

Vespers for the Feast of the Presentation

Hymn

Abide with us; the orb of day doth vanish;
Thou Light of Light, the powers of darkness banish:
At evenfall, good Lord, thy people bless;
Shine in our hearts, thou Sun of righteousness.

For this past day let every creature living
Ascribe thee glory, honour and thanksgiving:
Let man, together with the Angel-host
Bless God the Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

Jesus, Good Shepherd, thou who never sleepest,
But o'er thy sheepfold watch and ward who keepest;
The day is spent; it draws to eventide:
With thy disciples, Lord, this night abide.

Psalm 109 (110)

The Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Lord.

The Lord's revelation to my Master:
'Sit on my right:
your foes I will put beneath your feet.'

The Lord will wield from Zion
your sceptre of power:
rule in the midst of all your foes.

A prince from the day of your birth
on the holy mountains;
from the womb before the dawn I begot you.
The Lord has sworn an oath he will not change.
'You are a priest for ever,
a priest like Melchizedek of old.'

The Master standing at your right hand
will shatter kings in the day of his wrath.
He shall drink from the stream by the wayside
and therefore he shall lift up his head.

Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end.
Amen.

The Holy Spirit had revealed to Simeon that he would not see death until he had set eyes on the Lord.

Psalm 129 (130)

They went to offer to the Lord what the Law ordered: a pair of turtle-doves or a pair of pigeons.

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord,
Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive
to the voice of my pleading.

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,
Lord, who would survive?
But with you is found forgiveness:
for this we revere you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord.
I count on his word.
My soul is longing for the Lord
more than watchman for daybreak.
Let the watchman count on daybreak
and Israel on the Lord.

Because with the Lord there is mercy
and fullness of redemption,
Israel indeed he will redeem
from all its iniquity.

Glory be to the Father ...

They went to offer to the Lord what the Law ordered: a pair of turtle-doves or a pair of pigeons.

Canticle (Colossians 1)

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all the nations to see.

Let us give thanks to the Father,
who has qualified us to share
in the inheritance of the saints in light.

He has delivered us from the dominion of darkness
and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son,
in whom we have redemption,
the forgiveness of sins.

He is the image of the invisible God,
the firstborn of all creation,
for in him all things were created, in heaven and on earth,

visible and invisible.

All things were created
through him and for him.
He is before all things,
and in him all things hold together.

He is the head of the body, the Church;
he is the beginning,
the firstborn from the dead,
that in everything he might be pre-eminent.

For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell,
and through him to reconcile to himself all things,
whether on earth or in heaven,
making peace by the blood of his cross.

Glory be to the ..

My eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared for all the nations to see.

Reading Hebrews 4:15-16

It is not as if we had a high priest who was incapable of feeling our weaknesses with us; but we have one who has been tempted in every way that we are, though he is without sin. Let us be confident, then, in approaching the throne of grace, that we shall have mercy from him and find grace when we are in need of help.

Responsory

The Lord has made known his saving power.
– The Lord has made known his saving power.
Which he prepared in the sight of all the peoples.
– The Lord has made known his saving power.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
– The Lord has made known his saving power.

Magnificat

Today the blessed Virgin Mary presented the child Jesus in the temple; there Simeon took him in his arms and gave thanks to God.

My soul glorifies the Lord,
my spirit rejoices in God, my Saviour.
He looks on his servant in her lowliness;
henceforth all ages will call me blessed.
The Almighty works marvels for me.
Holy his name!

His mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him.
He puts forth his arm in strength
and scatters the proud-hearted.
He casts the mighty from their thrones
and raises the lowly.
He fills the starving with good things,
sends the rich away empty.
He protects Israel, his servant,
remembering his mercy,
the mercy promised to our fathers,
to Abraham and his sons for ever.
Glory be to the Father

Today the blessed Virgin Mary presented the child Jesus in the temple; there Simeon took him in his arms and gave thanks to God.

Intercessions

Either these below, or the special intercessions for the Day of Consecrated Life

We celebrate the presentation of Jesus in the temple. He has established a new covenant and is himself the temple of the living God. Let us acclaim him as our Saviour:

– Our eyes have seen your salvation.

You are the true light that enlightens all men:

help us to know and accept you as our Lord and God.

– Our eyes have seen your salvation.

You are the glory of your Church:

in the fidelity of your people, let men see your saving power.

– Our eyes have seen your salvation.

Your Holy Spirit rested on Simeon and he recognized your coming:

let your Spirit dwell with us, that we may recognize you in our lives.

– Our eyes have seen your salvation.

At your presentation, Simeon prophesied that our Lady would be pierced to the heart:
grant us the constancy and love she showed at the foot of the cross.

– Our eyes have seen your salvation.

Many have seen your promise and died in your peace:

may they share now the glory you prepared for all the nations.

– Our eyes have seen your salvation.

Our Father....

Final Prayer and blessing

From the leaflet for the Day of Consecrated Life

Intercessions

For those consecrated to God by the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience that they may joyfully live their baptismal promises and have the grace to persevere in their commitment to God and serve with open hearts and willing spirits. We pray to the Lord... *Lord, be gracious and bless us.*

For those who have responded to the prompting of the Holy Spirit to be a consecrated person that they may experience the support of the Church as they continue to grow in holiness.... *Lord, be gracious and bless us.*

For the entire Christian family: that all Christians may grow in their commitment to their baptismal consecration by lives that are honest, just, respectful and compassionate.

For all who have answered the call to serve the Lord in religious life and in societies of apostolic life: may they live this consecration with integrity, with hope and with a smile, rooted in the example and teaching of Christ the Lord and open to collaborating with others to awaken the world.

For vocations to our communities: may the Lord grant a listening heart to young people and a spirit of courage and fortitude to enable them to respond generously to the Lord's call.

10 minutes silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament

Final Prayer

Father, you illumine the night and bring the dawn to scatter the darkness. Let us pass this night in safety, free from Satan's power, and rise when morning comes to give you thanks and praise. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns.....ever. Amen

BLESSING

May the actions of your day be filled with compassion.

May those you've loved and love, fill you with thanksgiving.

May your efforts in striving for communion be Holy.

May all of creation turn you toward the other, and the Source of all that you are becoming.

Vespers for the Day for Consecrated Life 2nd February 2015



Signs of God: To love and serve life

Among his inspirational teachings about the ideals of the consecrated life, Pope Francis called on religious in the Church to be "a sign of God" and "to love and serve life." Speaking on the Day for Consecrated Life last February, in Saint Peter's Basilica, the Pope invited thousands of nuns, friars and consecrated lay people "to love and serve life, to welcome, respect and promote it, especially when it is fragile and in need of attention and care, from the womb to its end on this earth" ..

Already in the first weeks of 2015 we can see how this life-serving ministry of compassion for our fellow human beings is urgently relevant. Alongside the ongoing tragedy of the Ebola virus and other virulent ailments threatening to health and life itself, especially in Africa, we have such painful examples of man's inhumanity to man in the ongoing warfare in Syria, the fanaticism of jihadists in Nigeria and France, the simmering discontent between Palestinians and Israelis, the drownings and shipwrecks of refugees desperately seeking to enter Europe. As W.B. Yeats expressed so poignantly in his poem, 'The Stolen Child': "*The world's more full of sorrow than you can understand*".



The feast of the Presentation is a special day for us to renew our personal commitment to religious life, to a compassionate life-ideal and to focus prayer on the many suffering people in our world. As we gather in community for this purpose we can join those two themes into our prayer, a deeply felt compassion for the suffering of others, and a promise to love and serve life in whatever way we can.

Totally consecrated to God

Pope Francis has interpreted the Lord's Presentation as an icon of the gifting of their entire lives by those who, through God's grace, take on the typical traits of Jesus, chaste, poor and obedient, the Anointed One of the Father. This offering of themselves to God relates to every

Christian, for all are consecrated to Him through baptism. But this consecration is lived in a particular way by consecrated people, who with the profession of vows, fully and exclusively belong to God. This belonging to the Lord provides an authentic way to offer a special witness to the Gospel of the Kingdom of God. Totally consecrated to God, they are totally consigned to their brethren, to bring the light of Christ there where the darkness is densest and to spread His hope in the hearts of the disheartened".

Vespers of the Presentation,

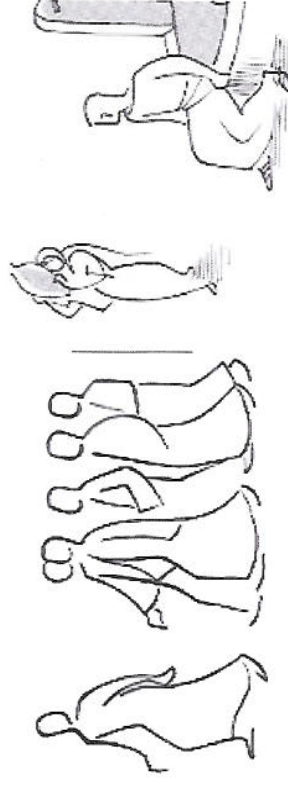
from the Breviary, but adding the special Intercessions overleaf.

(Attached is the full text of Vespers for the feast of the Presentation, courtesy of Universalis.com, in case it is found useful).

Silent prayer before the Blessed Sacrament

We propose a period of silent prayer, just before the end of Vespers, in the awareness of Christ, our life-giving Lord, who has come that we may have life and have it to the full, and repeating some mantra-prayer like the following :

- Fill me with your life, Lord, that I may share it with others.
- Pour out your Spirit upon us, o Lord, that we may serve life.
- Recreate in us your own Spirit Lord, and fill our hearts.
- Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the word of eternal life.
- Lord, make me an instrument of your peace.
- You know all things; you know that I love you
- Rabbuni! My Lord, make me all yours.
- He told me everything I ever did.
- For those who love God, all things work together for good.



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