Lectio Divina

February 2nd 2025 Sunday Feast of The Presentation of the Lord Year C Luke 2:22-40

2:22When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord 23(as it is written in the law of the Lord, 'Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord'), 24and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, 'a pair of turtle-doves or two young pigeons.'

25Now 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. 26It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. 27Guided 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, 28Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying, 29'Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace, according to your word; 30for my eyes have seen your salvation, 31which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, 32a light for revelation to the Gentiles and for glory to your people Israel.' 33And the child's father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. 34Then 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 35so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul too.'

36There 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 for seven years after her marriage, 37then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshipped there with fasting and prayer night and day. 38At 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. 39When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. 40The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

➢ **Read and re-read** – out loud and slowly the Gospel. ➢ **Meditate -** on reading as being spoken to you, an experience in your life.	➢ **Pray -** Thanksgiving – Repentance – Petition. ➢ **Action** – Attitude (Call to change / to act /to do).

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In this week's gospel we celebrate the Presentation of The Lord in the temple also known as Candlemas Day. We celebrate Christ as in the words of Simeon "a light to the nations". Simeon recognises Jesus as the Messiah because he was open to the prompting of the Holy Spirit. He also speaks to Mary of the future suffering her son would endure. We are reminded that Christ is with us by our Easter candle because it is marked with the sign of the cross by 5 nails which symbolise the five wounds of Christ. The candle has a flame, a light. This light represents the light of Christ risen from the dead. That light has burned for over 2000 years to let us know that darkness and sadness do not have the last word.
How do we as Baptised people keep the 'flame of faith alive in our hearts' which are the words said when we received our Baptismal candle?

Prayer:

Lord thank you for the gift of the Holy Spirit and for the people who let themselves be guided and give witness to the great messages of Jesus just as Simeon gave witness in the temple, as he set his eyes on Jesus and foretold the death of Jesus and the sadness His mother would feel.

Forgive us Lord for the times that we did not appreciate the wonderful gift of faith we received by our Baptism and let the light represented by our Baptismal candle go out.

Help us Lord to realise that even though at times in our lives we feel our heart is pierced with a sword just like Mary. Jesus is there for us to bring us new light out of our darkness through his death and resurrection.

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