

Here's a text if you've only a minute ...

God our Father, source of eternal light, fill the hearts of all believers with the light of faith.

Blessing of the candles

Within your temple, we ponder your loving kindness, O God.

Old Entrance Antiphon

All-powerful Father,
Christ your Son became man for us
and was presented in the temple.
May he free our hearts from sin
and bring us into your presence.

Old Opening Prayer

This week's texts if you'd like to reflect further:
Malachi 3: 1-4; Psalm 23 (24); Hebrews 2: 14-18; Luke 2: 22-44

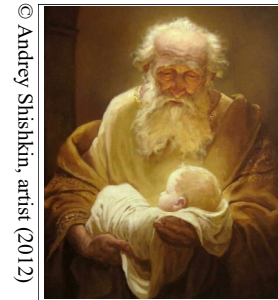


Clodoaldo Martins, Mary Teaching Jesus the Scriptures
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And the child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom.
And the favour of God was upon him. (Luke 2: 40)

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ST BEUNO'S OUTREACH IN THE DIOCESE OF WREXHAM



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The Presentation of the Lord
Year C, 2nd February 2025

Simeon took Jesus into his arms
and blessed God

Today we celebrate Candlemas, the Christian festival of light that marks the end of Christmastide. We joyfully welcome into the 'temple' of our hearts Christ the Light of the World; the One who enlightens our lives.

The prophecy of Malachi (**First Reading**) is fulfilled when Mary and Joseph present the child Jesus in the Temple, for Malachi speaks of a day when 'the Lord ... will suddenly come to his Temple'.

The **Gospel** serves as a formal announcement of Jesus's arrival in the Temple: his presentation to Gentiles and Jews alike, as 'the salvation' of all humankind. The intimate scene also highlights the faithful piety of the young couple, as well as the patient faith and hope of Anna and Simeon. The **Second Reading** underlines the reality of Jesus's humanity. Like all of us, Jesus must grow in maturity and wisdom, as well as experiencing the suffering that real temptation brings to every human being.

The **Psalmist** marvels that the Lord of the Universe has deigned to live amongst us in the Temple: he bids its gates and ancient doors to lift their heads, so that the mighty Lord may enter.

As Pilgrims of Hope in this **Jubilee Year**, we pray that, like the Holy Family, we might have a growing faith and hope in a loving God who cares for us all. We remember especially those who are victims of modern slavery in our turbulent, uncertain world. We also ask for an openness of heart and spirit to appreciate God's many blessings, freely available to us every day.



Opening Prayer

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.

Second Reading Hebrews 2: 14–18

Since the children share in flesh and blood,
Jesus 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,
and deliver all those who through fear of death
were subject to lifelong slavery.
For surely it is not angels that he helps,
but he helps the offspring of Abraham.
Therefore he had to be made like his brothers and sisters
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.
For because he himself has suffered when tempted,
he is able to help those who are being tempted.

If I can, like Jesus himself, I withdraw to a place of solitude to pray.
Perhaps this is outside, on a prayer walk.

I ask the Holy Spirit to help still my inner being, so that I become aware of,
and present to, the love of Christ and the Father in my heart.

In my own time, I allow myself to be touched – and perhaps challenged – by
this profound reading. I notice any interior reactions and stay with them.

Jesus became human, like me, in every respect. Can I allow myself to dwell
within the wonder and mystery of this God made man for me?

How far am I drawn to the vulnerable, humble, humanity of Jesus, who lived
in poverty and obscurity?

Can I fall in love with Christ, who at times ‘has suffered when tempted’ and
knows what it is to be broken-hearted?

Perhaps I ask for the grace to come into a deeper personal relationship with
God. I bring my whole being into silent, loving attention, within the holy
presence of the Lord.

As I come to the end of my prayer, I ask for help to become even more aware
of God’s loving design for the world, and more willing to live ‘in the service of
God’.

Our Father ...

Gospel Luke 2: 22–44 (first part)

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 male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the
Lord’) and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of
the Lord, ‘a pair of turtle-doves, or two young pigeons’.

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. 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. 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, Simeon took him up in his arms
and blessed God and said,

‘Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace,
according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation
that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for
revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.’

I ask the Spirit to lead and guide me into the ‘temple’ of my own heart as I
deliberately focus my loving attention on Christ Jesus.

As best I can, I withdraw from the turmoil of any thoughts and distractions.
Letting them die down, I create an inner space to welcome the Holy One.

I read this intimate narrative of the young couple bringing their new-born son
into the Temple to consecrate him to the Lord.

Perhaps the story is familiar ... though perhaps, like Mary and Joseph, I do not
grasp its full significance at first.

What do I notice?

I share with the Lord from my heart.

Simeon (and later in the Gospel passage, Anna), like the members of the Holy
Family, are models of patient, enduring faith. Perhaps I pray for the desire to
experience a deeper, child-like trust and hope in God, the Father of all
creation.

Like Jesus before me, I invite God to increase my wisdom and faith in the
power of the Divine. *Glory be ...*