

Sunday 1st February 2025

Candlemas

St Andrew's church, Billingborough
South Lafford and Billingborough Group of Parishes



Collect

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.

Psalm 22

1 My God, my God, why have you forsaken me, ♦
and are so far from my salvation,
from the words of my distress?
2 O my God, I cry in the daytime,
but you do not answer; ♦
and by night also, but I find no rest.
3 Yet you are the Holy One, ♦
enthroned upon the praises of Israel.
4 Our forebears trusted in you; ♦
they trusted, and you delivered them.
5 They cried out to you and were delivered; ♦
they put their trust in you and were not confounded.
6 But as for me, I am a worm and no man, ♦
scorned by all and despised by the people.
7 All who see me laugh me to scorn; ♦
they curl their lips and wag their heads, saying,
8 'He trusted in the Lord; let him deliver him; ♦

let him deliver him, if he delights in him.'

9 But it is you that took me out of the womb ♦
and laid me safe upon my mother's breast.
10 On you was I cast ever since I was born; ♦
you are my God even from my mother's womb.
11 Be not far from me, for trouble is near at hand ♦
and there is none to help.
12 Mighty oxen come around me; ♦
fat bulls of Bashan close me in on every side.
13 They gape upon me with their mouths, ♦
as it were a ramping and a roaring lion.
14 I am poured out like water;
all my bones are out of joint; ♦
my heart has become like wax
melting in the depths of my body.
15 My mouth is dried up like a potsherd;
my tongue cleaves to my gums; ♦
you have laid me in the dust of death.
16 For the hounds are all about me,
the pack of evildoers close in on me; ♦
they pierce my hands and my feet.
17 I can count all my bones; ♦
they stand staring and looking upon me.
18 They divide my garments among them; ♦
they cast lots for my clothing.
19 Be not far from me, O Lord; ♦
you are my strength; hasten to help me.
20 Deliver my soul from the sword, ♦
my poor life from the power of the dog.
21 Save me from the lion's mouth,
from the horns of wild oxen. ♦
You have answered me!
22 I will tell of your name to my people; ♦
in the midst of the congregation will I praise you.
23 Praise the Lord, you that fear him; ♦
O seed of Jacob, glorify him;
stand in awe of him, O seed of Israel.
24 For he has not despised nor abhorred the
suffering of the poor;
neither has he hidden his face from them; ♦

but when they cried to him he heard them.

25 From you comes my praise in the great
congregation; ♦
I will perform my vows

in the presence of those that fear you.

26 The poor shall eat and be satisfied; ♦
those who seek the Lord shall praise him;
their hearts shall live for ever.

27 All the ends of the earth
shall remember and turn to the Lord, ♦
and all the families of the nations shall bow before
him.

28 For the kingdom is the Lord's ♦
and he rules over the nations.

29 How can those who sleep in the earth
bow down in worship, ♦
or those who go down to the dust kneel before him?
30 He has saved my life for himself;
my descendants shall serve him; ♦
this shall be told of the Lord for generations to come.

31 They shall come and make known his salvation,
to a people yet unborn, ♦
declaring that he, the Lord, has done it.

Hebrew 2.14-end

¹⁴ 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, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels, but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters^[a] 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. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Luke 2.22-40

²²When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³(as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), ²⁴and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

²⁵Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; ^[a] this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. ²⁶It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. ^[b] ²⁷Guided by the Spirit, Simeon ^[c] came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, ²⁸Simeon ^[d] took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹'Master, now you are dismissing your servant ^[e] in peace,

according to your word;

³⁰for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³²a light for revelation to the Gentiles

and for glory to your people Israel.'

³³And the child's father and mother were amazed at

what was being said about him. ³⁴Then

Simeon ^[f] 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 ³⁵so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

³⁶There was also a prophet, Anna ^[g] the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband for seven years after her marriage, ³⁷then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but

worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child ^[h] to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

The Return to Nazareth

³⁹When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Pew Sheet News with details of services, news & events can be found on the websites of: -

South Lafford parish website

<https://www.parishofsouthlafford.org/>

Pew Sheet, News and Events page

And

Billingborough Group benefice website

<https://lincoln.ourchurchweb.org.uk/thegilbertinebenefice/index.php>

Home page