

**FEBRUARY 2,  
THE PRESENTATION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST  
IN THE TEMPLE: MASS**

**The Greeting**

*The Celebrant introduces the liturgy saying*

Dear People of God:

Forty days ago we celebrated the joyful feast of the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Today we recall the holy day on which he was presented in the temple, fulfilling the law of Moses and at the same time going to meet his faithful people. Led by the Spirit, Simeon and Anna came to the temple, recognized Christ as their Lord, and proclaimed him with joy. United by the Spirit, may we recognize the Lord in our presence now and when he comes again in glory.

## **The Lighting of Candles**

*The candles are lit. Then the appointed canticle, Nunc dimittis, is recited. A Minister begins.*

✠ Lord, you now have set your servant free \*

*All* to go in peace as you have promised;  
For these eyes of mine have seen the Savior, \*  
whom you have prepared for all the world to see:  
A Light to enlighten the nations, \*  
and the glory of your people Israel.

Glory to the Father, and to the Son,  
and to the Holy Spirit: \*  
as it was in the beginning, is now,  
and will be for ever. Amen.

**The service continues with  
The Blessing of the Candles  
on the following page.**

## **The Blessing over the Candles**

*The Celebrant offers the following prayer.*

Let us pray.

God our Father, today you revealed to Simeon your Light of revelation to the nations. Bless and sanctify these candles, and grant that we who bear them may walk always as children of that light; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. *Amen.*

*The candles are then sprinkled with holy water.*

*The First Lesson. The Reader begins*

### **A Reading from the Book of Malachi**

Thus says the LORD, “Behold, I send 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, behold, 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 sons of Levi and refine them like

gold and silver, till they present right offerings to the LORD. Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the LORD as in the days of old and as in former years.”

*The Reader concludes*

The Word of the Lord.

### **Psalm 84:1–6**

*The Reader says*

Please join me in reading Psalm 84, verses 1 through 6, found in the red Prayer Book beginning on page 707.

*(The Reader repeats the above information as needed.)*

1 How dear to me is your dwelling, O LORD of  
hosts! \*  
My soul has a desire and longing for the courts  
of the LORD;  
my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

2 The sparrow has found her a house  
and the swallow a nest where she may lay her  
young; \*  
by the side of your altars, O LORD of hosts,  
my King and my God.

3 Happy are they who dwell in your house! \*

- they will always be praising you.
- 4 Happy are the people whose strength is in you! \*  
whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.
- 5 Those who go through the desolate valley will find  
it a place of springs, \*  
for the early rains have covered it with pools of  
water.
- 6 They will climb from height to height, \*  
and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

*The Second Lesson. The Reader begins*

**A Reading from the Letter to the Hebrews**

Since his children share in flesh and blood, God himself likewise partook of the same nature, that through death he might destroy him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage. For surely it is not with angels that he is concerned but with the descendants of Abraham. Therefore he had to be made like his brethren in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make expiation for the sins of the people. For because he

himself has suffered and been tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted.

*The Reader concludes*            The Word of the Lord.

## **The Gospel Acclamation**

*The Reader leads the appointed acclamation.*

*Reader*            Alleluia.

*People*            Alleluia.

*Reader*            He is the Light to enlighten the nations; \*  
                          and the glory of your people Israel.

*People*            Alleluia.

*The Reader returns to his or her seat.*

## **The Holy Gospel**

*The Minister says*            The Lord be with you.

*People*                            And also with you.

*Minister*                        ✠ The Holy Gospel of our Lord  
  Jesus Christ according to Luke.

*People*                            Glory to you, Lord Christ.

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 that 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 turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking 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 should not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came 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 lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to thy people Israel.” And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is spoken against (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), that thoughts out of many hearts may be revealed.” And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher; she was of a great age, having lived

with her husband seven years from her virginity, and as a widow till she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. And coming up at that very hour she gave thanks to God, and spoke of him to all who were looking 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 city, Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.

*The Minister says*            The Gospel of the Lord.