

## The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple

Luke 2:22-40

And when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were accomplished, they brought him to Jerusalem, to present him to the Lord; (As it is written in the law of the Lord, Every male that openeth the womb shall be called holy to the Lord;) And to offer a sacrifice according to that which is said in the law of the Lord, A pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons. And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; and the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And he came by the Spirit into the temple: and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him after the custom of the law, Then took he him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, 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; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel. And Joseph and his mother marvelled at those things which were spoken of him. And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary his mother, Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against; (Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also,) that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed. And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Aser: she was of a great age, and had lived with an husband seven years from her virginity; And she was a widow of about fourscore and four years, which departed not from the temple, but served God with fastings and prayers night and day. And she coming in that instant gave thanks likewise unto the Lord, and spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem. And when they had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their own city Nazareth. And the child grew, and waxed strong in spirit, filled with wisdom: and the grace of God was upon him.

## The Sunday of the Last Judgment

Matthew 25:31-46

When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink? When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee? Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee? And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels: For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee? Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal (KJV)

## The Feast of the Meeting of the Lord -The Sunday of the Last Judgment

Today God's Holy Church celebrates the Great Feast of the Meeting of the Lord in the Temple. The Church focuses on the young Jesus brought by his parents and being placed in the arms of devout Simeon.

The devout Simeon inspired by the Holy Spirit said Jesus would be a light for the Gentiles and the glory of the people of Israel. The Church has preserved Simeon's words and incorporated them into the Divine services to be fully remembered.

God's Holy Church has also arrived at the Sunday of the Last Judgment. The Gospel for today reminds believers that encounters with the sick, the suffering, the stranger and the imprisoned are encounters with Jesus Christ.

Words and behavior towards people met in daily life are important and factor into the Last Judgment. Each person accrues and develops a record in life from birth until departure from this life. The record developed during earthly life is known to the Lord.

When Jesus Christ returns and each person is judged, some will experience eternal life. Others will face everlasting punishment. Believers having the Kingdom of God in mind, are attentive to each person met in daily life.

Concerned believers see and perceive Jesus Christ in each person. Making sure that Jesus Christ is cherished and fills the heart, mind and soul enables believers to see Christ in the people met each day. Being a serious and believing Christian is not easy.

Work is involved in being a serious and believing Christian. The serious believing Christian works to keep the soul pure and clean. The serious and believing Christian seeks nourishment to be strong to face life's challenges

Keeping the soul pure and clean and seeing the image of Jesus Christ in others prepares the believer for the coming judgment. Avoiding stereotypes and looking carefully at each person makes a difference.

Negative thoughts and attitudes may arise in the believer about a stranger, a certain sick person, a needy person or a prisoner. Today's Gospel reminds believers to look for Jesus Christ in each person.

While there is life in the body and the mind functions well, individuals have opportunities to follow Jesus Christ with certainty. The Church guides and instructs believers seeking God's Kingdom. Perils exist on the path to the Kingdom.

Failure to help a sick or needy person when the opportunity exists for a believer creates a record for the Last Judgment. Condemning a prisoner without knowing the prisoner becomes part of the record on Judgment Day.

Thank God for the opportunity to learn from each proclamation of the Gospel. Thank God for the patience shown with each person. The Lord wants each believer to have relationships that are God-pleasing.

Heeding today's Gospel will affect the believer's daily relationships. Rejecting the message of the Gospel puts the soul in peril. God's Kingdom and Eternal Life are the goals established at Baptism.

No person sets out with the goal of everlasting punishment. Decisions made each day determine where eternity will be experienced. Act carefully and wisely when relating with the stranger, the sick, the needy or the prisoner. Eternity rests in the relationships.

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The Meeting of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ in the Temple.

The Sunday of the Last Judgment. February 2/15, 2026, Father Rodney Torbic