

Meeting of Our Lord in the Temple

“Lord, now lettest Thou Thy servant depart in peace”

Great Vespers, Saturday 5:00 PM

Divine Liturgy & Blessing of Candles, Sunday at 9:30 AM

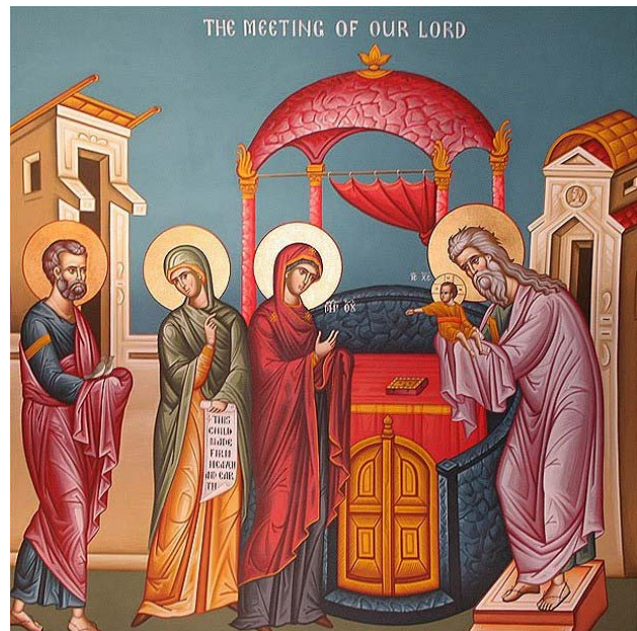
Forty days after Christ's birth, He was presented in the Jerusalem Temple according to the Mosaic Law. His mother, Mary, underwent ritual purification and offered sacrifices as prescribed by the Law. This event, celebrated on February 2, is called the Meeting (or Presentation) of the Lord.

In the temple, the elder Simeon and prophetess Anna encountered Christ. It had been revealed to Simeon by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before meeting the Messiah. Inspired by the Spirit, Simeon held the infant Jesus and

proclaimed: *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 peoples, a light to bring revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people Israel. (Luke 2:29-32)*

Simeon also foretold that Jesus would be a sign spoken against and that Mary's soul would be pierced. Anna, a widow and devout servant of God, gave thanks and spoke of the Messiah to all awaiting redemption.

This feast emphasizes that Christ, the Creator and Giver of the Law, humbly fulfills the Law as a child held in Simeon's arms. As the Vespers hymn proclaims: *Receive Him, O Simeon, whom Moses beheld in the darkness as the Giver of the Law. Receive Him as a babe now obeying the Law, incarnate for our sake and saving mankind. Come, let us adore Him!*

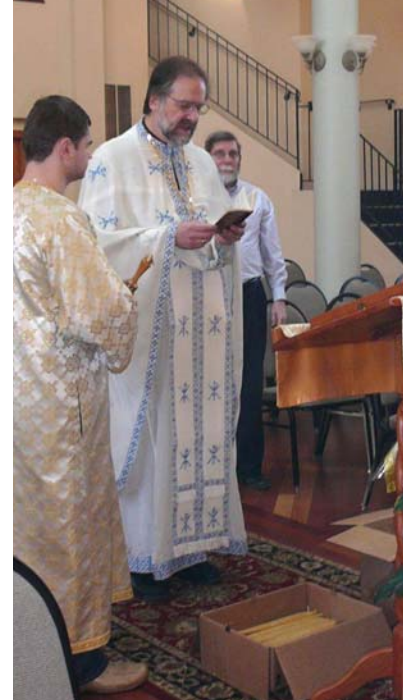


The Church invites all to spiritually “meet” the Lord through the Holy Spirit and to echo Simeon’s words, departing in peace with the assurance of salvation.

Customs of the Feast: Blessing of Candles



Inspired by Simeon’s proclamation of Jesus as a “light,” the Church blesses candles on this feast day. This tradition, established in the early centuries, continues today as a recognition of Christ as the Light of the world. Please bring candles to be blessed for your home and church use.



Troparion

Rejoice, O Virgin Theotokos, Full of Grace!
From you shone the Sun of Righteousness,
Christ our God, enlightening those who sat
in darkness! Rejoice and be glad, O
righteous elder; you accepted in your arms
the Redeemer of our souls who grants us
the resurrection.

Kontakion

By Thy nativity, Thou didst sanctify the
Virgin’s womb. And didst bless Simeon’s
hands, O Christ our God. Now Thou hast
come and saved us through love. Grant
peace to all Orthodox Christians, O only
Lover of man.

To learn more visit <https://www.oca.org/reflections/fr.-john-breck/the-meeting-of-our-lord> and
<https://www.oca.org/reflections/fr.-john-breck/the-meeting-of-our-lord>