

### 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.

