

FEBRUARY 2, PURIFICATION OF THE BVM

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(or Candlemas Day) The celebration of this feast began very early at Jerusalem. It commemorates not only the Purification of the Blessed Virgin but also the meeting of Simeon and the Infant Jesus in the Temple. In the East it was regarded as a feast of Our Lord; Pope Sergius I ordered that it should be preceded by a penitential procession to St. Mary Major, and thus it became predominantly a feast of the Blessed Virgin. The blessing of the candles as a peculiar rite dates only from the Tenth Century. Candles were distributed at Rome at all nocturnal processions; it is probable that this custom has been retained on this day because of the words of the canticle of Simeon near the end of the Gospel, "Lumen ad revelationem gentium."

INTROIT Psalms 47: 10, 11

Suscépmus, Deus, misericórdiam tuam in médio templi tui: secúndum nomen tuum, Deus, ita et laus tua in fines terræ: justítia plena est dèxtera tua. (Ps. 47: 2) Magnus Dóminus, et laudábilis nimis: in civitaté Dei nostri, in monte sancto ejus. Glória Patri et Fílio et Spirítui Sancto, sicut erat in princípío, et nunc, et semper, et in sæcula sæculórum. Amen.

Suscépmus, Deus, misericórdiam tuam in médio templi tui: secúndum nomen tuum, Deus, ita et laus tua in fines terræ: justítia plena est dèxtera tua.

COLLECT

Omnípotens sempitérne Deus, majestátem tuam súpplices ex orámus: ut, sicut unigénitus Fílius tuus hodiérna die cum nostræ carnis substántia in templo est præsentátus; ita nos fácias purificátis tibi méntibus præsentári. Per eúndem Dóminum tuum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

LESSON Malachi 3: 1-4

Hæc dicit Dóminus Deus: Ecce ego mitto Angelum meum, et præparábit viam ante fáciem meam. Et statim véniet ad templum suum Dominátor, quem vos quæritis, et Angelus testaménti, quem vos vultis. Ecce venit, dicit Dóminus exercítuum: et quis póterit cogitare diem advéntus ejus, et quis stabit ad vidéndum eum? Ipse enim quasi ignis conflans et quasi herba fullónum: et sedébit conflans et emúndans argéntum et purgábit filios Levi et colábit eos quasi aurum et quasi argéntum: et erunt Dómino offeréntes sacrificia in justítia. Et placébit Dómino sacrificium Juda et Jerúsalem, sicut dies sæculi et sicut anni antíqui: dicit Dóminus omnípotens.

GRADUAL Psalms 47: 10, 11, 9

Suscépmus, Deus, misericordiam tuam in medio templi tui: secundum nomen tuum, Deus, ita et laus tua in fines terræ. Sicut audivimus, ita et vidimus, in civitate Dei nostri, in monte sancto ejus.

(After Septuagesima, the Alleluia is omitted and the Tract is said instead.)

LESSER ALLELUIA St. Augustine

Alleluia, alleluia. Senex Púerum portábat: Puer autem senem regébat. Alleluia.

TRACT Luke 2: 29-32

Nunc dimíttis servum tuum, Dómine, secúndum verbum tuum in pace. Quia vidérunt óculi mei salutáre tuum. Quod parásti ante fáciem ómnium populórum. Lumen ad revelatiónem géntium et glóriam plebis tuæ Israël.

GOSPEL Luke 2: 22-32

In illo témpore: Postquam impléti sunt dies purgatiónis Maríæ, secúndum legem Móysi, tulérunt Jesum in Jerúsalem, ut sístèrent eum Dómino, sicut scriptum est in lege Dómini: Quia omne masculinum adapériens vulvam sanctum Dómino vocabitur. Et ut darent hóstiam, secúndum quod dictum est in lege Dómini, par túrturum aut duos pullos columbárum. Et ecce homo erat in Jerúsalem cui nomen Simeon, et homo iste justus et timorátus, expéctans consolatiónem Israël, et Spirítus Sanctus erat in eo. Et respónsum accéperat a Spíritu Sancto, non visúrum se mortem nisi prius vidéret Christum Dómini. Et venit in spíritu in templum. Et cum indúcerent púerum Jesum paréntes ejus, ut fácerent secúndum consuetúdinem legis pro eo: et ipse accépit eum in ulnas suas, et benedíxit Deum, et dixit: Nunc dimíttis servum tuum, Dómine, secúndum verbum tuum in pace: quia vidérunt óculi mei salutáre tuum, quod parásti ante fáciem ómnium populórum: lumen ad revelatiónem géntium et glóriam plebis tuæ Israël.

OFFERTORY Psalms 44: 3

Diffusa est gratia in labiis tuis: propterea benedixit te Deus in æternum, et in sæculum sæculi.

SECRET

Exaudi, Dómine, preces nostras: et, ut digna sint munera, quæ óculis tuæ majestátis offerimus, subsidium nobis tuæ pietátis impénde. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

PREFACE OF THE NATIVITY

Vere dignum et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper, et ubique grátias agere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnípotens, ætérne Deus: Quia mentis nostræ Verbi mysterium, nova mentis incarnati óculis lux tuæ claritátis infúlsit: ut dum visibíliter Deum cognóscimus, per hunc in invisibílium amórem rapíamur. Et ideo cum Angelis et Archángelibus, cum Thronis et Dominatiónis, cumque omni milítia cæléstis exércitus, hymnum glóriæ tuæ cánimus sine fine dicéntes:

COMMUNION Luke 2: 26

Respónsum accépit Simeon a Spíritu Sancto, non visúrum se mortem, nisi vidéret Christum Dómini.

POSTCOMMUNION

Quæsumus, Dómine Deus noster: ut sacrosáncta mystéria, quæ pro reparatiónis nostræ munimine contulisti, intercedénte beáta María semper Vírgine, et præsens nobis remédiu esse fácias et futúrum. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum, Fílium tuum, qui tecum vivit et regnat in unitáte Spirítus Sancti, Deus, per ómnia sæcula sæculórum.

We have received Thy mercy, O God, in the midst of Thy temple; according to Thy name, O God, so also is Thy praise unto the ends of the earth; Thy right hand is full of justice. (Ps. 47: 2) Great is the Lord, and exceedingly to be praised, in the city of God, in His holy mountain. 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. We have received Thy mercy, O God, in the midst of Thy temple; according to Thy name, O God, so also is Thy praise unto the ends of the earth; Thy right hand is full of justice.

Almighty and everlasting God, we humbly beseech Thy Majesty, that as Thine only-begotten Son was this day presented in the temple in the substance of our flesh, so Thou wouldst cause us too to be presented unto Thee with purified hearts. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, our Lord, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

Thus saith the Lord God: Behold I send My Angel, and he shall prepare the way before My face; and presently the Lord, whom you seek, and the Angel of the testament, whom you desire, shall come to His temple. Behold He cometh, saith the Lord of hosts; and who shall be able to think of the day of His coming? and who shall stand to see Him? for He is like a refining fire, and like the fuller's herb; and He shall sit refining and cleansing the silver, and He shall purify the sons of Levi, and shall refine them as gold, and as silver, and they shall offer sacrifices to the Lord in justice. And the sacrifice of Juda and of Jerusalem shall please the Lord, as in the days of old, and in the ancient years; saith the Lord almighty.

We have received Thy mercy, O God, in the midst of Thy temple; according to Thy Name, O God, so also is Thy praise unto the ends of the earth. As we have heard, so have we seen, in the city of our God, and in His holy mountain.

(After Septuagesima, the Alleluia is omitted and the Tract is said instead.)

Alleluia, alleluia. The old man carried the Child, but the Child governed the old man. Alleluia.

Now Thou dost dismiss Thy servant, O Lord, according to Thy word in peace. Because my eyes have seen Thy salvation. Which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples. Light to the revelation of the Gentiles and the glory of Thy people Israel.

At that time, after the days of Mary's purification according to the law of Moses, were accomplished, they carried Jesus to Jerusalem, to present Him to the Lord; as it is written in the law of the Lord: Every male opening the womb, shall be called holy to the Lord; and to offer sacrifice, according as it is written in the law of the Lord, a pair of turtle doves, or two young pigeons. And behold there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was in him: and he received an answer from the Holy Spirit, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. And he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when His parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he also took Him into his arms, and blessed God, and said: Now Thou dost dismiss Thy servant, O Lord, according to Thy word in peace; because my eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples; a light to the revelation of the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel.

Grace is poured abroad in thy lips; therefore hath God blessed thee forever, and for ages of ages.

O Lord, graciously hear our prayers; and that the gifts we offer in the sight of Thy Majesty may be found worthy, grant us the help of Thy mercy. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.

It it truly meet and just, right and for our salvation, that we should at all times, and in all places, give thanks unto Thee, O holy Lord, Father almighty, Everlasting God, for through the Mystery of the Word made flesh, the new light of Thy glory hath shone upon the eyes of our mind, so that while we acknowledge God in visible form, we may through Him be drawn to the love of things invisible. And therefore with Angels and Archangels, with Thrones and Dominations, and with all the hosts of the heavenly army, we sing the hymn of Thy glory, evermore saying:

Simeon received an answer from the Holy Spirit, that he should not see death, until he had seen the Christ of the Lord.

We beseech Thee, O Lord our God, that the most holy Mysteries, which Thou hast given us as a safeguard for our regenerated nature, may, through the intercession of blessed Mary ever Virgin, be to us a healing remedy, both for the present and for the future. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who lives and reigns with Thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever.