

Readings for February 2, 2025

Candlemas Sunday

First Reading: Malachi 3:1-4

¹ See, I am sending my messenger to prepare the way before me, and the Lord whom you seek will suddenly come to his temple. The messenger of the covenant in whom you delight—indeed, he is coming, says the Lord of hosts. ² But who can endure the day of his coming, and who can stand when he appears?

For he is like a refiner's fire and like washers' soap; ³ he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the descendants of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, until they present offerings to the Lord in righteousness. ⁴ Then the offering of Judah and Jerusalem will be pleasing to the Lord, as in the days of old and as in former years.

Psalm: Psalm 84

How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord. (Ps. 84:1)

¹ How dear to me ^l is your dwelling,

O ^l Lord of hosts!

² **My soul has a desire and longing for the courts ^l of the Lord;**

my heart and my flesh rejoice in the ^l living God.

³ Even the sparrow has found a home, and the swallow a nest where she may ^l lay her young,

by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my king ^l and my God.

⁴ **Happy are they who dwell ^l in your house!**

They will always be ^l praising you. R

⁵ Happy are the people whose strength ^l is in you,

whose hearts are set on the ^l pilgrims' way.

⁶ **Those who go through the balsam valley will find it a ^l place of springs,**

for the early rains have covered it with ^l pools of water.

⁷ They will climb from ^l height to height,

and the God of gods will be ^l seen in Zion.

⁸ **Lord God of hosts, ^l hear my prayer;**

give ear, O ^l God of Jacob. R

⁹ Behold our defend-^l er, O God;

and look upon the face of ^l your anointed.

¹⁰ **For one day in your courts is better than a ^l thousand elsewhere.**

I would rather stand at the threshold of the house of my God than dwell in the tents ^l of the wicked.

¹¹ For the Lord God is both sun and shield, bestowing ^l grace and glory;

no good thing will the Lord withhold from those who walk ^l with integrity.

¹² **O ^l Lord of hosts,**

happy are they who put their ^l trust in you! R

Second Reading: Hebrews 2:14-18

¹⁴ Since, therefore, the children share flesh and blood, [Jesus] himself likewise shared the same things, so that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by the fear of death. ¹⁶ For it is clear that he did not come to help angels but the descendants of Abraham. ¹⁷ Therefore he had to become like his brothers and sisters in every respect, so that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make a sacrifice of atonement for the sins of the people. ¹⁸ Because he himself was tested by what he suffered, he is able to help those who are being tested.

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

²² When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, [Mary and Joseph] brought [Jesus] 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”), ²⁴ and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, “a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.”

²⁵ Now 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. ²⁶ It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah. ²⁷ Guided 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, ²⁸ Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

²⁹ “Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word,

³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation,

³¹ which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,

³² a light for revelation to the gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

³³ And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. ³⁴ Then 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 ³⁵ so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed—and a sword will pierce your own soul, too.”

³⁶ There 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 seven years after her marriage, ³⁷ then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. ³⁸ At 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.

³⁹ When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. ⁴⁰ The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom, and the favor of God was upon him.