

Sunday 2nd February 2025 Presentation of Christ in the Temple

**Almighty and everliving God, we humbly pray
that, as your only Son was presented in the temple in
accordance with the law,
so we may be dedicated to you with pure and clean hearts;
through Jesus Christ our Lord,
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,
one God, now and for ever. Amen.**

Malachi 3.1-4

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.

Lord, may your Word live in us

And bear much fruit to your glory.

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 for seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped 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 our Lord,

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalm 84

¹ How lovely is your dwelling-place:

O Lord God of hosts!

² **My soul has a desire and longing**

to enter the courts of the Lord:

my heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

³ The sparrow has found her a home,

and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young:

even your altar, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

⁴ **Blessed are those who dwell in your house:**

they will always be praising you.

⁵ Blessed are those whose strength is in you:

in whose heart are the highways to Zion;

⁶ **Who, going through the valley of dryness,**

find there a spring from which to drink:

till the autumn rain shall clothe it with blessings.

⁷ They go from strength to strength:

they appear, every one of them,

before the God of gods in Zion.

⁸ **O Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer:**

give ear, O God of Jacob.

⁹ Behold, O God, him who reigns over us:

and look upon the face of your anointed.

¹⁰ **One day in your courts is better than a thousand:**

I would rather stand at the threshold

of the house of my God

than dwell in the tents of ungodliness.

¹¹ For the Lord God is a light and a shield,

the Lord gives favour and honour:

and no good thing will he withhold

from those who walk in innocence.

¹² **O Lord God of hosts:**

blesed are those who put their trust in you.

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.

Lord, may your Word live in us,

And bear much fruit to your glory.

Hymn 154 Great is Your faithfulness

The Lord be with you,

And also with you.

The Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke,

Glory to you Lord Jesus Christ.

Luke 2.22-40

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 turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'