

# SUNDAY READINGS & PRAYERS

## PRESENTATION OF CHRIST IN THE TEMPLE (CANDLEMAS)

### COLLECT

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.**

### FIRST READING

*Mal 3.1-5*

A reading from the prophet Malachi.

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.**

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*from Ps 24*



**R.** Let the Lord enter! He is the King of glory.

*(All repeat)*



Lift up your | heads O gates;  
lift them high O ever-|lasting doors;  
and the King of glory | shall come in. **R.**

'Who is this | King of glory?'  
'The Lord | strong and mighty,  
the Lord who is might-|ly in battle.' **R.**

Lift up your | heads O gates;  
lift them high O ever-|lasting doors;  
and the King of glory | shall come in. **R.**

'Who is this | King of glory?'  
'The | Lord of hosts,  
he is the | King of glory.' **R.**

### SECOND READING

*Heb 2.14-18*

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, Jesus 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.**

### GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

*Lk 2.32*

**Alleluia.**

This child is the light to enlighten the nations:  
and the glory of your people Israel.

**Alleluia.**

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, the parents of Jesus brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said 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, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.” And his father and his mother marvelled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of

him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. And 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.**

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#### PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

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; through Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

#### POST-COMMUNION

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.**

#### PROCESSIONAL CANTICLE

*Nunc Dimittis*



℞. A light to enlight-<sup>len</sup> the nations: and the  
glory of your people <sup>l</sup> Israel. (*All repeat*)



Now Lord you let your servant <sup>l</sup> go in peace:  
your word has <sup>l</sup> been fulfilled. ℞.

My own eyes have seen <sup>l</sup> the salvation:  
which you have prepared in the sight of <sup>l</sup>  
every people. ℞.

A light to reveal you <sup>l</sup> to the nations:  
and to be the glory of your people <sup>l</sup> Israel. ℞.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to  
the <sup>l</sup> Holy Spirit:  
as it was in the beginning, is now and ever  
shall be, world without <sup>l</sup> end. Amen. ℞.