

**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

*NRSV: 'New Revised Standard  
Version Bible: Anglicized Edition,  
copyright 1989, 1995, Division of  
Christian Education of the National  
Council of the Churches of Christ in  
the United States of America. Used  
by permission. All rights reserved.'*