



## ONE MISSION, TWO CHURCHES



The Presentation of the Lord, Year C - 2nd Feb. 2025

### Administrator

Fr Alex Chow

### Parish Secretary

Sonya O'Farrell

Wednesdays,

Thursdays & Fridays

10am – 2pm

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### SUNDAY MASS

**Saturday Vigil:** 5pm (SL) &

6.30pm (ST)

**Sunday:** 8:30am (SL),

10:30am (ST), 5pm (ST),

Vietnamese

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### WEEKDAY MASSES

**Tues.** 6:30pm(SL\*)

**Wed.** 9:15am(ST)

1st Wed Mass of Anointing

@10am

**Thurs.** 9:15am(ST)

**Fri.** 9:15am(SL\*)/6:30pm(ST)

**Sat.** 9:15am (SL\*)

\*Rosary after Mass at SL

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### RECONCILIATION

SL: Tues 5:30-6:10pm

Sat 9:45 - 10:15am

Sat 4:30 - 4:50pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:10pm.

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### EXPOSITION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT & EVENING PRAYER

SL: Tues 5:30 - 6:30pm

ST: Fri 5:30 - 6:30pm

Malachi 3:1-4, Psal 23:7-10, Hebrew 2:14-18.

Gospel Reflection on **Luke 2:22-40**

*Meditation: Do you know the favour of the Lord? After Jesus' birth, Mary fulfills the Jewish rite of purification after childbirth. As a customary offering, Mary gives two pigeons as an offering of the poor. Like all godly parents, Mary and Joseph raised their son in the fear and wisdom of God. He, in turn, was obedient to them and grew in wisdom and grace. The Lord's favour is with those who listen to his word with trust and obedience. Do you know the joy of submission to God? And do you seek to pass on the faith and to help the young grow in wisdom and maturity?*



**The Holy Spirit reveals the presence of the Saviour of the world:** Simeon was a just and devout man who was very much in tune with the Holy Spirit. He believed that the Lord would return to his temple and renew his chosen people. The Holy Spirit also revealed to him that the Messiah and King of Israel would also bring salvation to the Gentile nations. When Joseph and Mary presented the baby Jesus in the temple, Simeon immediately recognized this humble child of Bethlehem as the fulfilment of all the prophecies, hopes, and prayers. Just as with Simeon, the Holy Spirit reveals the presence of the Lord to those who are receptive and eager to receive him. Do you recognize the indwelling presence of the Lord with you? The 'new temple' of God's presence in the world: Jesus is the new temple (John 1:14). In the Old Testament God manifested his presence in the "pillar of cloud" by day and the "pillar of fire" by night as well as the ark and the tabernacle (Exodus 40:34-38). When the first temple was built in Jerusalem God's glory came to rest there (1 Kings 8). After the first temple was destroyed, Ezekiel saw God's glory leave it (Ezekiel 10). But God promised one day to fill it with even greater glory (Zechariah 8-9). That promise is fulfilled when the "King of Glory" himself comes to his temple (Malachi 3:1). Through Jesus' coming in the flesh and through his saving death, resurrection, and ascension we are made living temples of his Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 3:16-17). Ask the Lord to renew your faith in the indwelling presence of his Spirit within you. And give him thanks and praise for coming to make his home with you.

**The Holy Spirit renews our hope in the promise of God:** Together with Simeon, Anna, too, filled with the Holy Spirit. She was found daily in the temple, attending to the Lord in prayer and speaking prophetically to others about God's promise to send a redeemer. Supernatural hope grows with prayer and age! Anna was pre-eminently a woman of great hope and expectation that God would fulfil all his promises. She is a model of godliness to all believers as we advance in age. Advancing age and the disappointments of life can easily make us cynical and hopeless if we do not have our hope rightly placed. Anna's hope in God and his promises grew with age. She never ceased to worship God in faith and to pray with hope. Her hope and faith in God's promises fuelled her zeal and dedication in prayer and service of God's people.

**What do you hope for?** The hope which God places in our heart is the desire for the kingdom of heaven and everlasting life and happiness with our heavenly Father. The Lord Jesus has won for us a kingdom of righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Spirit (Romans 14:17). The Holy Spirit gives hope to all who place their trust in the promises of God. God never fails because his promises are true and he is faithful. The hope which God places within us through the gift of the Spirit enables us to persevere with confident trust in God even in the face of trials, setbacks, and challenges that may come our way. What is holding you back from giving God your trust and submission to his will for your life? Allow the Lord Jesus to flood your heart with his peace, joy, and love. Offer to God everything you have and desire - your life, family, friends, health, honor, wealth, and future. If you seek his kingdom first, he will give you everything you need to know, love, and serve him now and enjoy him forever.

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**Next Week's Daily Readings 3 February - 9 February 2025**

**MONDAY, Feb 3** : Hebrews 11:32-40, Ps 30:20-24, Mark 5:1-20. St Blaise, bishop, martyr.

**TUESDAY, Feb 4** : Hebrews 12:1-4, Ps 21:26-32, Mark 5:21-43.

**WEDNESDAY, Feb 5**: Hebrews 12:4-7,11-15, Ps 102:1-18, Mark 6:1-6. St Agatha, virgin, martyr

**THURSDAY, Feb 6** : Hebrews 12:18-24, Ps 47:2-11, Mark 6:7-13. St Paul Miki and companions, martyrs

**FRIDAY, Feb 7** : Hebrews 13:1-8, Ps 26:1-9, Mark 6:14-29.

**SATURDAY, Feb 8** : Hebrews 13:15-17,20-21, Ps 22, Mark 6:30-34.

**SUNDAY, Feb 9** : Is 6:1-8, Ps 137:1-8, 1 Cor 15:1-11. Luke 5:1-11.

*(Taken from  
ORDO 2025, Liturgy Brisbane, ACBC 2024)*



**THURSDAY 6 FEBRUARY 2025**

6pm – 9.30pm

Cathedral Hall, ACU, 22 Brunswick St, Fitzroy

TICKETS & DETAILS:

[Godandbeer.com.au](http://Godandbeer.com.au)

ADULTS \$30-\$45

(see further details on website)

U18 \$20

U10 FREE



*Includes BBQ  
& live music  
with Olivia  
Chamoun  
Canavan*



**MINISTERS OF THE WORD**

Saturday 5pm SL  
6.30pm ST  
Sunday 8:30am SL  
10:30am ST  
5pm ST

**1 and 2 Feb**

Edna Lee  
Hubert Lobo  
Beryl Chelliah  
Genevieve Hemsley & Trevis Yee  
Thu Ngo & Doan Pham

**8 and 9 Feb**

Olive Hammill  
Rachel Grealy  
Darren McLean  
Molly Hemsley & Stefanie Chin  
Hung Nguyen & Thuan Tran

**EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST**

Saturday 5pm SL  
6.30pm ST  
Sunday 8:30am SL  
10:30am ST  
5pm ST

Lucy Ferris  
Susan Chen  
Margaret Gearon  
Chin L Tay  
Hung Dinh

Godfrey Thong  
Owen Grealy  
Megan McLean  
Pat Kawalevski  
Hoang Nguyen

**SLIDE OPERATORS**

Saturday 5pm SL  
6.30pm ST  
Sunday 8:30am SL  
10:30am ST  
5pm ST

Volunteer  
Kelvin Chen  
Volunteer  
Lee Min Yee  
Toan Tran

Volunteer  
Michelle Chen  
Volunteer  
Manny Gonzalez  
Toan Tran

**SL WELCOMERS 1/2 FEB**

5:00pm Volunteer  
8.30am Volunteer  
10.30am Volunteer

**SL CHURCH CLEANING**

15th Feb - Sonya's team  
Sonya O'Farrell, Netty Solomon,  
Anthony Fernandez & Eng Peng Sim

**SL CHURCH FLOWERS**

1st Feb - Jenny & Vanessa Marino  
8th Feb - Kate Skowronska

**ST CHURCH FLOWERS**

January - Parishioners

**SL WELCOMERS 8/9 FEB**

5:00pm Volunteer  
8.30am Volunteer  
10.30am Volunteer

**ST CHURCH CLEANING**

8th Feb @ 8am  
Toan Tran, Dao Dinh,  
Hieu Nguyen & Dieu Nguyen.

**ST COUNTERS**

This week Team 4:  
Mary Choy & Eileen Tam  
Next week Team 5:  
Anico Yee & Pabs Gonzales

## WE REMEMBER IN PRAYER

**All who are sick**, especially Hazel Grealy, Josephine Alexander, Grace Dimattina, Margaret Hogg, Bernadine O'Meara, Kit Bing Fan, Kathryn Holmes, Therese O'Donoghue, Stewart Davis, Jerry Donoghue, Mark, Margaret Hayes, Charmaine Bancroft and all those parishioners unable to be among us this weekend.

**All who have died**, especially Iris Evans who died recently and all those whose anniversaries occur about this time especially Bridget O'Carroll, Nella Macedo, Audrey Baker, Joseph Leo Kerin, Rose Butcher, Frederick Johnson, Diana Richards, Fr Peter Collins, Peter & Paul Hilliard, Mary Grealy, Jack Odlum, Greg Arelette, Ken Atkins, Maria Cassano, Eloide Leonardi, Minetta, Vita & Felicetta Boccacci, Roche Mariadasan & Kate Taunt. May they rest in peace.

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## POPE FRANCIS' PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR FEBRUARY:

For vocations to priestly and religious life: Let us pray that the ecclesial community may welcome the desires and doubts of young people who feel called to serve Christ's mission in priestly and religious life.

**TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR MINISTERS OF THE WORD:** Save the date - 10.30am on either Sat. Feb. 15th or Sat. March 1st at St Luke's

**TRAINING WORKSHOP FOR EXTRAORDINARY MINISTERS OF THE EUCHARIST:** Save the date - 10.30am on either Sat. 15th March or Sat. 22nd March at St Luke's

**CARITAS AUSTRALIA'S GAZA CRISIS APPEAL:** We urgently need your support. The ceasefire means more aid can assist people in Gaza, but the need is immense and the recovery long. Gaza's people cannot recover alone. They need the support of the global community to survive and rebuild. Please donate to Caritas Australia's Gaza Crisis Appeal. You can donate online [www.caritas.org.au/gaza](http://www.caritas.org.au/gaza) or phone 1800 024 413

## Resources ....

**MAJELLAN MEDIA:** Thinking of cancer victims

**THE JOURNEY THIS WEEK:** On The Journey This Week: Fr Mark De Battista says that Jesus chose to submit to the Law to fulfill and bring it to completion. Mother Hilda says saying "Amen" embodies trust, submission, and agreement with God's will. Plus, Fr Tony Percy, Trish McCarthy, and Deacon Josh Clayton. The Journey podcast available at [www.jcr.org.au](http://www.jcr.org.au).

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## **STEWARDSHIP CORNER:**

*The First collection is for the priest and retired priests.*

*The Second collection is for parish expenses*

**ST:** Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Envelopes: \$165

Last week's Church Stewardship Envelopes: \$155

Vietnamese Donation: \$124.35

**SL:** Last week's Presbytery Stewardship Envelopes: \$221

Last week's Church Stewardship Envelopes: \$282

## Parish Groups & Contacts

### Volunteers and Rosters

ST: Corrie Quimbo

SL: Margaret Gearon

### Baptism Preparation

ST: Mary Italiano

### Vietnamese Community

Hoang Nguyen

Andy Tran

### Vietnamese Youth

Theresa Nguyen

### Parish Collection Preparers

ST: Barry Silvester &

Michael Kawalevski

### Stewardship Counters

SL: Dale Dixon

Steve Kilroe-Smith

### Parishes Safeguarding Committee

Theresa Nguyen, Mary Italiano,

Darren McLean

Janette Clark

### Parish history

SL: Margaret Gearon

### Parish Accountant

Bernard Negline

### SL: Hall Hire

Sonya O'Farrell @ the

Parish Office – 9877 2292

### Church Sacristan

ST: Margaret King & Hoang Nguyen

SL: Greg Grant

### Church Housekeeping

ST: Margaret King

### Church Cleaning & Flowers

SL: Megan McLean

### Church Linen

SL: Beryl Chelliah

### Parish Garden Maintenance

ST: Des Connors, Leo Watson,

Anico Yee & Vietnamese Community

SL: Darren McLean

### Parish Choirs

ST: Mary Italiano & Theresa Nguyen

SL: Lina & Maria Mafi

### St Vincent de Paul Conference

For Assistance: 1800 305 330

(Monday to Friday 10am-3pm)

### Parish Contacts:

ST: John McCoy

SL: Tony Lobo &

Steve Kilroe-Smith



**Entrance Antiphon:** Your merciful love, O God, we have received in the midst of your temple. Your praise, O God, like your name, reaches the ends of the earth; your right hand is filled with saving justice.

**Response to the Psalm:** Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

**Gospel Acclamation:** Alleluia, alleluia! This is the light of revelation to the nations, and the glory of your people Israel. Alleluia!

**Eucharistic Acclamation:** Save us, Saviour of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

**Communion Antiphon:** My eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples.



**TRY ALPHA: No matter what background, faith, or walk of life, we ALL have questions, and we all deserve a safe space to ask them. Alpha is that space.**

Alpha @ St Luke's Blackburn South is starting on Feb 12th 2025, Wednesday 7-9pm. It's free and everyone is welcome. Use this QR Code for registration or visit the Alpha table in the Church foyers for more information.

### **Jubilee Year of Hope 2025 - Gospel Reflection on Luke 22:22-40**

**A Priestly Presentation, Not Redemption:** When Luke narrates the story of the Presentation of the Lord in the Temple, he refers to Exodus 13:2, which says: "Consecrate to me all the first-born; whatever is the first to open the womb among the sons of Israel, both man and of beast, is mine." The first-born sons and the first-born of the animals in Israel all belonged to God. The first-born sons of the people were to be dedicated to sacred ministry, while the firstlings of the cattle, sheep, and goats were offered to the Lord as sacrificial victims. Now, because the sons of Israel sinned at

Sinai by worshipping the golden calf and the Levites rallied to the side of Moses, the descendants of Levi earned the privileges of consecration originally possessed by the first-born sons. While the Levite sons were consecrated for service, then on-Levite first-born sons of Israel had to be redeemed from their service or bought back (Exodus 34:20) with a payment of five shekels (Numbers 18:15-16). Instead of saying that Mary and Joseph brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to redeem him, Luke says that they brought him up to present him to the Lord, and implies that Jesus was consecrated as a priest even though he was not a Levite.

**Jubilee Redemption:** Redemption was an important and fundamental dimension of the Jubilee Year, which Moses commanded to be celebrated every fifty years. If anyone had been sold into servitude to pay a debt or had to sell their ancestral land to pay a debt, they would be freed from servitude and their land would be returned to them during the Jubilee Year. The Jubilee Year started with the Day of Atonement, the holiest day of the year. This meant that the Jubilee Year began first with spiritual liberation. "On the Day of Atonement, the Israelites were symbolically redeemed from the debt of all their sin through the blood of the lamb, which foreshadowed Jesus, the true Lamb of God. Once they were redeemed and reconciled with God, redemption and reconciliation with their fellow man followed. The trumpet was blown throughout the land, and all bondage was ended and debts forgiven" (Bergsma, Jesus and the Jubilee, 44). Jesus came not to be redeemed, but to redeem us.

**A Merciful and Faithful High Priest:** Jesus, as a newborn firstborn son only forty days old, did not need to be redeemed or bought back from priestly service. Luke tells us that there was a man in Jerusalem, named Simeon, who was looking for the "consolation of Israel." This phrase refers to the time when the Lord God would rescue his people and restore the Kingdom of David (see Isaiah 40:1; 52:9; 61:2-3). As our eternal high priest, Jesus did not come to liberate his people from Gentile rule and re-establish a political kingdom. He came to free us from the slavery of sin and the fear of death and establish the Kingdom of God. He resurrects the fallen Kingdom of David in a spiritual way. Jesus rules, not from a temporal and earthly throne in an earthly city, but from his throne at the Father's right hand. The Letter to the Hebrews proclaims the great mystery of how Jesus assumed our human nature and destroyed death by dying. Having lived our life, having suffered what we suffer, and having been tested as we are tested, he has solidarity with us, understands our condition, and is merciful toward us.

**Conversing with Christ:** Lord Jesus, merciful and faithful high priest, console me and speak tender words of mercy towards me. As I contemplate you as a baby presented in the Temple, grant me a child-like simplicity and the joy of being in the Father's house.

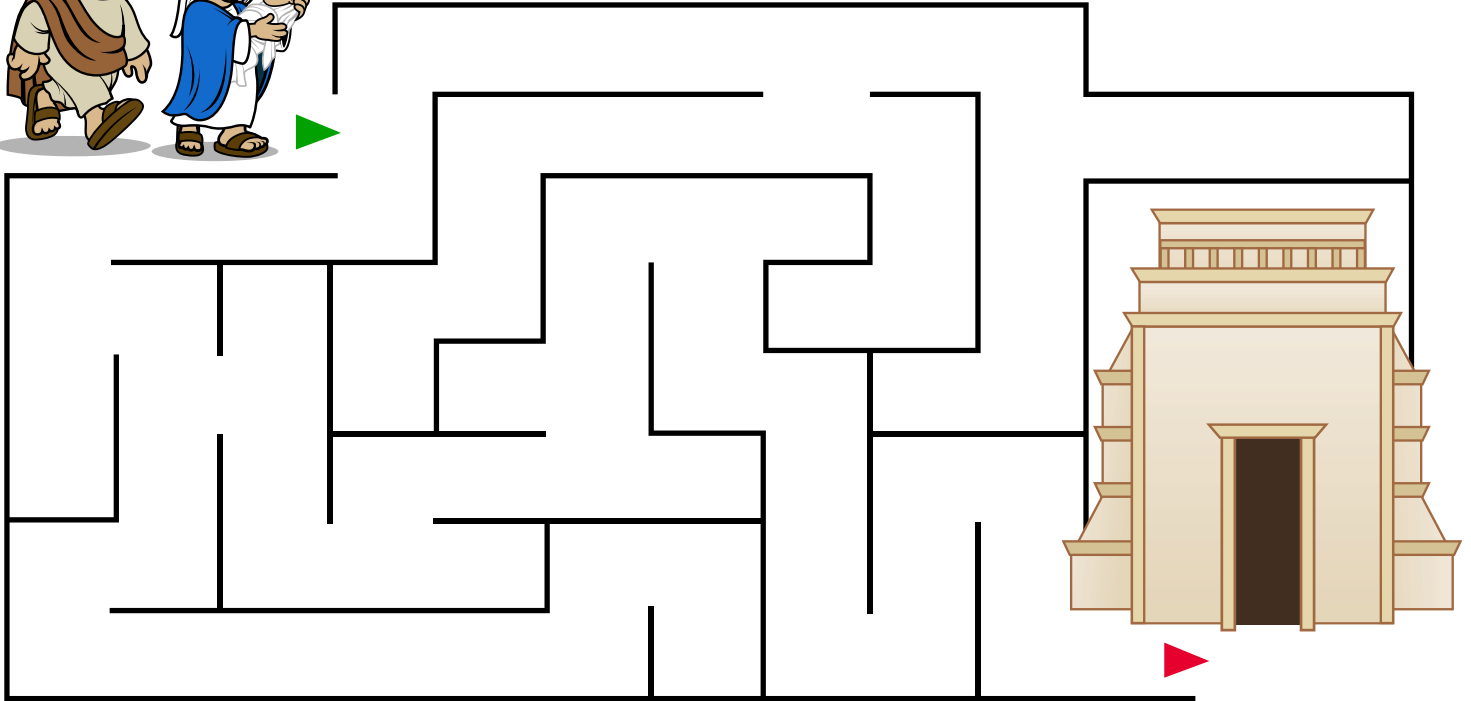
**Living the Word of God:** *How am I living this Jubilee Year 2025? Did I start it by seeking spiritual liberation in the Sacrament of Reconciliation? Am I familiar with the indulgences available throughout this year?*



# Lord, I am your servant



Mary and Joseph had to travel from Nazareth to Jerusalem to take baby Jesus to the temple. Help them find their way.



Simeon was very happy to see baby Jesus at the temple in Jerusalem. Draw Simeon holding baby Jesus.



# PRESENTATION OF THE LORD – 2 FEBRUARY 2025



## COLLECT

Almighty ever-living God,  
we humbly implore your majesty  
that, just as your Only Begotten Son  
was presented on this day in the Temple  
in the substance of our flesh,  
so, by your grace,  
we may be presented to you with minds made pure.  
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

## READINGS AND REFLECTIONS

This is one of a small group of feasts called 'Feasts of the Lord' which take precedence over a Sunday. It is a throwback to the Christmas season – the Nativity of the Lord was forty days ago. According to the Jewish Law (Lev 12:1-8), on the fortieth day after the birth of a boy, the mother presented herself and her son at the Temple to offer a sacrifice; this served as a presentation of the son and a purification of the mother after childbirth. This second aspect meant that for some centuries the feast focussed on the Virgin Mary. Since the revised calendar of 1969, it has been called the Presentation of the Lord. The day has also been called 'Candlemas' because the liturgy includes the blessing of candles and a procession with lighted candles, a reference to the Christmas theme of light. The feast celebrates the revelation of Christ to Simeon and Anna whom Jesus' family met in the Temple.

## A reading from the prophet Malachi 3:1–4

The Lord God says this: Look, I am going to send my messenger to prepare a way before me. And the Lord you are seeking will suddenly enter his temple; and the angel of the covenant whom you are longing for, yes, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. Who will be able to resist the day of his coming? Who will remain standing when he appears? For he is like the refiner's fire and the fuller's alkali. He will take his seat as refiner and purifier; he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, and then they will make the offering to the Lord as it should be made. The offering of Judah and Jerusalem will then be welcomed by the Lord as in former days, as in the years of old.

## Responsorial Psalm Ps 23:7–10

**R.** Who is this king of glory? It is the Lord!

O gates, lift up your heads;  
grow higher, ancient doors.  
Let him enter, the king of glory! **R.**

Who is the king of glory?  
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,  
the Lord, the valiant in war. **R.**

O gates, lift high your heads;  
grow higher, ancient doors.  
Let him enter, the king of glory! **R.**

Who is he, the king of glory?  
He, the Lord of armies,  
he is the king of glory. **R.**

## First Reading

Malachi means 'my messenger'. It is a short anonymous prophesy of the 5th century BC that calls for God to purify the people. A messenger will prepare the way of the Lord; this opening sentence is an allusion to John the Baptist. Then the Lord will enter the Temple suddenly. The liturgy applies this text to Jesus the Messiah who today appears in the Temple. Malachi looks forward to a new beginning, a prophesy ultimately to be fulfilled in Christ. The messiah will purify and refine, to use Malachi's metallurgic imagery.

This reading poses a great challenge. Its meaning is not transparent and the phrases are obscure for both the reader and the assembly: "angel of the covenant", "the day of his coming", "refiner's fire", "fuller's alkali", "sons of Levi", "the offering of Judah and Jerusalem". This is all the more reason for the reader to prepare the passage carefully and deliver it well. There is a drama and energy which the reader can render with vigour.

The key message that needs to be communicated is that the Lord is to come unexpectedly to his Temple. The gospel will take up this theme, paradoxically in fact, for the Lord comes not in power and might but in poverty and weakness.

## Responsorial Psalm

The response is unusual – it is in the form of a question and answer (a rhetorical feature of the psalm).

The first and third stanzas are virtually identical. They each conclude, "Let him enter, the king of glory!" and each is followed by the dramatic question, "Who is the king of glory?" The answer is majestic: "The Lord, the mighty, the valiant".

This psalm needs to be sung or proclaimed with strength, energy and a broad solemnity. As the response triumphantly affirms, "It is the Lord!"

The entry of the Lord to the Temple is obviously the connection to Malachi and the feast.

## **A reading from the letter to the Hebrews** **2:14–18**

Since all the children share the same blood and flesh, Jesus too shared equally in it, so that by his death he could take away all the power of the devil, who had power over death, and set free all those who had been held in slavery all their lives by the fear of death. For it was not the angels that he took to himself; he took to himself descent from Abraham.

It was essential that he should in this way become completely like his brothers so that he could be a compassionate and trustworthy high priest of God's religion, able to atone for human sins. That is, because he has himself been through temptation he is able to help others who are tempted.

## **A reading from the holy Gospel** **according to Luke** **2:22–40**

When the day came for them to be purified as laid down by the Law of Moses, the parents of Jesus took him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord - observing what stands written in the Law of the Lord: Every first-born male must be consecrated to the Lord - and also to offer in sacrifice, in accordance with what is said in the Law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons. Now in Jerusalem there was a man named Simeon. He was an upright and devout man; he looked forward to Israel's comforting and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Christ of the Lord. Prompted by the Spirit he came to the Temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the Law required, he took him into his arms and he blessed God; and he said:

'Now, Master, you can let your servant go in peace, just as you promised; because my eyes have seen the salvation which you have prepared for all the nations to see, a light to enlighten the pagans and the glory of your people Israel.'

[As the child's father and mother stood there wondering at the things that were being said about him, Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, 'You see this child: he is destined for the fall and for the rising of many in Israel, destined to be a sign that is rejected - and a sword will pierce your own soul too - so that the secret thoughts of many may be laid bare.'

There was a prophetess also, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was well on in

## **Second Reading**

Like the text from Malachi, this passage from the letter to the Hebrews is neither easy for readers to proclaim nor for the assembly to understand. It begins with a long and difficult sentence.

The argument goes like this. Jesus has become a human being and so shares human flesh and blood and even human temptation. Consequently, his triumph over the power of death/evil (on the cross) is a victory for the whole human race. As a compassionate high priest (at the altar of the cross) he is able to atone for human sin. If the text can be presented clearly, it does contain a message of consolation and salvation for all.

The reading makes an important connection between the incarnation and the cross. We will see this recur in the Gospel when the child of forty days is held by Simeon in the Temple.

## **Gospel**

The gospel has a longer and a shorter form. The longer form continues after the prayer of Simeon with his prophecy which makes the connection with the cross of Christ. The reading then introduces the beautiful figure of Anna and it concludes with a fine summary of Jesus growing up. It would be a pity not to use the longer version.

Although they are poor (the two birds are the simplest offering for this sacrifice), Mary and Joseph fulfill all the requirements of the law. Simeon and Anna are also models of religious faith: they are attentive to God's word, humble, trusting and obedient, and filled with longing for God's promises to be realised. This small child in Simeon's arms is the one who will be a light and the glory of the people, one who will grow to maturity and wisdom to become the awaited messiah. But, of course, not the triumphant leader people were expecting, rather a sign rejected, the suffering servant who would die on the cross.



years. Her days of girlhood over, she had been married for seven years before becoming a widow. She was now eighty-four years old and never left the temple, serving God night and day with fasting and prayer. She came by just at that moment and began to praise God; and she spoke of the child to all who looked forward to the deliverance of Jerusalem.

When they had done everything the Law of the Lord required, they went back to Galilee, to their town of Nazareth. Meanwhile the child grew to maturity, and he was filled with wisdom; and God's favour was with him.]

[Short Form: omit text in brackets.]

## CONCLUDING PRAYER

May almighty God bless us in his kindness  
and pour out saving wisdom upon us.

**Amen.**

May he nourish us always with the teachings of the faith  
and make us persevere in holy deeds.

**Amen.**

May he turn our steps towards himself  
and show us the path of charity and peace.

**Amen.**

And may the blessing of almighty God,  
the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit,  
come down on us and remain with us for ever.

**Amen.**

(Adapted from the Solemn Blessing for Ordinary Time III, Roman Missal p. 715)

*An alternative translation of the scripture readings is given here from the New Revised Standard Version (NRSV). This may be particularly useful for those in parishes which use the NRSV Lectionary.*

## THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

### FIRST READING ( NRSV)

**A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi 3:1-4**

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.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM ( NRSV)

**Psalm 24.7, 8, 9, 10 (R.10)**

**R.** The Lord of hosts: he is king of glory!

Lift up your heads, O gates!  
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!  
that the King of glory may come in. **R.**

Who is the King of glory?  
The Lord, strong and mighty,  
the Lord, mighty in battle. **R.**

Lift up your heads, O gates!  
and be lifted up, O ancient doors!  
that the King of glory may come in. **R.**

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

## SECOND READING ( NRSV)

### A reading from the letter to the Hebrews 2:10-11, 14-18

It was fitting that God,  
for whom and through whom all things exist,  
in bringing many children to glory,  
should make the source of their salvation  
perfect through sufferings.  
For the one who sanctifies  
and those who are sanctified all have one Father.

For this reason

Jesus is not ashamed to call them brothers and sisters, saying,  
“Here am I, and the children whom God has given me.”  
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 Jesus 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 Jesus himself was tested by what he suffered,  
he is able to help those who are being tested.

## GOSPEL ( NRSV)

### A reading from the holy gospel according to Luke 2:22-40

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.”

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 the parents of Jesus 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.



# Be GOOD SHEPHERD THE

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Year  
of  
hope

By  
Olivia  
Dawson