

SUNDAY 2nd FEBRUARY 2025

**The 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.



1st Reading - Malachi 3.1-5

Thus says the Lord God: 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.

Psalm - from Psalm 24

Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
and the King of glory shall come in. **℟**
'Who is the King of glory?' 'The Lord, strong and mighty,
The Lord who is mighty in battle.' **℟**
Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
And the King of glory shall come in. **℟**
'Who is this King of glory?'
'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.' **℟**

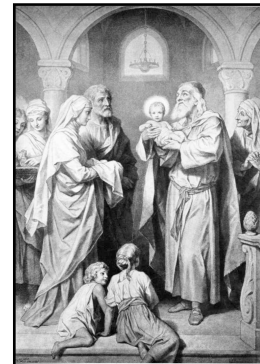
2nd Reading - Hebrews 2.14-18

Since 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.

Gospel - Luke 2.22-40

When the time came for their purification according
to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph brought
Jesus 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.' 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
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.



Post Communion Prayer

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.



The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glo_ ry.