

Readings for Sunday 2 February, 2025

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemass)

A reading from the prophet Malachi

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. Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God

The response to the verses of Psalm 24 is:

Happy are they who dwell in your house!

Happy are they who dwell in your house!

The earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world and all who dwell therein. For it is he who founded it upon the seas and made it firm upon the rivers of the deep.

Happy are they who dwell in your house!

'Who can ascend the hill of the Lord? and who can stand in his holy place?' 'Those who have clean hands and a pure heart, who have not pledged themselves to falsehood, nor sworn by what is a fraud.

Happy are they who dwell in your house!

They shall receive a blessing from the Lord and a just reward from the God of their salvation.' Such is the generation of those who seek him, of those who seek your face, O God of Jacob.

Happy are they who dwell in your house!

Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. 'Who is this King of glory?' 'The Lord, strong and mighty, the Lord, mighty in battle.'

Happy are they who dwell in your house!

Lift up your heads, O gates; lift them high, O everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. 'Who is he, this King of glory?' 'The Lord of hosts, he is the King of glory.'

Happy are they who dwell in your house!

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews

Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, he 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 he 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 he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Hear the word of the Lord,

thanks be to God

Alleluia, **Alleluia**

My eyes have seen your salvation:

which you have prepared in the face of all people.

Alleluia

The Lord be with you

And also with you

The gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke, chapter 2, beginning at the 22nd verse

Glory to you, Lord Jesus Christ

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 (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."

And 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 worshiped 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 they 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 favor of God was upon him.

This is the gospel of the Lord

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ