

**An Order for
The Presentation of Christ in the Temple
Sunday, January 31, 2021 (transferred from February 2)**

The Gathering

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ,
the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit
be with you all:
and also with you.

Dear friends,

some forty days ago we celebrated the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Now we recall the day on which he was presented in the Temple,
when he was offered to the Father and shown to his people.

As a sign of his coming among us,
his mother was purified,
as we now come to him for cleansing.

In their old age Simeon and Anna recognized him as their Lord,
as we today sing of his glory.

In this gathering,
we celebrate both the joy of his coming and his searching judgement,
looking back to the day of his birth
and forward to the coming days of his passion.

Hymn: O Gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ

1 O Gracious Light, Lord Jesus Christ,
in you the Father's glory shone:
immortal, holy, blest is he,
and blest are you, his holy Son.

2 Now sunset comes, but light shines forth,
the lamps are lit to pierce the night.
Praise Father, Son, and Spirit: God
who dwells in the eternal light.

3 Worthy are you of endless praise,
O Son of God, Life-giving Lord;
wherefore you are through all the earth
and in the highest heaven adored.

Hymn: Fling Wide the Gates

Chorus Fling wide the gates, unbar the ancient doors;
salute your king in his triumphant cause!

1 Now all the world belongs to Christ our Lord:
let all creation greet the living Word!

Chorus

2 Who has the right to worship him today?

All those who gladly serve him and obey.

Chorus Fling wide the gates, unbar the ancient doors;
salute your king in his triumphant cause!

3 He comes to save all those who trust his name,
and will declare them free from guilt and shame.

Chorus

4 Who is the victor glorious from the fight?

He is our king, our life, our Lord, our right!

Chorus

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.

The First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

Thus says the Lord,

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.

This is the word of the Lord.

All Thanks be to God.

Psalm 24.7 - end

7 Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors; ♦
and the King of glory shall come in.

8 ‘Who is the King of glory?’ ♦
‘The Lord, strong and mighty,
the Lord who is mighty in battle.’

9 Lift up your heads, O gates;
be lifted up, you everlasting doors; ♦
and the King of glory shall come in.

10 ‘Who is this King of glory?’ ♦
‘The Lord of hosts,
he is the King of glory.’

**Glory to God, Source of all being,
Eternal Word and Holy Spirit;
as it was in the beginning is now
and shall be for ever. Amen.**

Canticle: Lord, Now Lettest Thou Thy Servant Depart

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace
according to thy word.

For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
which thou hast prepared before the face of all people;
to be a light to lighten the gentiles
and to be the glory of thy people Israel.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.

The Gospel Reading: Luke 2:22-40

Today the Lord is presented in the Temple
in substance of our mortal nature.

All Alleluia.

Today the Blessed Virgin comes
to be purified in accordance with the law.

All Alleluia.

Today old Simeon proclaims Christ
as the light of the nations and the glory of Israel.
All Alleluia. Praise to Christ, the light of the world.

Hear the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.
All 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 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 turtledoves 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 worshiped 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 favor of God was upon him.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
All Praise to you, O Christ.

Reflection

Hymn: The Lord Is My Light (cut at 2:56)

1 The Lord is my light and my salvation,
the Lord is my light and my salvation,
the Lord is my light and my salvation:
whom shall I fear?

2 In the time of trouble who will hide me?
In the time of trouble who will hide me?
In the time of trouble who will hide me?
Whom shall I fear?

3 Whom shall I fear? Whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life -
whom shall I fear?

4 Wait for the Lord, and be of good courage,
wait for the Lord, and be of good courage,
wait for the Lord, and be of good courage,
whom shall I fear?

5 Whom shall I fear? Whom shall I fear?
The Lord is the strength of my life -
whom shall I fear?

Prayers of Penitence

Hear the words of our Saviour Jesus Christ:
'I am the light of the world.
Whoever follows me shall never walk in darkness
but shall have the light of life.'
Let us therefore bring our sins into his light
and confess them in penitence and faith.

cf John 8.12

There is a moment of silence in which we recollect all the thing we have done which we ought not to have done, and left undone those things which we ought to have done.

All Father eternal, giver of light and grace,
we have sinned against you and against our neighbour,
in what we have thought,
in what we have said and done,
through ignorance, through weakness,
through our own deliberate fault.
We have wounded your love,
and marred your image in us.
We are sorry and ashamed,
and repent of all our sins.
For the sake of your Son Jesus Christ,
who died for us,
forgive us all that is past;
and lead us out from darkness
to walk as children of light.
Amen.

Almighty God,
who forgives all who truly repent,
have mercy upon you,
pardon and deliver you from all your sins,
confirm and strengthen you in all goodness,
and keep you in life eternal;
through Jesus Christ our Lord.

All **Amen.**

An Affirmation of Faith: *Shema Yisrael* שְׁמָה יִשְׂרָאֵל

Let us recall the teaching of Jesus as we say:

Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one.

**Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind, and with all your strength.**

This is the first and the great commandment.

The second is like it: Love your neighbour as yourself.

There is no commandment greater than these.

An Intercession.

The Lord's Prayer (Traditional Language)

Let us pray with confidence as our Saviour has taught us

**Our Father,
who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come; thy will be done;
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation;
but deliver us from evil.
For thine is the kingdom,
the power and the glory,
for ever and ever. Amen.**

Announcements

The Blessing

Christ, whose glory fills the skies,
fill you with radiance
and scatter the darkness from your path.
All Amen.

Christ, the Sun of Righteousness,
gladden your eyes and warm your heart.
All Amen.

Christ, the Dayspring from on high,
draw near to guide your feet into the way of peace.
All Amen.

And the blessing of God almighty,
the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit,
be among you and remain with you always.
All Amen.

Hymn: Christ is the World's Light

1 Christ is the world's light, he and none other;
born in our darkness, he became our brother.
If we have seen him, we have seen the Father:
Glory to God on high.

2 Christ is the world's peace, he and none other;
no one can serve him and despise another.
Who else unites us, one in God the Father?
Glory to God on high.

3 Christ is the world's life, he and none other;
sold once for silver, murdered here, our brother-
he, who redeems us, reigns with God the Father:
Glory to God on high.

4 Give God the glory, God and none other;
give God the glory, Spirit, Son and Father;
give God the glory, God with us, my brother:
Glory to God on high.

Final Responsory

Father, here we bring to an end our celebration
of the Saviour's birth.

***All Help us, in whom he has been born,
to live his life that has no end.***

Here we have offered the Church's sacrifice of praise.
***All Help us, who have received the bread of life,
to be thankful for your gift.***

Here we have rejoiced with faithful Simeon and Anna.
***All Help us, who have found the Lord in his temple,
to trust in your eternal promises.***

Here we have greeted the light of the world.
***All Help us, who bear the light of Christ,
to bring light to others.***

Here we have recalled our baptism.
***All Help us, who are marked with the cross,
to share the Lord's death and resurrection.***

Here we turn from Christ's birth to his passion.
***All Help us, for whom Lent is near,
to enter deeply into the Easter mystery.***

Here we bless one another in your name.
***All Help us, who now go in peace,
to shine with your light in the world.***
Thanks be to God. Amen.