

Service for Week -2nd -8th Feb 2026 By
Chaplain Andy

Our Opening Prayer Loving God we thank you that you have fulfilled your promises. Your promised Son born in Bethlehem, your power seen in his resurrection, your work in the world and in our lives.

We thank you for what that means for us today- that we can live each day with confidence, whatever the circumstances may be, knowing that though all else may fail, you will not. We give thanks in Jesus Christ's name.

Amen

Prayer inspired by Prayerfully Yours by Nick Fawcett

Say to yourself - The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven.....

Amen

Bible Reading Luke 2:22-39

When the time of their purification according to the Law of Moses had been completed, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord")

Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required,

Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: "Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel."



The child's father and mother marveled at what was said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against, so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too."

There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was very old; she had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped night and day, fasting and praying. Coming up to them at that very moment, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were looking forward to the redemption of Jerusalem. When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth.

Holy words, Holy Wisdom,

Thanks be to God.



Reflection

This week we return to think about Jesus when he was a baby at 40 days old because on Monday 2nd February we celebrated 'The Presentation of Christ in the Temple'. It is sometimes called 'Candlemas'. because of the tradition of having a procession with lighted candles at the mass on this day.

This day is celebrated by many Christian churches across the world, remembering the time when Mary went to the Temple for purification, taking the baby Jesus to be officially inducted into the Jewish faith.

When Joseph and Mary were there with Jesus an elderly man called Simeon asked to hold the baby and took Jesus into his arms. Now Simeon had been told by God through the Holy Spirit that he would not die until he had seen the Christ – the one who had come from God. As Simeon took Jesus in his arms, he suddenly had this joyful realization – that yes, at last this tiny baby really was the promised one – the 'Christ' that he was holding.

He said I can now die in peace because I have seen the one you have sent from yourself – and he will be the light (hence the celebration with candles) that will reveal your love for all in the world. But he went on to tell Mary that because of the message he will bring, Jesus will cause division and

unrest. Simeon then left her with these prophetic words 'a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

A woman in the Temple called Anna who was 84 also realized that Mary's baby was the Christ and praised God. Both these elderly people Simeon and Anna had waited all their lives for a revelation from God- and at last they found it in Jesus and could rest in peace.

Our revelation from God has come – but we are not like Anna and Simeon at the start of that experience. We have the teachings of Jesus and the gospel writers to draw on. We also have experienced God's love in the world and our own lives. May we use the light of our faith to live in strength and hope as God wants us to. **Amen**

Our Closing Prayer are words from Simeon- called the Nunc Dimittis (which means 'now you dismiss')

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.