**CANDLEMAS**

*When circumstances permit, the Congregation may gather at a place apart from the church, so that all may go into the church in procession. Candles may be distributed to the people as they arrive or after the prayer of blessing.*

Dearly beloved, forty days have passed since we celebrated the feast of the Nativity of our Lord Jesus Christ. We commemorate today his Presentation in the Temple, in obedience to the Law of Moses. Led by the Holy Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the Temple to see the Lord, and enlightened by the same Spirit, confessed Jesus as Christ in exultation.

Let us, therefore, [*enter God’s house and*] confess our Lord as the Christ and offer our praise and thanksgiving to him.

*Officiant* The Lord be with you.

*People* **And with your spirit.**

*Officiant* Let us pray.

O God, our Father, the source of all light, [*today*] you revealed to Simeon in his old age your light which lightens the Gentiles: bless these candles, we humbly pray, that we who bear them may be filled with the light of faith and walk in the way of righteousness, and come to the light that shines for ever, Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

*As the candles are distributed, if not distributed earlier, and lighted, the Officiant and People say or sing the Song of Simeon with this Antiphon*

**A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.**

Nunc dimittis

*The Song of Simeon*

**Lord, now let your servant depart in peace, \***

**according to your word.**

**For my eyes have seen your salvation, \***

**which you have prepared before the face of all people;**

**To be a light to lighten the Gentiles, \***

**and to be the glory of your people Israel.**

**Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit; \***

**as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world**

**without end. Amen.** *Luke 2:29-32*

**A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.**

The Procession

*Deacon* Let us go forth in peace.

*People* **In the name of Christ. Amen.**

*Appropriate psalms, hymns, or anthems may be said or sung during the procession. Psalm 48 is especially appropriate. The Great Litany may also be said or sung.*

*Upon arrival in the sanctuary, the Celebrant goes to the usual place and the Eucharist continues with the Gloria in Excelsis and the Collect of the Day.*