

# Read

Malachi 3:1-4

Psalms 24:7, 8, 9, 10

Hebrews 2:14-18

Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22-32



## Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

### February 2, 2025

LECTIONARY #224  
Malachi 3:1-4  
Psalm 24:7, 8, 9, 10  
Hebrews 2:14-18  
Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22-32



### REFLECTION

Imagine yourself joining the line for a popular ride at an amusement park. Excitedly you join the queue and hear the distant screams and cheers as the ride roars by. But as you look at all the people in front of you and see the line zigzag back and forth, you realize this is going to take a while. You think, "It's too hot! Is this even worth it?" You might even be tempted to leave because it is taking too long. But then you remember why you queued up in the first place—you know this is the best ride and in the end it will be worth the wait!

Simeon, a faithful Jew, had waited a long time to see the savior. It was his lifelong prayer to behold the salvation of his people. One day, it finally happened. As he was waiting in the temple, he saw the baby Jesus, brought by Mary and Joseph, and it was worth every moment of waiting.

Our life of faith has a lot of waiting and zigging and zagging. We might even question whether the destination is worth the journey. But Simeon's reaction to encountering Jesus reminds us that Jesus is worth every sacrifice and effort we make. Being in relationship with Jesus is the ultimate goal of our faith, because with him and in him we reach eternal life with God. Jesus is with us in the waiting and on the ride!



### QUESTIONS

- ❖ What do today's readings teach you about the Christian life?
- ❖ In what areas of your life do you need more patience?
- ❖ How do you want to grow closer to Jesus in this season of your life?



### ACTION

Take time today to reflect on your long-term goals. Think about goals that are specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time bound. Among these goals, be sure to include a spiritual goal. What can you do to grow in your relationship with Jesus? As you think through your spiritual goal, know that it will take time and patience to achieve it. Our whole life is a journey with Jesus.



### "Wait on You"—Elevation

### Worship & Maverick City

[https://youtu.be/K3TYG7Q\\_fj4](https://youtu.be/K3TYG7Q_fj4)



### FOCUS: Jesus is the fulfillment of the scriptures.

### Liturgical Calendar Connection

February 2 is forty days after Christmas. On this day, we celebrate the Presentation of the Lord. This feast is also sometimes called Candlemas. This second name comes from the words of Simeon spoke about Jesus, calling him "a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." Like a candle, Jesus lights the way through the darkness. There might be candlelight processions in your church and the blessing of the candles. Our candles are a symbol of Jesus Christ who is the light of the world.



February 2, 2025

# FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

## LECTIONARY #524

Malachi 3:1-4

Psalms 24:7, 8, 9, 10

Hebrews 2:14-18

Luke 2:22-40 or 2:22-32

## Prepare for the Word

The following elements may be used by the catechist, teacher, or youth minister to prepare to facilitate today's session with teens. You may integrate this information into the reflection and discussion on today's readings.

### Leader's Context

According to the Jewish law, a firstborn son was to be consecrated and presented at the temple. Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple to fulfill this law. In doing so, we see Mary and Joseph as parents who had a deep faith and desired their child to walk in the way of the Lord. They give us a model for how we should live according to God's will. Not only did Mary and Joseph fulfill the law, but Jesus himself was the fulfillment of the promise of God. Simeon and Anna give witness to this and remind us that we must wait patiently for the Lord and live our lives in the Spirit.

**Q FOCUS:** *Jesus is the fulfillment of the Scripture.*

### Liturgical Calendar Connection

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### Church Teaching Connection

"[Children] are destined to grow and become strong, to acquire knowledge and receive the grace of God, just as happened to Jesus. He is truly one of us: the Son of God becomes a child, agrees to grow, to become strong; he is filled with knowledge, and the grace of God is upon him. Mary and Joseph have the joy of seeing all this in their son; and this is the mission to which the family is directed: to create conditions favorable to the harmonious and full growth of its children, so they may live a good life, worthy of God and constructive for the world" (Pope Francis, Angelus Message, December 31, 2017).

## Hear the Word

Use this resource, a Lectionary, or a Bible to proclaim the reading. The book should be held reverently or placed on a lectern. If possible, light a candle that is placed near where the Gospel will be proclaimed. Gesture for teens to stand.

### Gospel Acclamation

Use the same musical setting that is used in your parish or at school Masses. Teens may help with music and proclaim the Gospel.

Alleluia, alleluia.

### Gospel

Luke 2:22-40

**Reader:** A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke.

**All:** Glory to you, O Lord.

All make the sign of the cross on their forehead, lips, and heart.

When the days were completed for their purification according to the law of Moses, Mary and Joseph took Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord, just as it is written in the law of the Lord, *Every male that opens the womb shall be consecrated to the Lord*, and to offer the sacrifice of a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons, in accordance with the dictate in the law of the Lord.

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. This man was righteous and devout, awaiting the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. He came in the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus to perform the custom of the law in regard to him, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: "Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation, which you prepared in sight of all the peoples: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel." The child's father and mother were amazed at what was said about him; and Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be contradicted—and you yourself a sword will pierce—so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." There was also a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived seven years with her husband after her marriage, and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple, but worshiped night and day with fasting and prayer. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had fulfilled all the prescriptions of 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 favor of God was upon him.

**Reader:** The Gospel of the Lord.

**All:** Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

*Everyone may be seated.*

## Reflect on the Word

*When beginning the reflection and discussion about today's readings, first refer to the handout for today. Ask teens what they learned about themselves and about Christian discipleship from performing the action for the week and journaling. Ask teens about the readings of the day: What struck them? What do they think the readings mean? How do the readings affect their own lives? Then begin the following reflection:*

Mary and Joseph were faithful Jews who followed the teachings of the law of Moses. In fact, Luke tells us five times in this reading that Mary and Joseph fulfilled the law by bringing Jesus to be presented at the temple. In following the law, they dedicated him to God. To dedicate one's life to God meant that that person's life was set apart for God as a sign of respect and honor for God. For Mary and Joseph, this was not merely something to check off the list. We know that both of them were devout and filled with faith; their home life would have reflected this as they followed God's will for their lives.

We don't have the same type of religious law in Catholicism as the dedication of the firstborn male, but we do have the sacrament of baptism, in which we are set apart for God and claimed as his own adopted children. We acknowledge that our life is from God, and we will use our life to serve God.

► **How was your Catholic faith expressed in your home growing up? How did your parents or other parental figures help you grow in the life of faith?**

► **In what ways can you dedicate your life to God at this stage in your life?**

Luke introduces us to two elderly people who were at the temple, Simeon and Anna. They were devout, full of wisdom, and the Holy Spirit was with them. They were both waiting at the temple to see the Messiah. The Spirit had revealed to Simeon that he would not die until he had seen the Messiah. He had to wait a long time before the fulfillment of God's promise. We sometimes wait for answers from God, or for God to show us a sign of what we are to do, or what we need to hear. Simeon and Anna show us that the Holy Spirit is with us as we wait, and we need to be alert and ready for God to show us the answers we are seeking. God has a purpose and plan for each of us, and we need to commit our lives to God like Simeon and Anna did in order to find out what that purpose is.

► **Is there anything that you are waiting on God for? Based on the example of Simeon and Anna, how should we live our lives as we wait for God's promises?**

Simeon and Anna both recognize the infant Jesus as their salvation, the fulfillment of Israel's hope for redemption, and the light and glory for the people of

Israel and the world. In sharing this with Mary and Joseph, Simeon and Anna helped prepare them for Jesus' future. Mary and Joseph were in awe of what Simeon and Anna had to say about Jesus. This encounter affirmed their commitment to follow God's will in their lives as they raised Jesus.

## Wrapping It Up

Consider these points to conclude the discussion and reflection. Integrate the thoughts and ideas that surfaced during the discussion as well as the "Church Teaching Connection" on page 132.

**Mary and Joseph dedicated Jesus' life to God.**

**Sometimes it takes a long time for God's promises to be fulfilled.**

**Jesus is the light of salvation for the world.**

## Act on the Word

### Pray at the End of the Day

For this activity, you will need a Bible for each teen. You will also need copies of an act of contrition, which can be found at <https://www.usccb.org/prayers/act-contrition>. If you have access to a breviary (check with your pastor), you can use the text of Night Prayer as the basis for your prayer instead of the outline provided below.

Share with the teens that the words that Simeon speaks in today's Gospel are part of Night Prayer, a prayer that is prayed by priests, religious, and laypeople all over the world. Night Prayer is part of the Liturgy of the Hours, the official daily prayer of the Church that encourages us to pray without ceasing—there is Morning Prayer and Evening Prayer, along with shorter moments of prayer throughout the day and at night. These prayers use the psalms and other Scripture passages to help us dedicate our time and work to God.

In Night Prayer, we reflect on our day, give praise to God, and ask for God's protection through the night. Today's activity will be a modified version of

Night Prayer that you can pray as a group. If you have access to a breviary, you can use the official text of the Church's prayer. Otherwise, you can use this modified version to lead the teens in prayer. Between each step, pause for a moment of silence.

- \* Make the sign of the cross.
- \* Invite the teens spend a few moments in silent reflection as they review their day and make an examination of conscience. Then have everyone pray together an act of contrition.
- \* Have the teens pray together Psalm 86. This can be done antiphonally, with half of the teens reading two verses and then the next two verses being read by the other half of the teens. Continue to alternate for the rest of the psalm.
- \* Have everyone pray the words of Simeon (Luke 2:29–32) together.
- \* Pray the Glory Be.
- \* Pray the closing prayer (below).
- \* Make the sign of the cross.

### Closing Prayer

Lord Jesus Christ,

you are a shining light to the nations.

Hear our prayers, and grant that we

may walk as your children,

bearing your light to all people.

Who live and reign for ever and ever.

Amen.

### For Next Sunday

To help teens prepare for next Sunday's Mass, print, email, or share on a blog or social media the handout found on the next page. The JPG and PDF files are available at [www.ltp.org/lwgr](http://www.ltp.org/lwgr). Encourage teens to attend Mass with family or friends.