



SAINT JOHN'S MALONE



Simeon's Song of Praise (Nunc Dimittis)

Date: 1700-1710

Artist: Gelder, Aert de, 1645-1727 The Hague, Netherlands

Sunday First: All Age Worship

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple Candlemas

Sunday 4th February 2024

10.30am

In the darkness the following is said

The Lord is my light and my salvation

The Lord is my light and my salvation

The Lord is the strength of my life

The Lord is my light and my salvation

Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit.

The Lord is my light and my salvation

Jesus Christ is the light of the world,
A light no darkness can quench.

The candle representing Christ on the wreath is lit.

THE PREPARATION

GREETING

The Lord of glory be with you **The Lord bless you.**

The lighting is switched on

HYMN 328

Come and celebrate!
His gift of love we will celebrate
the Son of God who loved us
and gave us life.

We'll shout your praise, O King:
you give us joy no-thing else can bring;
we'll give to you our offering
in celebration praise.



*Come on and celebrate,
celebrate,
celebrate and sing,
celebrate and sing to the King.
come on and sing to the King.*

INTRODUCTION

PENITENCE Jesus says, 'I am the light of the world. He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.' Let us then bring our secret sins into his light and confess them in penitence and faith.

Let us kneel and confess our sins to God our Father.

Almighty God, our Father, we come to you in sorrow and humility to confess our sins:

For turning away from you, and ignoring your will for our lives:

Father, forgive us, **Save us and help us.**

For behaving just as we wish, without thinking of you:

Father, forgive us, **Save us and help us.**

For failing you not only by what we have done, but also by our thoughts and by what we have said:

Father, forgive us, **Save us and help us.**

For letting ourselves be drawn away from you by temptations in the world about us: Father, forgive us, **Save us and help us.**

For acting as if we are ashamed to belong to your dear Son Christ Jesus:

Father, forgive us, **Save us and help us.**

A priest pronounces this absolution: In the name of Jesus I declare to you: You are forgiven; your sins are gone. Be strong in the Holy Spirit, and live for God. **Amen.**

ACCLAMATION Stand

Let us praise God for his mercy.

And give thanks to him for his goodness.

Glory to the Father and to the Son: and to the Holy Spirit.

As it was in the beginning, is now: and shall be for ever. Amen.

As we stand, let us pray that we may know and share the light of Christ.

THE COLLECT OF THE DAY

Almighty and everliving God,

clothed in majesty,

whose beloved Son was this day presented in the temple
in the substance of our mortal nature:

May we be presented to you with pure and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen**

THE MINISTRY OF THE WORD

Readings

Psalm 84

1 How lovely is your dwelling place, O Lord of hosts!

**2 My soul longs, indeed it faints for the courts of the Lord;
my heart and my flesh sing for joy to the living God.**

3 Even the sparrow finds a home, and the swallow a nest for herself, where she may lay her young, at your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

4 Happy are those who live in your house, ever singing your praise.

5 Happy are those whose strength is in you, in whose heart are the highways to Zion.

**6 As they go through the valley of Baca they make it a place of springs; the early rain
also covers it with pools.**

7 They go from strength to strength; the God of gods will be seen in Zion.

8 O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; give ear, O God of Jacob!

9 Behold our shield, O God; look on the face of your anointed.

**10 For a day in your courts is better than a thousand elsewhere. I would rather be a
doorkeeper in the house of my God than live in the tents of wickedness.**

11 For the Lord God is a sun and shield; he bestows favour and honour. No good thing does the Lord withhold from those who walk uprightly.

12 O Lord of hosts, happy is everyone who trusts in you.

Saint Luke 2:22-40

[Simeon Praises the Lord]

²²The time came for Mary and Joseph to do what the Law of Moses says a mother is supposed to do after her baby is born.

They took Jesus to the temple in Jerusalem and presented him to the Lord, ²³ just as the Law of the Lord says, “Each first-born baby boy belongs to the Lord.” ²⁴The Law of the Lord also says parents have to offer a sacrifice, giving at least a pair of doves or two young pigeons. So that is what Mary and Joseph did.

²⁵At this time a man named Simeon was living in Jerusalem. Simeon was a good man. He loved God and was waiting for him to save the people of Israel. God's Spirit came to him ²⁶and told him that he would not die until he had seen Christ the Lord.

²⁷When Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple to do what the Law of Moses says should be done for a new baby, the Spirit told Simeon to go into the temple. ²⁸Simeon took the baby Jesus in his arms and praised God,

²⁹“Lord, I am your servant, and now I can die in peace, because you have kept your promise to me. ³⁰With my own eyes I have seen what you have done to save your people, ³¹and foreign nations will also see this. ³²Your mighty power is a light for all nations, and it will bring honour to your people Israel.”

³³Jesus' parents were surprised at what Simeon had said. ³⁴Then he blessed them and told Mary, “This child of yours will cause many people in Israel to fall and others to stand. The child will be like a warning sign. Many people will reject him, ³⁵and you, Mary, will suffer as though you had been stabbed by a dagger. But all this will show what people are really thinking.”

[Anna Speaks about the Child Jesus]

³⁶The prophet Anna was also there in the temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. In her youth she had been married for seven years, but her husband died. ³⁷And now she was 84 years old. Night and day she served God in the temple by praying and often going without eating. ³⁸At this time Anna came in and praised God. She spoke about the child Jesus to everyone who hoped for Jerusalem to be set free.

[The Return to Nazareth]

³⁹After Joseph and Mary had done everything that the Law of the Lord commands, they returned home to Nazareth in Galilee. ⁴⁰The child Jesus grew. He became strong and wise, and God blessed him.

This is the Word of the Lord **Thanks be to God**

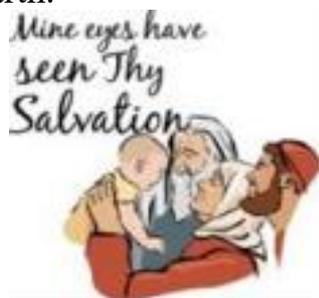
Hymn 710

1 Sing to God new songs of worship
all his deeds are marvellous;
he has brought salvation to us
with his hand and holy arm.
He has shown to all the nations

righteousness and saving power;
he recalled his truth and mercy
to his people Israel.

2 Sing to God new songs of worship
earth has seen his victory;
let the lands of earth be joyful
praising him with thankfulness.
Sound upon the harp his praises,
play to him with melody;
let the trumpets sound his triumph,
show your joy to God the King!

3 Sing to God new songs of worship
let the sea now make a noise;
all on earth and in the waters,
sound your praises to the Lord.
Let the hills rejoice together,
let the rivers clap their hands,
for with righteousness and justice
he will come to judge the earth.



ADDRESS ~ RECTOR

AFFIRMATION OF FAITH

Do you believe and trust in God the Father?

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

Do you believe in God the Son?

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.

Do you believe in God the Holy Spirit?

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.

This is the faith of the Church.

This is our faith. We believe and trust in one God, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

The Christingles are now lit for the duration of the next hymn

Hymn 203

When candles are lighted on Candlemas Day
the dark is behind us, and spring's on the way.

Refrain:

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

The kings have departed, the shepherds have gone,
the child and his parents are left on their own. *Refrain*

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

But Anna and Simeon recognize there
the Christ-child who came at the turn of the year. *Refrain*

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

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

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

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

Like Anna, like Simeon, may we have trust,
the eyes to see Jesus, and peace at the last. *Refrain*

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

We extinguish our candles

THE PRAYERS

Let us pray with confidence to the Father, in the words our Saviour taught us and say, **Our Father....**

FINAL RESPONSORY

Father, soon we bring to an end our celebration of the Saviour's birth
Help us in whom he has been born to live his life that has no end

Here we have greeted the Light of the world
Help us never to forsake the light of Christ

Soon we turn from Christ's birth to his passion
Help us for whom Lent is coming to enter deeply into the Easter mystery

Here we bless one another in your name
Help us, who now go in peace, to shine with your light in the world

THE DISMISSAL

THE BLESSING

Final Hymn 596 *during which the Collection will be received*

Seek ye first the kingdom of God,
and his righteousness,
and all these things shall be added unto you;
Allelu-, alleluia:

Alleluia, alleluia. alleluia. alleluia!

Ask, and it shall be given unto you;
seek, and ye shall find;
knock, and the door shall be opened unto you;
Allelu-, alleluia:

Man shall not live by bread alone,
but by every word
that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord;
Allelu-, alleluia:

All turn to face the door

To a troubled world : **Peace from Christ**
To a searching world: **Love from Christ**
To a dying world: **Hope from Christ. Amen**

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Services this week

Wednesday 7.30pm Zoom Compline.

Thursday 10.30am Eucharist with intercessions for those in any kind of need A
cup of tea/coffee is available after this service.

Next Sunday

9.00 a.m. Eucharist; 10.30 a.m. Sung Eucharist

Notices:

Lenten Quiet Day Thursday 22nd January 2024 10am - 3pm
with Tom Layden SJ

Theme: 'Growing in our knowledge of God'

If you wish to attend please email secstjohns@btconnect.com for catering and admin purposes. Coffee, scones and a light lunch will be provided.

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The Parish Office can be contacted on any administrative matters, or for information about organisations connected with St John's (90667861) e mail.secstjohns@btconnect.com

The Rector, Rev. Canon Stephen Fielding can be contacted on pastoral matters (90666644)
e-mail malone@connor.anglican.org

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Please take away the sheet to pray the collect during the week and to re-read the readings.

Please recycle when finished.

