



# Parish Eucharist with Holy Baptism

on the Feast of the  
Presentation of Christ in the Temple

28 January 2024

Amaiya Grace Sam



*A collection to support the work of this church will be taken during the Offertory Hymn. If you are a UK taxpayer please use the yellow gift aid envelopes provided. Collection plates are at the back of church if you would like to donate before the service begins, instead of waiting for the collection.*

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## ***We gather in worship***

*Please join in all parts of the service printed in **bold** type. The ♪ sign indicates that this part is sung by everyone. Please stand where indicated only if you wish. When the bell rings, we stand to sing*

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

***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*

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

Like Anna, like Simeon, may they 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*

*Elizabeth Cosnett (b. 1936)*

## ***The Greeting***

In the name of the Father, and of the ✠ Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

The Lord of glory be with you.

**The Lord bless you.**

*The priest introduces the day's liturgy:*

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 recognized 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.

*We sing this song of praise.*

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

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.

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

Lord Jesus Christ, only Son of the Father, Lord God, Lamb of God,  
you take away the sins of the world: have mercy on us;  
you are seated at the right hand of the Father: receive our prayer.

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

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.

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

*Gloria, gloria, in excelsis Deo.*

*The priest says the Collect, the special prayer for the day.*

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.  
**Amen.**

## *We listen for God's Word*

*We sit for the Reading: Hebrews 2.14-18*

Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might destroy him who holds the power of death – that is, the devil – and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants. For this reason he had to be made like his brothers in every way, in order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of the people. Because he himself suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are being tempted.

This is the word of the Lord. **Thanks be to God.**

*We stand.*

*The Gospel: Luke 2.22-40*

Alleluia...

♪ **Alleluia...**

Speak Lord, we listen, speak your words of wisdom  
that we may receive the words that give life, life for the world.

♪ **Alleluia...**

*We turn to face the reader.*

The Lord be with you. **And also with you.**

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke:  
**Glory to you, O Lord.**

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord. (as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.'

And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, 'This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord. **Praise to you, O Christ.**

*We sit for the Sermon.*

## *The Liturgy of Baptism*

### *Presentation of the Candidates*

*The deacon lights the Paschal candle. Amaiyah, her parents and godparents come to the front. The congregation remains seated.*

*The priest addresses the whole congregation,*

Jesus said, 'Let the children come to me. Do not stop them'.  
We thank God for Amaiyah who has come to be baptized today.  
Christ loves her and welcomes her into his Church.

Will you support her on his journey of faith? **We will.**

Will you help her to live and grow within God's family? **We will.**

*The priest then asks the parents and godparents*

God knows each of us by name and we are his.  
Parents and godparents, you speak for Amaiyah today.  
Will you pray for her and help her to follow Christ? **We will.**

### *The Decision*

*The priest addresses Amaiyah's parents and godparents. We all join in the responses*

We all wander far from God and lose our way: Christ comes to find us and welcomes us home. In baptism we respond to his call. Therefore I ask:

Do you turn away from sin? **I do.**

Do you reject evil? **I do.**

Do you turn to Christ as Saviour? **I do.**

Do you trust in him as Lord? **I do.**

*We are assured of God's forgiving love.*

## *Signing with the Cross*

*The priest marks Amaiyah with the sign of the cross using holy oil, saying,*

Christ claims you for his own. Receive the sign of his cross.

*When Amaiyah has been signed with the cross, the priest says,*

Do not be ashamed of Christ. You are his for ever.

**Stand bravely with him against all the powers of evil,  
and remain faithful to Christ to the end of your life.**

May almighty God deliver you from the powers of darkness,  
and lead you in the light and obedience of Christ. **Amen.**

*The baptism party gathers round the font.*

## *Prayer over the Water*

Praise God who made heaven and earth,  
**who keeps his promise for ever.**

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

We praise you, loving Father, for the gift of your Son Jesus.

He was baptized in the River Jordan, where your Spirit came upon him  
and revealed him as the Son you love.

He sent his followers to baptize all who turn to him.

Now, Father, we ask you to bless this water, that those who are baptized in  
it may be cleansed in the water of life, and, filled with your Spirit,  
may know that they are loved as your children,  
safe in Christ for ever. **Amen.**

*We affirm our faith.*

Do you believe and trust in God the Father, who made all things?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in his Son Jesus Christ, who redeemed the world?

**We believe and trust in him.**

Do you believe and trust in his Holy Spirit,  
who gives life to the people of God?

**We believe and trust in him.**

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 Baptism*

Amaiyah Grace, I baptize you in the name of the Father,  
and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

*After Amaiyah has been baptized, we sing,*

♪ **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia, alleluia!**

*The priest leads us in prayer.*

## *We welcome Amaiyah*

There is one Lord, one faith, one baptism:  
Amaiyah, by one Spirit we are all baptized into one body.  
**We welcome you into the fellowship of faith;  
we are children of the same heavenly Father, we welcome you.**

*Candles are blessed.*

## *We celebrate and receive Jesus in Bread and Wine*

### *The Peace*

Christ is our peace. If anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation.  
The old has passed away: behold, everything has become new.

The peace of the Lord be always with you; **and also with you.**

*The deacon says,*

Let us offer one another a sign of peace.

*Please offer one another a sign of peace with a handshake, warm smile, nod, or bow,  
and with the words, 'Peace be with you.'*

*During the offertory hymn, the baptism party return to the front; then the plate and  
card reader will be available for contactless and cash donations.*

O thou who camest from above  
the fire celestial to impart,  
kindle a flame of sacred love  
on the mean altar of my heart.

There let it for thy glory burn  
with inextinguishable blaze,  
and trembling to its source return  
in humble prayer and fervent praise.

Jesus, confirm my heart's desire  
to work and speak and think for thee;  
still let me guard the holy fire,  
and still stir up the gift in me.

Ready for all thy perfect will,  
my acts of faith and love repeat;  
till death thy endless mercies seal,  
and make the sacrifice complete.

*Charles Wesley (1707-1788)*

*The priest takes the bread and wine and says the prayer of preparation.*

Father, in Christ there has sprung up a light for the righteous;  
accept the offering of your Church  
and grant that Christ may shine in us  
to the praise and glory of your name. **Amen.**

*Please remain standing if it is comfortable for you.*

### *The Eucharistic Prayer*

The Lord is here: **God's Spirit is with us.**

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

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

*The priest praises God for his mighty acts, and we sing*

♪ Holy, Holy, Holy Lord.  
**Holy, Holy, Holy Lord.**  
God of power and God of might.  
**God of power and God of might.**  
Heaven and earth are full of your glory.  
**Heaven and earth are full of your glory.**  
Hosanna in the highest.  
**Hosanna in the highest.**  
Blessed is he who comes,  
**Blessed is he who comes,**  
In the name of the Lord most high.  
**In the name of the Lord most high.**  
Hosanna, Hosanna,  
Hosanna, Hosanna,  
Hosanna in the highest.  
**Hosanna in the highest.**



*The priest continues, recalling the Last Supper.*

*The Deacon says, Great is the mystery of faith*

*We sing,*

♪ Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.  
Christ has died: Christ is risen: Christ will come again.

*The priest continues, ending ... for ever and ever*

**Amen.**

*We sit or kneel. We say together the Lord's prayer,*

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 those 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 priest breaks the consecrated bread and says,*

We break the bread of life, and that life is the light of the world.  
God here among us, light in the midst of us, bring us to light and life.

*We sing,*

♪ Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**  
Jesus, Word made flesh, bearer of our sins,  
**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**  
Jesus, Morning Star, Jesus, Prince of Peace,  
**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**

Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.  
**Jesus, Lamb of God, have mercy on us.**  
Jesus, King of Kings, Jesus, Lord of all,  
**Jesus, Lamb of God, Give us your peace.**

## *We share in Communion*

*The priest says,*

God's holy gifts for God's holy people.

**Jesus Christ is holy, Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.**

*The people receive communion. Those who do not wish to receive are warmly invited to come forward for an individual blessing. Gluten free wafers are available.*

*Please come to the front and form a queue. Communion will be administered in both kinds, on the hand and from the chalice (optional). Please do not intinct (dip) the wafer in the chalice.*

*Communion will be brought to those seated in the south aisle.*

*Blessed candles will be available to collect after receiving communion.*

*During the Communion we sing,*

Christ's is the world in which we move;  
Christ's are the folk we're summoned to love;  
Christ's is the voice which calls us to care,  
and Christ is the one who meets us here.

*To the lost Christ shows his face,  
to the unloved he gives his embrace,  
to those who cry in pain or disgrace,  
Christ makes, with his friends, a touching place.*

Feel for the people we most avoid –  
strange or bereaved or never employed.  
Feel for the women and feel for the men  
who fear that their living is all in vain.

Feel for the lives by life confused,  
riddled with doubt, in loving abused;  
feel for the lonely heart, conscious of sin,  
which longs to be pure but fears to begin.

*John L. Bell (1949 - ) & Graham Maule (1958-2019)*

*The choir sings Nunc Dimittis in F — George Dyson (1883-1964)*

*Silence is kept.*

*The priest says this prayer,*

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.**

**We thank you, Lord, that you have fed us in this sacrament, united us with Christ, and given us a foretaste of the heavenly banquet prepared for all peoples. Amen.**

*We go into the world to share God's love*

*We sing the concluding hymn during which Amaiyah, is given a lighted candle,.*

New light has dawned, the Son of God is here,  
a holy light no earthly light outshines;  
the light has dawned, the light that casts out fear,  
the light that evil dreads and love defines.

The light of glory shines to angels' song,  
the shepherds run to where a baby lies;  
a servant of the Lord who waited long,  
acclaims the light to lighten Gentile eyes.

And priestly men sit listening to a boy,  
they see the dawning light within his face.  
Such words they hear those Christ-child lips employ!  
Amazing words of wisdom, truth and grace.

O Christ, the light who came to us on earth,  
shine through the shadow cast by human sin;  
renew the faith you gave at our new birth,  
destroy the dark, and let your light come in.

*Paul Wigmore (1925-2014)*

*The priest says,*

God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and has given us a place with the saints in light. Amaiyah, you have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life.

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

*With this Candlemas service, the season of Christmas ends, and we look to Lent beginning on Ash Wednesday. We say,*

Father, here 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 offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.  
**Help us, who have received the bread of life, to be thankful for your gift.**

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.  
**Help us, who have found the Lord in his temple,  
to trust in your eternal promises.**

Here we stand in this place of baptism.  
**Help us, who are marked with the cross,  
to share the Lord's death and resurrection.**

Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion.  
**Help us, for whom Lent is near, to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.**

We stand in the place of new birth.  
**Let us shine with the light of your love.**

We turn from the crib to the cross.  
**Let us shine with the light of your love.**

We go to carry God's light.  
**Let us shine with the light of your love.**

### *The Blessing*

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,  
fill you with radiance and scatter the darkness from your path. **Amen.**

Christ, the Sun of Righteousness,  
gladden your eyes and warm your heart. **Amen.**

Christ, the Dayspring from on high,  
draw near to guide your feet into the way of peace. **Amen.**

And the blessing of God almighty,  
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with  
you always. **Amen.**

*The Deacon says,*  
Go in the light and peace of Christ.  
**Thanks be to God.**