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Sunday 28th January 2024, 09:30am

CANDELMAS – PARISH SUNG EUCHARIST

*In the name of the Lord Jesus we welcome you to this church. It is wonderful that you have chosen to worship with us today. For centuries, people have gathered on this site to support each other, to laugh and cry together, to sing and pray and to come before God and be nourished and sustained at the altar rail. It is our hope that you will leave here today having been given a glimpse of God's kingdom. **Please join in where indicated in bold.***

Opening Hymn: CP 513 – Lord, the Light of your love is shining

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

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

We come from scattered lives to meet with God. Let us recognise his presence with us. *(please sit or kneel)*

The Living God, the living moving Spirit of God, has called us together – to bless us and to speak love to us.

We gather in hope, in expectancy, in trust at this still moment in our lives of ceaseless Change; to worship, to listen, to share and acknowledge that renewing blessing of love.

As God's people we have gathered.
Let us worship him together.

My sisters and brothers to prepare ourselves to celebrate these sacred mysteries let us call to mind our sins:

We hold a moment or two of silence

Almighty God, our heavenly Father, we have sinned against you and against our neighbour in thought and word and deed, through negligence, through weakness, through our own deliberate fault. We are truly sorry and repent of all our sins. For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ, who died for us, forgive us all that is past and grant that we may serve you in newness of life to the glory of your name. Amen

The priest pronounces God's forgiveness:

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.
Amen

THE GLORIA Please stand

**Glory to God
Glory to God
Glory to God in the Highest
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.
Glory to God
Glory to God
Glory to God in the Highest**

**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.**

Glory to God

Glory to God

Glory to God in the Highest.

**For you alone are the Holy One, you alone
are the Lord, you alone are the most high,
Jesus Christ, in the Holy Spirit, in the Glory of
God the Father.**

Glory to God

Glory to God

Glory to God in the Highest. Amen

Let us pray:

Almighty and ever-living God,
clothed in majesty,
whose beloved Son was this day presented in the
Temple,
in substance of our flesh:
grant that we may be presented to you with pure
and clean hearts,
by your Son Jesus Christ our Lord,
who is alive and reigns with you,
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD

FIRST READING – MALACHI 3 1-5

See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way
before me, and the Lord whom you seek will
suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the
covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is
coming, says the Lord of hosts. But who can endure
the day of his coming, and who can stand when he
appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; he
will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will
purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like
gold and silver, until they present offerings to the
Lord in righteousness. Then the offering of Judah and
Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord as in the days
of old and as in former years.

Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be
swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against
the adulterers, against those who swear falsely,
against those who oppress the hired workers in
their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against

those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me,
says the Lord of hosts.

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

SECOND READING – HEBREWS 2 14-18

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood,
he himself likewise shared the same things, so that
through death he might destroy the one who has the
power of death, that is, the devil, and free those
who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of
death. For it is clear that he did not come to help
angels, but the descendants of Abraham. Therefore
he had to become like his brothers and sisters in
every respect, so that he might be a merciful and
faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a
sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people.
Because he himself was tested by what he suffered,
he is able to help those who are being tested.

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

**Hymn: CP 497 - Let all the world in every
corner sing**

THE GOSPEL

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

Hear the Holy Gospel of Our Lord Jesus Christ
according to Luke 2 22-40

Glory to you, O Lord

When the time came for their purification according
to the law of Moses, they brought him 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 turtledoves 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.” There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem. 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

THE SERMON

THE CREED

We believe in one God, the Father, the almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all that is, seen and unseen.

We believe in one Lord, Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten not made, of one Being with the Father, through him all things were made.

For us and for our salvation he came down from heaven; he became incarnate from the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary and was made man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate; he suffered death and was buried. On the third day he rose again in accordance with the Scriptures;

He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

We believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son

is worshipped and glorified, who has spoken through the Prophets.

We believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church.

We acknowledge one baptism for the forgiveness of sins.

We look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come.

Amen.

PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION *(Please sit or kneel)*

Lord in your mercy. **Hear our prayer**

And at the end: **Merciful Father, accept these prayers for the sake of your son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.**

THE PEACE *Please stand*

The priest offers the peace of Christ

Our Saviour Christ is the Prince of Peace.
Of the increase of his government and of peace
There shall be no end.

The Peace of the Lord be always with you
And also with you

Hymn: CP 442 God is love let heaven adore him *(Abbots Leigh)*

THE OFFERTORY

The bread and wine are each offered to God, we respond..... **Blessed be God for ever.**

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 thanks and praise

The priest prays the Eucharistic prayer and we join together to sing...

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

Please sit or kneel

The priest recalls the Last Supper....

Great is the mystery of faith

Christ has died, Christ is risen, Christ will come again

Let us pray for the coming of the kingdom as Jesus

taught us: **Our Father who art in heaven**

Hallowed be thy name

Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done,

On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread,

and forgive us our trespasses,

As we forgive those who trespass against us.

And lead us not into temptation,

But deliver us from evil

For thine is the Kingdom,

the Power and the Glory,

For ever and ever, Amen.

We break this bread to share in the body of Christ

Though we are many, we are one body,

because we all share in one bread.

We sing together:

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace.

The priest shows the consecrated host to the congregation and says: This is the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Happy are we who are called to his supper.

Lord I am not worthy to receive you but only say the word, and I shall be healed.

You are warmly invited to feast at the Lord's table. If you are baptised and regularly take communion in your own church you are welcome to receive here at St Mary's. If you don't receive communion please come forward for a blessing carrying the order of service. During the distribution an anthem or hymns may be sung.

Communion Hymn: CP 519 Make me a channel of your peace

The priest says "let us pray" and prays the post-communion prayer.

God of glory,

you nourish us with your Word

who is the bread of life:

fill us with your Holy Spirit

that through us the light of your glory

may shine in all the world.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Almighty God,

we thank you for feeding us

with the body and blood of your Son Jesus

Christ.

Through him we offer you our souls and

bodies

to be a living sacrifice.

Send us out

in the power of your Spirit

to live and work

to your praise and glory. Amen.

Notices

Hymn: CP 453 – Great is thy faithfulness

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

May God the Father,

who led the wise men by the shining of a star

to find the Christ, the Light from light,

lead you also in your pilgrimage to find the Lord.

Amen.

May God the Son,

who turned water into wine at the wedding feast at

Cana, transform your lives and make glad your

hearts. **Amen.**

May God the Holy Spirit,

who came upon the beloved Son

at his baptism in the river Jordan,

pour out his gifts on you

who have come to the waters of new birth.

Amen.

And the Blessing of God Almighty, + the Father, the

Son, and the Holy Spirit, be amongst you, and

remain with you always. **Amen.**

Jesus asked "Who do you say I am?"

You are the Christ, you have the message of eternal life, and we believe.

The Eucharist is ended, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

In the name of Christ, Amen.