

February 3rd

Saint SIMEON, the elderly  
and Saint ANNA, the prophetess

Optional memorial

All we know regarding saints Simeon and Anna, comes to us from the Gospel of Saint Luke (2: 25-35).

Simeon and Anna are the symbols of all the expectations of the Jewish people, according to the prophecy of Malachi, for the Lord God to suddenly appear in his temple. By a truly prophetic intuition, Simeon recognizes that the infant presented in the Temple is the Messiah, the One who is to be the glory of Israel, and whose light is to enlighten the Gentiles.

Anna, in her turn, recognizes the fulfilment of the long-awaited salvation through the Child. Enlightened by the Holy Spirit, may we live in expectation of Jesus the Saviour who has come and who will come again. May we be thankful for the gift of the Father, this mystery of the call of the Gentiles to salvation and for the reconciliation of the Jews and the Nations in Christ (cf. Eph 3: 1-6).

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Luke 2: 27-28

Simeon 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.

COLLECT

Lord, you have fulfilled the longing of Blessed Simeon and Anna and <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>permitted them to contemplate your only Son, our Saviour. May our walking in the footsteps of Jesus gain for us eternal life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ...

FIRST READING

A reading from the Book of Revelation 22: 12-13. 16-17. 30

"Behold, I am coming soon. I bring with me the recompense I will give to each according to his deeds. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

"I, Jesus, sent my angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the root and offspring of David, the bright morning star."

The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." Let the hearer say, "Come." Let the one who thirsts come forward, and the one who wants it receive the gift of life-giving water.

The one who gives this testimony says, "Yes, I am coming soon." Amen! Come, Lord Jesus!

The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Luke 2: 29-32

R. The old man carried the child, but it is the child who leads the old man.

1. Now, Master, let your servant depart in peace, <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>according to your word.

2. For my eyes have seen your salvation,  
Which you have prepared in sight of the peoples.

3. A light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel."

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Luke 2: 32

R. Alleluia. Alleluia.

A light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel.

R. Alleluia.

GOSPEL

A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke

2: 25-38

A sword will pierce your own soul.

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 Messiah 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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

We ask you, Lord, who willed your only Son to be offered as <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>a spotless lamb for the salvation of the world, to graciously accept these gifts <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>which we offer you in memory of Saints Simeon and Anna. We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ..

PREFACE

It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God.

For your co-eternal Son was presented on this day in the Temple and revealed by the Spirit as the glory of Israel and Light of the nations.

And so, we too, go forth, rejoicing to encounter your Salvation, and with the Angels and Saints praise you, as without end we acclaim :

Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts...

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Luke 2: 26

It had been revealed to him by the holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Messiah of the Lord.

#### PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Lord, you fulfilled the wish of the just man, Simeon, and the <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>prophetess, Anna, for they merited to see our Lord, Jesus Christ before they died.

Fill us with your grace, so that through the celebration of these mysteries, <sup>[L]</sup><sub>[SEP]</sub>we too will be able to contemplate you with all the elects.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ..