer for the Queen's Jubilee Year

Almighty God, we pray
 that your servant Elizabeth, our Queen,
 who, by your providence
 has received the governance of this realm,
 may continue to grow in every virtue,
 that, imbued with your heavenly grace,
 she may be preserved from all that is harmful and evil
 and, being blessed with your favour
 may, with her consort and the royal family,
 come at least into your presence,
 through Christ who is the way, the truth and the life
 and who lives and reigns with you
 in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God,
 for ever and ever. Amen.

The Rota for Reading and Intercessing

FEBRUARY	1st Reading	2nd Reading	Intercessions
Sunday 3 rd - Candlemas	D. Stevens	R. Martin - Sub Deacon	J. Jahans
Sunday 10 th	P. Alexander	G. Agin	R. Martin
Wednesday 12 th Ash Wednesday	B. Stroud	R. Barzey	B. Scott
Sunday 17 th	E. Crawley	T. May	A. Davies
Sunday 24 th	S. Obubo	Stephanie O	S. Jahans
MARCH			
Sunday 3 rd	Y. Stevens	D. Stevens	T. Agin
Sunday 10 th Mothering Sunday	J. Jahans	E. Buhl	G. Agin
Sunday 17 th	T. Agin	T. May	R. Martin
Sunday 24 th - Palm Sunday	E. Crawley	S. Jahans	B. Scott
Thursday 28 th Maundy Thursday	P. Alexander	R. Barzey	J. Jahans
Friday 29 th - Good Friday	D. Stevens	E. Buhl	Fr. Andrew
Saturday 30 th Holy Saturday	1st Reading B. Scott	2nd Reading T. Agin	3rd Reading B. Stroud
	4th Reading J. Jahans	5th Reading D. Martin	Intercessions G. Agin
Sunday 31 st - Easter Day	G. Agin	E. Crawley	A. Davies
APRIL			
Sunday 7 th	D. Stevens	Y. Stevens	S. Jahans

S. NICHOLAS CHURCH

FLOODLIGHT: LIGHT THE CHURCH

We all realise how important it is to support our Church, more so in these days of rising costs; well here is a good way of supporting it and enjoying it personally.

Floodlight the building by day £2.25 or by the week £14.50, for that personal event: a birth, Baptism, Birthday, an Anniversary, Wedding or Years Mind of a loved one, in doing this you will remember and at the same time help pay the electricity bill. The price is reasonable and shows this building in all its glory after sunset, it does enhance this fine building. Reg holds the diary, to be sure there are no double bookings, it is yours for the day or week.



**FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
 CANDLEMASS
 THE ANGELUS WILL BE SUNG AT THE
 SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF WALSINGHAM**

HYMNS

Distribution of Candles:		Sheet
Procession:		Sheet
Gradual:	NEH	157
Offertory:	NEH	156
Communion:	NEH	289
Post Communion:	NEH	184

PALM CROSSES:

Jessica Roberts in thanksgiving for the life of her Father

THE PASCHAL CANDLE:

*Flavia Kisambira in thanksgiving to God for his
 Greatness and Mercy*

**THE SEVEN DAY SHRINE LIGHTS
 FOR FEBRUARY**

The Blessed Sacrament: The Sanctuary:

Lilian Osedumme: For her husband and her family.

Our Lady by the Lady Chapel:

Joy & Stephen Jahans: In thanksgiving

Our Lady of Walsingham: S. Nicholas:

Lilian Osedumme: For her husband and her family

Our Lady of Fatima:

Murray Smallbone: For the repose

of the soul of John Beck 30-7-1937 - 8-10-2008

S. Francis:

Betty Stroud

THE SUNDAY SHRINE LIGHTS FOR FEBRUARY

Our Lady by the Tower:

Gwen Pearce

The Immaculate Heart of Mary:

Henry Aguh

Our Lady of Sorrows:

Christina Agin: In memory of Jean Barnes

S. Joseph:

Paul Pangrace

S. Anthony: S. Teresa: B. Jacinta: B. Francisco:

Lilian Osedumme

Sacred Heart of Jesus: S. Dunstan: S. Augustine:

Azuka Aguh

S. Martin:

Vincent Chime

FLOODLIGHT:

3rd - 9th Adena Bull:

In thanksgiving and in celebration of her birthday

INTRODUCTION

For the 8:00am Mass:

Jesus reminds his fellow Nazarenes of the universal nature of God's love, and is rejected by them.

Today's Readings

First Reading Jeremiah 1:4-5. 17-19

God promises to make Jeremiah strong in his vocation as a prophet.

Second Reading 1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:13

Paul tells us about the three great theological virtues of faith, hope and love. Love is the one that lasts for all eternity.

Gospel Luke 4:21-30

Jesus is rejected in his home town of Nazareth as he preaches the universality of the Good News.

PRAYER OF THE FAITHFUL

Moved by the gift of hope to ask God for all that we need, let us make our prayers and petitions known.

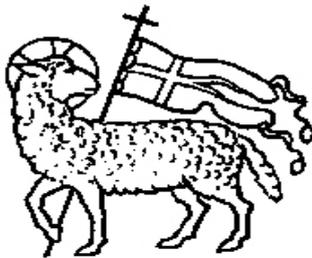
For the Pope and the bishops: may they be fearless and sensitive preachers of the faith. Lord, hear us.

Let us pray for all those who study and pass on the faith: may they instil a love of learning and a desire for God in those whom they teach. Lord, hear us.

Let us pray for those who feel that hope has died within them: may they receive the divine grace and the human help they need. Lord, hear us.

Let us pray for a renewal of the gift of love within us: may we be moved to share the gift of God's love with our world. Lord, hear us.

Heavenly Father, hear our prayers, and may what we ask in faith and hope be granted to us through the love of Christ our Lord.



THOSE PREPARING FOR BAPTISM

Sunday 27th January 2013:

Natalia Ayo Aigbokhai

Easter Day Sunday 31st March 2013:

John Eyiotope Macadine

Kais J Clay

Sienna Hannah Nanyombi Senyonga

THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN BAPTISED

Sunday 7th October 2012:

Emmanuel Oluwatimlehin Adeyinka Adetokunbo

THOSE PREPARING FOR HOLY MATRIMONY

Saturday 24th August 2013 at 4:00pm:

Scott Edward Parker and Maria Betsy Side

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

1st Sunday of March +2 2013

Francis Biggin & Chritine Donna Martin

FLOWERS IN MEMORY

[Harry] Henry Vincent

THE DEPARTED

Christian Vincent

[Harry] Henry Vincent

Kenneth Jahans

Derek Aburn

Dorothy Crook

Margaret Scott

Jan Smith

Daphne Carey

Peter English

YEARS MIND

4th Maureen Robertson

5th John Pinn

7th Joyce Humphrey

8th Leonard Vincent

9th Tracey Hillier

Sancte Nicolae, Ora pro nobis



All-powerful God,
you made
Saint Nicholas
a bishop and leader
of the Church
to inspire your people
with his teaching
and example.
May we give fitting
honour to his memory
and always have the
assistance of his prayers
We ask this
through our
Lord Jesus Christ,
your Son,
who lives and reigns
with you and
the Holy Spirit,
one God,
for ever and ever.
Amen

Christus, Heri, Hodie, Semper

**FOR YOUR DAILY INTERCESSION FEBRUARY
General Intention:**

That migrant families, in particular mothers, may be sustained and accompanied in their difficulties.

Missionary Intention:

That peoples experiencing war and conflicts may be the protagonists in the building of a future of peace.

BIRTHDAY

3rd Diana Okrafo-Smart
6th Adena Bull
9th Elizabeth Ighowaro Johnson

PRAYER FOR HEALING

Barbara Brunt Jack Brunt
Murray Smallbone Russell Sabat
Fr Charles Colin Cresswell
Daphne Langford Andreas Poplopdous
Bhupendra Pattini Sue Yurik
Christina Agin Victor Boyce
Ruby Arthurs David Jahans
Carol Bohurjak Tommy Bohurjak
John David Cook Fr Timothy Raphael
Stanley Lewis Pat Wenham
Hazel Clark Val Marshall
Mogens Hansen Cloe Gibson
Mary Cook Roy Richards
Beverley Goering
Brian Goulding Walter Mann
Eve Cocklin Annette Horridge Helen Thorpe
Ruth Kabeba Stephen Katu
Pauline Alexander Eric Buhl
Kirsty Forrester Alf Sewell Raj Kalsi
Terry Hayward Pat Hayward
Molly Wakeman Derek Wakeman
Janet Hole John Hole Kathy Fincham
Bill Baker Iris Agin Shirley Bristow
Jennifer Fairweather Emma Clifford
Heidi Farmer Brian Joseph
Norman Small Bill Scott
Rosamond Nash Isabel D'Alvarez
Fr Grahame Stephens Elisabeth Wright
Gillian Winchester Holness Karen
Jean Beatrice Winchester
Keith Edwards Bryan Firth
Eve Cocklin Alison Abrey
Barbara English Alison Scott-Holt
Alex Fernandes

IN THANKSGIVING

Ron Crawley Mike Okeze
James Bampton

If you are celebrating
a BIRTHDAY or ANNIVERSARY
and would like to share it with your Church Family
A £15 DONATION
covers the cost of Sherry
(You may if you wish provide wine of your own choice)
to be enjoyed at the back of church after Mass
Please see Gwen or Christina Agin!

Sunday Readings: Year C
Weekday Readings: Year 1
Psalter Week 4

FEBRUARY 2013

Day	Letter	Feast	Readings	Prayers
3	Su	G	FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME (CWCL: 2nd Sunday before Lent) DO1(4) Mass pr, Gl, LI 845 (ad lib: shorter form of second reading), Cr, Pref of Sundays in Ordinary Time R1: Jeremiah 1:4-5,17-19 Psalm 70:1-6,15,17 R2: 1 Corinthians 12:31-13:13 Gospel: Luke 4:21-30 or 1 Corinthians 13:4-13	MP:50(227) EP:51(253)
4	M	(G)	FERIA OF 4th WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME DO5(4) Mass of feria, LII 40	MP:52(228) EP:58(254)
5	T	R	S Agatha VMr, Mem DO4(4) Mass from Com of Martyrs: for a Virgin Martyr or Com of Virgins: for One Virgin, LII 42	MP:192(321) EP:192(321)
6	W	R	S Paul Miki and Companions Mrr, Mem DO4(4) Mass from Com of Martyrs: for Several Martyrs, LII 45	MP:183(320) EP:182(316)
7	Th	(G)	FERIA OF 4th WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME DO5(4) Mass of feria, LII 47	MP:55(231) EP:61(257)
8	F	(G)	FERIA OF 4th WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME DO5(4) Mass of feria, LII 49	MP:56(232) EP:62(258)
9	S	(G)	FERIA OF 4th WEEK IN ORDINARY TIME DO5(4) Mass of feria, LII 51	MP:57(233)



ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

*Save us, O Lord our God!
And gather us from the nations,
to give thanks to your holy name,
and make it our glory to praise you.*

COLLECT

Grant us, Lord our God,
that we may honour you with all our mind,
and love everyone in truth of heart.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING Jeremiah 1:4-5. 17-19

A reading from the prophet Jeremiah.

In the days of Josiah, the word of the Lord was addressed to me, saying,

“Before I formed you in the womb I knew you;
before you came to birth I consecrated you;
I have appointed you as prophet to the nations.
So now brace yourself for action.
Stand up and tell them
all I command you.
Do not be dismayed at their presence,
or in their presence I will make you dismayed.
I, for my part, today will make you
into a fortified city,
a pillar of iron,
and a wall of bronze
to confront all this land:
the kings of Judah, its princes,
its priests and the country people.
They will fight against you
but shall not overcome you,
for I am with you to deliver you –
it is the Lord who speaks.”

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 70

RESPONSE: My lips will tell of your help.

1. In you, O Lord, I take refuge;
let me never be put to shame.
In your justice rescue me, free me:
pay heed to me and save me. **R.**
2. Be a rock where I can take refuge,
a mighty stronghold to save me;
for you are my rock, my stronghold.
Free me from the hand of the wicked. **R.**
3. It is you, O Lord, who are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, since my youth.
On you I have leaned from my birth,
from my mother’s womb you have been my help. **R.**
4. My lips will tell of your justice
and day by day of your help.
O God, you have taught me from my youth
and I proclaim your wonders still. **R.**

SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 12:31 – 13:13

A reading from the first letter of St Paul to the Corinthians.

(For shorter form read between > <)

Be ambitious for the higher gifts. And I am going to show you a way that is better than any of them.

If I have all the eloquence of men or of angels, but speak without love, I am simply a gong booming or a cymbal clashing. If I have the gift of prophecy, understanding all the mysteries there are, and knowing everything, and if I have faith in all its fullness, to move mountains, but without love, then I am nothing at all. If I give away all that I possess, piece by piece, and if I even let them take my body to burn it, but am without love, it will do me no good whatever.

> Love is always patient and kind; it is never jealous; love is never boastful or conceited; it is never rude or selfish; it does not take offence, and is not resentful. Love takes no pleasure in other people’s

sins but delights in the truth; it is always ready to excuse, to trust, to hope, and to endure whatever comes.

Love does not come to an end. But if there are gifts of prophecy, the time will come when they must fail; or the gift of languages, it will not continue for ever; and knowledge – for this, too, the time will come when it must fail. For our knowledge is imperfect and our prophesying is imperfect; but once perfection comes, all imperfect things will disappear. When I was a child, I used to talk like a child, and think like a child, and argue like a child, but now I am a man, all childish ways are put behind me. Now we are seeing a dim reflection in a mirror; but then we shall be seeing face to face. The knowledge that I have now is imperfect; but then I shall know as fully as I am known.

In short, there are three things that last: faith, hope and love; and the greatest of these is love.

The word of the Lord. <

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, says the Lord;
no one can come to the Father except through me.*

Alleluia!

or

Alleluia, alleluia!

*The Lord has sent me to bring the good news to the poor,
to proclaim liberty to captives.*

Alleluia!

GOSPEL Luke 4:21-30

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

Jesus began to speak in the synagogue, “This text is being fulfilled today even as you listen.” And he won the approval of all, and they were astonished by the gracious words that came from his lips.

They said, “This is Joseph’s son, surely?” But he replied, “No doubt you will quote me the saying, ‘Physician, heal yourself’ and tell me, ‘We have heard all that happened in Capernaum, do the same here in your own countryside.’” And he went on, “I tell you solemnly, no prophet is ever accepted in his own country.

“There were many widows in Israel, I can assure you, in Elijah’s day, when heaven remained shut for three years and six months and a great famine raged throughout the land, but Elijah was not sent to any one of these: he was sent to a widow at Zarephath, a Sidonian town. And in the prophet Elisha’s time there were many lepers in Israel, but none of these was cured, except the Syrian, Naaman.”

When they heard this everyone in the synagogue was enraged. They sprang to their feet and hustled him out of the town; and they took him up to the brow of the hill their town was built on, intending to throw him down the cliff, but he slipped through the crowd and walked away.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

O Lord, we bring to your altar
these offerings of our service:
be pleased to receive them, we pray,
and transform them
into the Sacrament of our redemption.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Let your face shine on your servant.

Save me in your merciful love.

O Lord, let me never be put to shame, for I call on you.

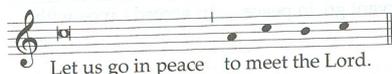
or

*Blessed are the poor in spirit,
for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.*

Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the land.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Nourished by these redeeming gifts,
we pray, O Lord,
that through this help to eternal salvation
true faith may ever increase.
Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Let us go in peace to meet the Lord.



In the name of Christ. A-men.

**OF the Father's heart begotten,
Ere the world from chaos rose,
He is Alpha: from that Fountain
All that is and hath been flows;
He is Omega, of all things
Yet to come the mystic Close,
*Evermore and evermore.***

**By his word was all created;
He commanded and 'twas done;
Earth and sky and boundless ocean,
Universe of three in one,
All that sees the moon's soft radiance,
All that breathes beneath the sun,
*Evermore and evermore.***

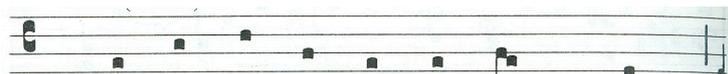
**O how blest that wondrous birthday,
When the Maid the curse retrieved,
Brought to birth mankind's salvation,
By the Holy Ghost conceived;
And the Babe, the world's Redeemer,
In her loving arms received,
*Evermore and evermore.***

**This is he, whom seer and sibyl Sang
in ages long gone by;
This is he of old revealed
In the page of prophecy;
Lo! he comes, the promised Saviour;
Let the world his praises cry!
*Evermore and evermore.***

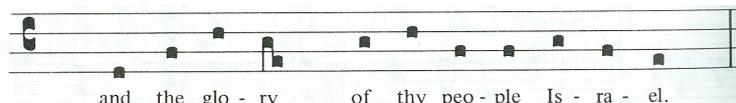
**Sing, ye heights of heaven, his praises;
Angels and Archangels, sing!
Wheresoe'er ye be, ye faithful,
Let your joyous anthems ring,
Every tongue his name confessing,
Countless voices answering,
*Evermore and evermore.***



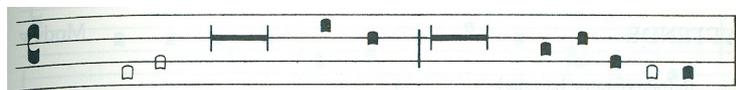
Dear brethren, forty days have passed since we celebrated the joyful feast of the Nativity of the Lord. Today is the blessed day when Jesus was presented in the Temple by Mary and Joseph. Outwardly he was fulfilling the Law, but in reality he was coming to meet his believing people. Prompted by the Holy Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the Temple. Enlightened by the same Spirit, they recognized the Lord and confessed him with exultation. So let us also, gathered together by the Holy Spirit, proceed to the house of God to encounter Christ. There we shall find him and recognize him in the breaking of the bread, until he comes again, revealed in glory.



A light to light - en the Gen - tiles;



and the glo - ry of thy peo - ple Is - ra - el.



Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace:
ac-cord-ing to thy word. *Ant*

For mine eyes have seen: - thy sal-va-tion.
Which thou hast pre-par-ed: before the face
of all people. *Ant*

To be a light to lighten the Gen-tiles:
and to be the glory of thy peo-ple Is-ra-el. *Ant*

Glory be to the Father and to the Son:
and to the Ho-ly-Ghost. *Ant*

As it was in the beginning, is now,
and ever shall be: world with-out end. Amen. *Ant*

Let us pray.

O God,
source and origin of all light,
who on this day showed to the just man Simeon
the Light for revelation to the Gentiles,
we humbly ask that,
in answer to your people's prayers,
you may be pleased to sanctify with your
blessing + these candles,
which we are eager to carry
in praise of your name,
so that, treading the path of virtue,
we may reach that light which never fails.
Through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,
we humbly implore your majesty
that, just as your Only Begotten Son
was presented on this day in the Temple
in the substance of our flesh,
so, by your grace,
we may be presented to you with minds made pure.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

FIRST READING

Malachi 3:1-4

A reading from the prophet Malachi.

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his Temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fullers' alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

PSALM Psalm 71

RESPONSE: *Who is the king of glory?
It is the Lord.*

O gates, lift up your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! **R.**

Who is the king of glory?
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,
the Lord, the valiant in war. **R.**

O gates, lift high your heads;
grow higher, ancient doors.
Let him enter, the king of glory! **R.**

Who is he, the king of glory?
He, the Lord of armies,
he is the king of glory. **R.**

SECOND READING

Hebrews 2:14-18

A reading from the Letter to the Hebrews.

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took

to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham. It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

The word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

*The light to enlighten the Gentiles
and give glory to Israel, your people.
Alleluia!*

GOSPEL

Luke 2:22-40

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord—observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord—and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and blessed God; and he said:

“Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace,
just as you promised;
because my eyes have seen the salvation
which you have prepared for all the nations to see,
a light to enlighten the pagans
and the glory of your people Israel.”

the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.

The Gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May the offering made with exultation by your Church be pleasing to you, O Lord, we pray,
for you willed that your Only Begotten Son be offered to you for the life of the world as the Lamb without blemish.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.

Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

*My eyes have seen your salvation,
which you prepared in the Sight of all the peoples.*

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

By these holy gifts which we have received, O Lord, bring your grace to perfection within us,
and, as you fulfilled Simeon's expectation that he would not see death until he had been privileged to welcome the Christ, so may we, going forth to meet the Lord, obtain the gift of eternal life.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.