

Daily Office for the Feast of the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
(Candlemas), 2nd February

Becoming present to God

Through a sign of attentiveness like lighting a candle or

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

and

My eyes have seen your salvation.

which you have prepared in the presence of all people

a light for revelation to the Gentiles,

and the glory of your people Israel. (Luke 2:30–32)

Celebrating the presence of God

Lord Christ, everything that the law required was done after your birth,

on the eighth day,

circumcised and named Jesus.

we give you praise

that you have named us, too, and written those names on the palms of your hands.

We give you thanks

that when the time came for purification, Mary and Joseph took you to the Temple,

presenting you to the Lord as holy, and offered to God.

Receive our lives afresh as those devoted to your service.

There you were greeted by Simeon and Anna,

faithful servants for many years and now advanced in age;

the old greeting the infant with tenderness and wisdom.

and we greet you, young and old, women and men.

We would take you, infant Christ, in our arms, like Simeon,

but it is you who take us in yours, cradling, nurturing and holding us tenderly until age is dissolved in eternity.

A pause to name any specific thanks or praise

Acknowledging our humanity

Simeon was righteous and devout

Lord, forgive us our sinfulness and deepen our devotion.

Upon Simeon the Spirit rested

Lord, let your Spirit fill us, too, and enable us to hear your voice.

Anna fasted and prayed, night and day

Lord, forgive our prayerlessness.

She spoke about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Israel,

Lord, give us courage to speak of Jesus to all who will listen.

Silence

Lord, as Jesus was presented in the Temple, so receive us afresh, purify our hearts and give us the same hope that filled Simeon and Anna's old age with anticipation until your servants depart in peace.

Listening for the Word of God

From *The Common Lectionary*

Canticle - Optional

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 Spirit as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end, Amen.

(Book of Common Prayer, Luke 2:29–32.)

Reflecting on our roots

***Living God, enable us this day
to be pilgrims and companions:
committed to the way of Christ,
faithful to the call of Christ,
discerning the mind of Christ,
offering the welcome of Christ,
growing in the likeness of Christ,
engaging in the mission of Christ,
in the world that belongs to Christ.***

Bringing our concerns

We pray for children in places where life is fragile and cheap.

We pray for all who have lost children to violence, illness or despair.

We pray for all who are elderly, that in their limitations and affirmity, they may know hope and purpose in following Jesus.

Lord, draw near with strength and courage to all who are fearful, doubting or oppressed. Amen

The Lord's Prayer

***Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.
Lead us not into temptation
but deliver us from evil.
For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.***

Going to love and serve

Master, now do not dismiss your servant from your presence,
but go with us into the service of this day

Lord, may we speak of your redemption and praise you for your salvation this day, Amen

Optional:

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit

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