

The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

(S. Luke 2:22–37)



The time came for Joseph and Mary to perform the ceremony of purification, as the Law of Moses commanded. So they took the child to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, as it is written in the law of the Lord: “Every first-born male is to be dedicated to the Lord.” They also went to offer a sacrifice of a pair of doves or two young pigeons, as required by the law of the Lord.

At that time there was a man named Simeon living in Jerusalem. He was a good, God-fearing man and was waiting for Israel to be saved. The Holy Spirit was with him and had assured him that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's promised Messiah. Led by the Spirit, Simeon went into the Temple. When the parents brought the child Jesus into the Temple to do for him what the Law required, Simeon took the child in his arms and gave thanks to God:

“Now, Lord, you have kept your promise,
and you may let your servant go in peace.
With my own eyes I have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples:
A light to reveal your will to the Gentiles
and bring glory to your people Israel.”



The child's father and mother were amazed at the things Simeon said about him. Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother, “This child is chosen by God for the destruction and the salvation of many in Israel. He will be a sign from God which many people will speak against and so reveal their secret thoughts. And sorrow, like a sharp sword, will break your own heart.”

There was a very old prophet, a widow named Anna, daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Asher. She had been married for only seven years and was now eighty-four years old. She never left the Temple; day and night she worshiped God, fasting and praying. That very same hour she arrived and gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were waiting for God to set Jerusalem free.

Nunc Dimittis

The *Nunc Dimittis*, also called the *Song of Simeon*, is canticle (a hymn with lyrics from the Bible) based on the text of today's Lesson from S. Luke's Gospel.

The title comes from the first line of the canticle in Latin.

It literally means, "now you dismiss."

This canticle is recited every day at Evening Prayer.

You can find it on **p. 22** of the **Book of Common Prayer**

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 Ghost;
As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, / world without end.
Amen.



Collect for Candlemas

ALMIGHTY and everliving God, we humbly beseech thy Majesty, that, as thy only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in substance of our flesh, so we may be presented unto thee with pure and clean hearts, by the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*



Candlemas

P X P J L P S W X I G D O V E S B T
J X U U D U R I D E D I C A T E D U
O D K R R M K E J B Q S A X I G V N
S D S D W I G E S E J J A B U Z V G
E T U I R G F E U E R E E A W Z N O
P E G A M B A I N I N U A S W U M D
H M O A B E G O C T S T S V U N O W
T P S M N I O T S A I R A A F S S B
I L P D A N B N L W T L A T L N E C
G E E Z G R A L L A W I E E I E S P
V P L J Y K Y D E C H Q O S L O M A
P U M S A C R I F I C E O N P X N J

Find the following words in the puzzle.

Words are hidden → ↓ and ↘ .

ANNA

BIBLE

DEDICATED

DOVES

GENTILES

GOD

GOSPEL

ISRAEL

JERUSALEM

JESUS

JOSEPH

LAW

LUKE

MARY

MOSES

PRESENTATION

PURIFICATION

SACRIFICE

SIMEON

TEMPLE

 How many of these words appear in today's reading from St Luke's Gospel? Read the passage again and underline any words you recognise from the word search!