

**Sunday 28th of
January 2024 –
Presentation / 4th of
Epiphany**

**Special Prayer for the
day**

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

**First Reading
Malachi 3:1–5**

[1] “Behold, I send my
messenger, and he will
prepare the way before
me. And the Lord whom
you seek will suddenly
come to his temple; and
the messenger of the
covenant in whom you
delight, behold, he is
coming, says the LORD
of hosts. [2] 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.
[3] He will sit as a refiner
and purifier of silver, and
he will purify the sons of
Levi and refine them like
gold and silver, and they
will bring offerings in
righteousness to the
LORD. [4] Then the
offering of Judah and
Jerusalem will be pleasing
to the LORD as in the
days of old and as in
former years.

[5] “Then I will draw near
to you for judgment. I will
be a swift witness against
the sorcerers, against the
adulterers, against those
who swear falsely, against
those who oppress the
hired worker in his wages,
the widow and the
fatherless, against those
who thrust aside the
sojourner, and do not fear
me, says the LORD of
hosts. (ESV)

*This is the word of the
Lord*
Thanks be to God

**Second Reading
Hebrews 2:14–18**

[14] Since therefore the
children share in flesh and
blood, he himself likewise
partook of the same

things, that through death
he might destroy the one
who has the power of
death, that is, the devil,
[15] and deliver all those
who through fear of death
were subject to lifelong
slavery. [16] For surely it
is not angels that he helps,
but he helps the offspring
of Abraham. [17]
Therefore he had to be
made like his brothers in
every respect, so that he
might become a merciful
and faithful high priest in
the service of God, to
make propitiation for the
sins of the people. [18]
For because he himself
has suffered when
tempted, he is able to help
those who are being
tempted. (ESV)

*This is the word of the
Lord*
Thanks be to God

**Gospel Reading
Luke 2:22–40**

Hear the gospel of our
Lord according to
Matthew
Glory to you or Lord.

[22] And when the time
came for their purification
according to the Law of
Moses, they brought him
up to Jerusalem to present
him to the Lord [23] (as it
is written in the Law of

the Lord, “Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord”) [24] and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons.” [25] Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. [26] And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Christ. [27] And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, [28] he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

[29] “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;

[30] for my eyes have seen your salvation

[31] that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

[32] a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

[33] And his father and his mother marvelled at what was said about him. [34] And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, “Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed [35] (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.”

[36] And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, [37] and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. [38] And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

[39] And when they had performed everything according to the Law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. [40] And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom. And the favour

of God was upon him. (ESV)

This is the gospel of the Lord.

Praise to you, O Christ.

Final 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.

Amen.

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