

Gospel Acclamation

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The Holy Gospel according to the 2nd chapter of Luke
and the 2nd chapter of Matthew

Glory to you, O Lord

GOSPEL: Luke 2:21-38

Jesus Is Presented in the Temple

- 21 Eight days later, when the baby was circumcised, he was named Jesus, the name given him by the angel even before he was conceived.
- 22 Then it was time for their purification offering, as required by the law of Moses after the birth of a child; so his parents took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord.
- 23 The law of the Lord says, "If a woman's first child is a boy, he must be dedicated to the Lord."
- 24 So they offered the sacrifice required in the law of the Lord—"either a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."
- 25 At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him
- 26 and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah.
- 27 That day the Spirit led him to the Temple. So when Mary and Joseph came to present the baby Jesus to the Lord as the law required,
- 28 Simeon was there. He took the child in his arms and praised God, saying,
- 29 "Sovereign Lord, now let your servant die in peace,
as you have promised.
- 30 I have seen your salvation,
- 31 which you have prepared for all people.
- 32 He is a light to reveal God to the nations, and he is the glory of your people Israel!"
- 33 Jesus' parents were amazed at what was being said about him.
- 34 Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to Mary, the baby's mother, "This child is destined to cause many in Israel to fall, and many others to rise. He has been sent as a sign from God, but many will oppose him.

- 35 As a result, the deepest thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your very soul.”
- 36 Anna, a prophet, was also there in the Temple. She was the daughter of Phanuel from the tribe of Asher, and she was very old. Her husband died when they had been married only seven years.
- 37 Then she lived as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the Temple but stayed there day and night, worshiping God with fasting and prayer.
- 38 She came along just as Simeon was talking with Mary and Joseph, and she began praising God. She talked about the child to everyone who had been waiting expectantly for God to rescue Jerusalem.

HYMN (Arise Your Light Has Come)

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Matthew 2:1-12

Visitors from the East

- 1 Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea, during the reign of King Herod. About that time some wise men from eastern lands arrived in Jerusalem, asking,
- 2 “Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw his star as it rose, and we have come to worship him.”
- 3 King Herod was deeply disturbed when he heard this, as was everyone in Jerusalem.
- 4 He called a meeting of the leading priests and teachers of religious law and asked, “Where is the Messiah supposed to be born?”
- 5 “In Bethlehem in Judea,” they said, “for this is what the prophet wrote:
- 6 ‘And you, O Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are not least among the ruling cities of Judah, for a ruler will come from you who will be the shepherd for my people Israel.’”
- 7 Then Herod called for a private meeting with the wise men, and he learned from them the time when the star first appeared.
- 8 Then he told them, “Go to Bethlehem and search carefully for the child. And when you find him, come back and tell me so that I can go and worship him, too!”
- 9 After this interview the wise men went their way. And the star they had seen in the east guided them to Bethlehem. It went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was.
- 10 When they saw the star, they were filled with joy!

- 11 They entered the house and saw the child with his mother, Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasure chests and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh.
- 12 When it was time to leave, they returned to their own country by another route, for God had warned them in a dream not to return to Herod.

The Gospel of the Lord
Praise to you, O Christ

GOSPEL HYMN (O Lord, Now Let Your Servants)

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Sermon

Searching for the Messiah