

COLLECT

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.

FIRST READING Malachi 3:1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Malachi.

Thus says the LORD God: 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. Then I will draw near to you for judgement; I will be swift to bear witness against the sorcerers, against the adulterers, against those who swear falsely, against those who oppress the hired workers in their wages, the widow, and the orphan, against those who thrust aside the alien, and do not fear me, says the LORD of hosts.

PSALM Psalm 24:[1-6] 7-end

R *The Lord of hosts: he is the King of glory.*

The earth is the Lord's and all that fills it,
 the compass of the world and all who
 dwell therein.

For he has founded it upon the seas
 and set it firm upon the rivers of the deep. **R**

Who shall ascend the hill of the Lord,
 or who can rise up in his holy place?"
 "Those who have clean hands and a pure
 heart,
 who have not lifted up their soul to an idol,
 nor sworn an oath to a lie; **R**

"They shall receive a blessing from the Lord,
 a just reward from the God of their
 salvation."

Such is the company of those who seek him,
 of those who seek your face, O God of
 Jacob. **R**

Lift up your heads, O gates;
 be lifted up, you everlasting doors;
 and the King of glory shall come in.
 "Who is the King of glory?"

"The Lord, strong and mighty, the
 Lord who is mighty in battle." **R**

Lift up your heads, O gates; be lifted
 up, you everlasting doors;
 and the King of glory shall come in.
 "Who is this King of glory?"
 "The Lord of hosts, he is the King of
 glory." **R**

SECOND READING Hebrews 2:14-end

A reading from the letter to the Hebrews.

Since the children share flesh and blood,
 Jesus 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.

GOSPEL Luke 2:22-40

*Hear the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ
 according to Luke.*

When the time came for their purification
 according to the law of Moses, Mary and
 Joseph brought Jesus 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 turtle-doves 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 worshipped 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 favour
 of God was upon him.

POST COMMUNION

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.



The Lord of hosts: he is the King of glo ry.